Pushing Boundaries:
Books at the Water’s Edge
Transition and YA Reading Trends
Reading for Upper Primary Plus Secondary

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We Live in an Age of Multi-Literacies….
Increasing number of Multi-Modal Texts and Texts that Push Boundaries

But…

“Reading for pleasure is the most important way to advance literacy attainment in children.”
National Literacy Trust UK 2006
The Book is Evolving

"The frontiers of a book are never clear-cut: beyond the title, the first lines and the last fullstop....“ Linda Hutchison

“Postmodern books employ "metafictive" devices and multiliteracies including a variety of illustrative styles, unusual design and layout, unexpected forms and texts, alternative endings, and changing structures, perhaps encouraged by technological change. In others words, these types of literary works, whether in print or other formats, "push the envelope" of their genre, creating some mysteries, surprises, paradoxes, and even playfulness, along the way.”


The interactivity of the internet has opened up some intriguing possibilities when it comes to electronic books on the web.

Playfulness/ Metanarrative/ Intertextuality/ Hybrid/ Multi-Modal
2015 - 65th Storey Treehouse
2014 - 52nd Storey Treehouse
2013 - Diary of a Wimpy Kid
2012 - The Fault in our Stars
What is a book anyway?

The New York Times Book Review, Top 10 Book of the Year

Time Magazine, Top Ten Fiction Book of the Year

Publishers Weekly, Best Book of the Year

2013 Lynd Ward Prize, Best Graphic Novel of the Year

4-time 2013 Eisner Award Winner, including Best Publication, Best Writer/Artist and Best Graphic Album

Newsday, Top 10 Books of 2012

Entertainment Weekly, Gift Guide, A+

Washington Post, Top 10 Graphic Novels of 2012
Artists have Always Pushed...

Once upon a time and a very good time it was there was a moocow coming down along the road and this moocow that was coming down along the road met a nicens little boy named baby tuckoo. . . . His father told him that story: his father looked at him through a glass: he had a hairy face. He was a baby tuckoo. The moocow came down the road where Betty Byrne lived: she sold lemon platt.
Focus Areas- National Curriculum

• Expanded View of Literacy
  • Multi-Modal Texts
  • National Identity
  • Indigenous Focus
  • Focus on Asia
  • Sustainability
• Greater Focus on Language
10 Trends ....
1. Playing with the Form

http://www.visual-editions.com/our-books/tree-of-codes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfrwSkUQEQo
2. Surprising Internal Designs

"The frontiers of a book are never clear-cut: beyond the title, the first lines and the last fullstop....“

Linda Hutchison

Playfulness
Metanarrative
Intertextuality
Hybrid
Multi-Modal
2 🐝 or ☹️ 2 🐝, that is the 🎈. Is it better to muddle through a miserable life you have no control over? Or is it better to ⚡️ back and maybe win? If I died—if I gave up and threw in the towel—all my problems would go away. I’d have no more ☁️️ or 💔.

But 😞 could be even worse than life! WTF.
“Brace yourself. You’re about to be immersed in a mindscape that you’ll never want to leave.”

—MARIE LU, bestselling author of the Legend trilogy.
3. Teen Fiction Pushes...
Issues... Language... Content...
Leading Genre for Teens?
YA Deals By Genre

March 2010-2011

- Contemporary 39%
- Paranormal 33%
- Dystopian 8%
- Science fiction 3%
- Other 7%
- Nonfiction 3%
- Unspecified 7%

www.katehart.net
Children's fiction

• For beginner readers, aged 5-7, word length 5,000-10,000
• For confident readers, aged 7-9, word length 10,000-25,000
• For middle-grade readers, aged 10-13, word length 25,000-50,000

We are looking for fresh, original storylines, strong engaging characters, a flair for language and an authentic voice that will appeal to children.

Novels for young adults

• For young adult readers, aged 14+, word length 50,000-100,000

Novels for young adults need to be extremely well-written and engrossing. We are looking for fresh, original voices and powerful storytelling. We also accept one or two graphic novels a year by Australian and New Zealand creators only. You are welcome to submit your graphic novel for children or young adults through the Friday Pitch.
Older Readers

- Five of the Six Writers are female.
- Gritty, authentic
- Social Realism Rules
- High school focus
My Top 5 YA
“As long as it's a good book – with engrossing characters who catch your attention – reading gives you a break from yourself. And a break from ourselves, it seems to me, is precisely the thing most of us desperately require.”
4. The Rise and Rise of the Picturebook and Illustrated Text
Picturebooks

Diversity
Conflict
Shadows
Outsiders/ Difference
Universal Settings
Ambiguity
Human Spirit
Hopeful?
Text-less
5. Multiple Voices/ Dual Narratives

Rule
Red pushes up on his toes, braces against his tail. He tips his head back and lashes out, first one paw then the other. The other male strikes too, but wildly. Red’s next hit will end it.

The challenger retreats, all fight gone from him.

Fights for dominance can be fierce but are usually brief. The loser will withdraw before either kangaroo is really hurt.
Eve Pownall 2016

Lennie the Legend
Solo to Sydney by Pony
Stephanie Owen Reeder

Phasmid
Saving the Lord Howe Island Stick Insect
Rohan Cleave and Coral Tulloch

The White Mouse
The Story of Nancy Wake
Peter Gouldthorpe
How one man created the world’s most enduring
love stories and mysteries … and not just on the stage

JACKIE FRENCH

The
Diary of
William
Shakespeare,
Gentleman
7. Need for Diversity...

“A US-led campaign to address the lack of diversity in children’ literature has sparked overdue conversations in Australia”  

- Gender Representation
- Cultural Representation
- People with Disabilities
- Representation of cultural, ethnic and religious minorities
- Representation of family units.
Broader Context

The Art of Being Normal
Lisa Williamson

Promising Azra
Helen Thurloe
Transition Reads

- Apple Red
- SMART
- Ugly
- counting by 7s
- out of my mind
- A SEVEN LETTER WORD
- THE HONEST TRUTH
- AUGGIE & ME
- WONDER
8. Global Focus - Displacement
Subhi is a refugee. Born in an Australian permanent detention center after his mother and sister fled the violence of a distant homeland, Subhi has only ever known life behind the fences. But his world is far bigger than that—every night, the magical Night Sea from his mother’s stories brings him gifts, the faraway whales sing to him, and the birds tell their stories. And as he grows, his imagination threatens to burst beyond the limits of his containment.

The most vivid story of all, however, is the one that arrives one night in the form of Jimmie—a scruffy, impatient girl who appears on the other side of the wire fence and brings with her a notebook written by the mother she lost. Unable to read it herself, she relies on Subhi to unravel her family’s love songs and tragedies. Subhi and Jimmie might both find comfort—and maybe even freedom—as their tales unfold. But not until each has been braver than ever before.
Q. Are there any issues that writers and illustrators should be aware of when creating a picture book, in terms of potential translation?

Tracy: In terms of the text, it can be hard to translate into other languages and, indeed, an Alphabet book is impossible as 'c' is not for cat in all languages! (it's "eine Katze" in German).

In terms of the illustrations, elements that are very culturally specific (such as red pillar boxes or London black cabs for picture books from the UK) sometimes make the book tougher to sell and featuring animals that are unfamiliar can be tricky too.
THE ISLAND

MADeline
LUDWIG BEMELMANS
Stina, who lives in Iceland, does not like the cold. In fact, she will go to any length to avoid it. Even in summer she never goes out without tights and socks. When winter comes, she hides inside, knits, and invents ingenious devices to protect her from the slightest chill.

One extremely cold day, when Stina has retreated under her thick down comforter and fallen into a deep sleep, she is awakened by a pounding at the door. When she opens it, two children tumble in, blown by the icy wind, but they aren't cold they're warm from playing outside! Finally, Stina learns that nothing can keep you as warm as friendship.

With its cloth cover and Stina's clever instructions for knitting without needles (what are fingers for, after all?), plus a recipe for hot chocolate, this is the perfect book for cold winter days.
Listopia

Multicultural Children's Lit

Children's books featuring a myriad of cultures and/or races. Heavy concentration on Black and Native American characters/authors/illustrators at the moment. Feel free to add additional cultures/books as you see fit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Avg Rating</th>
<th>Votes</th>
<th>Want to Read</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Snowy Day</td>
<td>Ezra Jack Keats</td>
<td>4.12</td>
<td>73,318</td>
<td>1,641</td>
<td>Vote For Book</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ntshando's Journey</td>
<td>Jill Manly</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>Vote For Book</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale</td>
<td>John Steptoe</td>
<td>4.31</td>
<td>14,479</td>
<td>531</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Rough-Face Girl</td>
<td>Rafe Martin</td>
<td>4.38</td>
<td>8,359</td>
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Anyone can add books to this list.
9. Retro Still Rules!
YOU CHOOSE...
WEALTH BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS
OR DEADLY PIRATE’S CURSE!

THE TREASURE OF
DEAD MAN’S COVE
GEORGE IVANOFF
story path

How to Use Story Path

One day... they went out for a special picnic.

They arrived at a large rock.

They knocked on the door.

What did you choose?

They decided to follow the path.

They opened the door.

They went to the next page...

They followed the path and opened the door to the next page...
10. Lifting the Game

“Children who know adults who read for pleasure take it for granted that reading is a valuable and worthwhile activity”

(Csikszentmihalyi, 1991)
10 Trends

1. Playing with the Form
2. Surprising Internal Design
3. YA Pushing Boundaries
4. Rise and Rise of the Picturebook
5. Multiple Voices/ Dual Narratives
6. Narrative Non-Fiction Abounds
7. Need for Diversity
8. Global Focus
9. Retro Rules
10. Lifting the Game
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