

2020 Premier's reading challenge



Prep - Year 1 Book List

This book list is a guide only to help students, parents, guardians and teachers select age appropriate reading material. Students may select any suitable books and may also wish to consider books from previous years' book lists.

*QDoE – Queensland Department of Education

Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Muhammad, Ibtihaj; Ali, S.K.; Aly, Hatem (illus.)	<p>The Proudest Blue: a Story of Hijab and Family (2019)</p> <p>The first day of school is special. Faizah thinks her older sister looks beautiful wearing her first hijab but the beautiful, sky-blue head scarf attracts some hurtful, confusing words. Faizah will find new ways to be proud and strong.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	JF	32	Sisters Islam	9780316519007
Antony, Steve	<p>Amazing (2019)</p> <p>A wonderful story of friendship between a little boy and his pet dragon. The illustrations incidentally convey a message of acceptance, while the friends' enthusiastic approach to everything shows how just being oneself can be amazing.</p> <p>(QDoE)</p>	JF	24	Friendship	9781444944716
Balla, Trace	<p>The Thank You Dish (2019)</p> <p>Through the playful dinner time conversation, little ones learn to appreciate what they are eating and understand how it got to their plate. Delightful illustrations reveal many connections to community and the value of eating locally and with gratitude.</p> <p>(QDoE)</p>	JF	24	Families	9781760876487



Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Barker, Judith; Frith, Janie (illus)	The Oo in Uluru (2018) A fun phoneme story, set in Uluru-Kata-Tjuta National Park, teaches young readers about the vowel sound 'oo' and where they can find it in different words. Rich colours highlight the spectacular wildlife and landscape of the Anangu. (Adapted from publisher)	JF	32	Animals Australia	9781925545487
Blabey, Aaron	Pig the Tourist [Pig the Pug series] (2019) Once again Pig is being rude and obnoxious, a real pain wherever he travels. Laugh at Pig's antics until his trail of chaos comes to an end. Bright bold illustrations and rhyming text make another hilarious story of Pig. (QDoE)	JF	24	Dogs	9781742994123
Bickell, Elaine; McGrath, Raymond (illus)	The Little Ghost Who Lost Her Boo! (2019) A delightful, read aloud, rhyming tale where the reader can assist with sound effects. Little Ghost's perseverance pays off and the reader will be thrilled when they are the ones to help her find her boo. (QDoE)	JF	32	Ghosts	9781775435754
Brazier, Sarah; Hopgood, Andrew	Use Your Noodle (2020) Simple scientific explanations help children understand their emotions and how to manage them with positive choices. The coloured text also helps children relate to the different feelings of Tom and Emma. Great for developing resilience. (QDoE)	NF	30	Emotions	9781925839517
Browne, Eileen	Handa's Noisy Night (2019) Handa is a bit nervous about having a sleepover. She hears some strange noises, which her friend reassures her are normal. Beautiful illustrations let the reader see what is really going on. (QDoE)	JF	26	Sleepovers	9781406320015



Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Bunting, Laura; Bunting, Philip (illus)	Kookaburras love to laugh. (2018) Can you imagine a kookaburra that doesn't laugh? One serious kookaburra is different to all the others and tries to find a flock where he can fit in. Just where will he be accepted for himself? (QDoE)	JF	32	Birds Australia	9781742769660
Bunting, Philip	Sandcastle (2018) Rae builds a sandcastle at the beach with Granddad. But what will happen when the tide comes in? It leads to some deep thoughts and wondering about the nature of existence. (QDoE)	JF	32	Beaches Grandparents	9781760295387
Burach, Ross	The Very Impatient Caterpillar (2019) This little caterpillar just can't wait to transform into a beautiful butterfly. Enjoy the hilarious cartoon illustrations while learning the facts about metamorphosis. Will the little caterpillar learn patience? (QDoE)	JF	32	Butterflies	9781338289411
Canty, John	Heads and Tails: Underwater (2019) At first, we only see the creature's tails. Some clues help us to identify each creature before the page is turned. With a highly interactive format, readers will have fun with the rewarding process of discovery. (QDoE)	NF	34	Marine animals	9780994384164
Cosgrove, Matt	Macca's Makeover [Macca the Alpaca series] (2019) Macca the Alpaca desperately wants to be cool, just like his friends. Macca's makeover shows him he doesn't need to change anything because he is truly special just as he is. (Adapted from publisher)	JF	24	Alpacas Self-acceptance	9781760669195



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Donaldson, Julia; Roberts, David (illus)	<p>The Cook and the King (2018)</p> <p>Once there was a very hungry king who needed a cook like anything, but fancy dishes just taste wrong. Could Wobbly Bob, who is afraid of everything, get the job? Rhyming verse and richly detailed illustrations create an amusing tale.</p> <p>(QDoE)</p>	JF	32	Cooking Kings	9781509813773
Dreise, Gregg	<p>My Culture and Me (2019)</p> <p>Through the voice of an Indigenous child, vibrant paintings and rhyming language share the importance of knowing and maintaining your culture. Connection to country, dance, music and spirituality are all proudly featured.</p> <p>(QDoE)</p>	JF	32	Aboriginal Australians Culture	9780143789376
Feiner, Beck & Robin	<p>My Folks Grew Up in the 80's (2019)</p> <p>A hilarious stroll down memory lane for parents, or grandparents, and a chance to share the decade's memorable weird features with a new generation. They will be astounded at what life was like.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	JF	32	Australia - History	9780733339417
Gibbes, Lesley; Stewart, Lisa (illus)	<p>Three Little Mermaids (2020)</p> <p>Children will relate to the three mischievous mermaids who just won't go to bed when they're told. Dainty artwork with simple rhyming text is perfect for reading aloud before bedtime.</p> <p>(QDoE)</p>	JF	24	Mermaids	9781742769103
Gibbes, Lesley; Watson, Judy (illus)	<p>Searching for Cicadas (2019)</p> <p>A fascinating story of a child and their Grandpa searching for cicadas. Full of fun and interesting facts about cicadas, it is perfect to spark the interest of young nature lovers and get them outdoors.</p> <p>(QDoE)</p>	NF	28	Cicadas; Grandparents	9781922244420



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Gifford, Lucinda	<p>Dogasaurus (2018)</p> <p>If you found a mysterious egg, would you bring it home? It might hatch and make a good pet and even help out on the farm. But what happens if it doesn't stop growing?</p> <p>(QDoE)</p>	JF	34	Dinosaurs; Farms	9781743810712
Godwin, Jane; Reiseger, Jane	<p>Red House, Blue House, Green House, Tree House (2018)</p> <p>Rhythmic text and bold illustrations will invite children's participation as they learn colours, counting, sizes and more about the world around them. They will adore the teeny tiny mouse hiding on every page just waiting to be found.</p> <p>(QDoE)</p>	JF	32	Colours	9781925584691
Godwin, Jane; Walker, Anna (illus)	<p>Tilly (2019)</p> <p>Tilly has found the perfect secret hiding place to keep her special treasures. A wistful, enchanting and timeless story about an old house, a young girl and how the small things we hold dear stay with us always.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	JF	34	Families	9781760663728
Gossage, Peter	<p>Maui and other Maori Legends: 8 Classic Tales of Aotearoa (2016)</p> <p>These are exciting, magical tales of adventure and intrigue. Dramatic and distinctive illustrations with minimal yet evocative language form a powerful combination to create memorable retellings of these Maori oral myths.</p> <p>(Adapted from publisher)</p>	NF	208	Legends, Maori	9780143309291
Gray, Kes; Field, Jim (illus)	<p>Oi Duck-billed Platypus! [Oi Frog! series] (2018)</p> <p>Frog, Dog and Cat are back. But this time they have some tricky animals to seat. Where are platypuses meant to sit? And those other animals with impossible to rhyme with names? Will Frog be up to the challenge?</p> <p>(QDoE)</p>	JF	32	Animals; Rhymes	9781444937336



Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
Gray, Kes; Reed, Nathan (illus)	Think Big! (2019) A hilarious tale of Humpty Dumpty and his nursery rhyme friends discussing what they want to be when they grow up. Full of big plans for the future, Humpty's friends encourage him to think big! (QDoE)	JF	32	Nursery Rhymes; Occupations	9781444942125
Gravett, Emily	Cyril and Pat (2018) A beautiful friendship between a squirrel and ... Everyone tries to tell Pat why he can't be friends, and the reader already knows, Cyril is actually a RAT! But some things are more important than being the same. (QDoE)	JF	32	Friendship	9781509857289
Hobbs, Leigh	Mr Chicken All Over Australia [Mr Chicken series] (2019) Australia is big, but so is Mr Chicken. He can't wait to go everywhere, see everything and meet everyone. Inspired by the many children, teachers and librarians Leigh Hobbs met in his travels as Australian Children's Laureate. (Adapted from publisher)	JF	36	Australia	9781760296964
Houston, Bronwyn	Return of the Dinosaurs (2016) A long time ago dinosaurs roamed the shores of the Pilbara coast. We know this because they have left their footprints. This humorous book imagines what the various dinosaurs might get up to if they came back for a visit! (QDoE)	JF	24	Picture book Broome Kimberley Coast Dinosaurs Imagination	9781925360370
Jenkins, Lynn; Lonergan, Kirrili (illus)	Perfect Petunias [Lessons of a LAC] (2018) A perfect story for children who worry about making mistakes. Lopy learns to focus on trying his best, rather than on what he can't do. Encouraging resilience and self-acceptance in a fun and colourful story. (QDoE)	JF	30	Resilience	9781925335583



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Khoza, Valanga; Ottley, Matt (illus)	Dumazi and the Big Yellow Lion (2019) When Dumazi helps free the lion from a trap, this modern fable doesn't follow the right script. The lion breaks his promise and Dumazi is going to be dinner. Will anyone in the jungle help her? (QDoE)	JF	32	Lions; Animals - Africa	9781742994116
Lee, Andy	Definitely Do Not Open This Book [Do Not Open This Book series] (2019) Wizz is back and he's up to his old tricks again. He definitely does not want you to read this book and he's very persuasive. What excuses will he come up with this time? (QDoE)	JF	30	Bedtime	9780655206439
McKnoulty, Lea	Making Mindful Magic (2015) What is 'mindfulness'? It is to pay attention to the moment you are in. Designed to be opened anywhere, each page encourages purposeful engagement with the world and an opportunity to 'just be'. Additional notes for parents at the back. (QDoE)	NF	32	Mindfulness	9780994255204
MacDonald, Norma	Lucky and Spike (2019) Spinifex hopping mice, Lucky and Spike, have a perilous adventure, pursued by nighttime predators. They have to dodge a feral cat, a barking owl and a camp dog as they try to gather seeds and shrub roots. Will they make it home safely? (QDoE)	JF	30	Animals – Australia	9781921248177
McKenzie, Heath	How to Build the Perfect Cubby House (2019) Firstly, have a plan! With all the family getting involved, this spectacular multi-story cubby house grows to include everyone's ideas. Illustrations add fun and humour and are complimented by speech bubbles. Children will also enjoy 'reading' the pictures. (QDoE)	JF	32	Families	9781760152673



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Manbullo, Karen; Haysom, Julie (illus)	Molly the Pig – Moli det bigibigi (2019) Written in Kriol and English, this is the story of a little pig who is rescued from the bush and taken back to the community where she finds a happy home. Children will enjoy watching Molly grow ... and grow. (Adapted from publisher)	JF	22	Pigs	9780648155430
Morgan, Sally; Malibirr, Johnny Warrkatja (illus)	Little Bird's Day (2019) A day in the life of a little bird as she wakes at dawn, looks for food, finds some friends, and looks for a safe place to roost as the sun sets. A gentle story with beautiful, earthy illustrations. (QDoE)	JF	32	Picture book Birds Natural environment Day/night	9781925768923
Naitanui, Nic	Little Nic's Big Day (2019) Written by a footy star drawing on his personal experiences, this story illustrates diversity and has fun celebrating people's differences. Nic might be nervous about his first day ... but new friends make it the best day ever. (QDoE)	JF	32	First day of school; Multiculturalism	9781760876876
Ross, Tony	Silly Mr Wolf (2019) A very silly story about a silly wolf and some very silly sheep. Children will delight in the steps Mr Wolf takes to get his dinner, until he takes it one step too far. (QDoE)	JF	26	Wolves; Sheep	9781783447817
Shanks, Matt (illus)	Der Glumph Went The Little Green Frog (2019) Sing along as we go for a walk through the bush and spy on the cheeky animals and the antics they get up to when nobody is watching. (QDoE)	JF	16	Frogs; Animals - Australia	9781742993676
Whiting, Sue; White, Annie (illus)	Beware the Deep Dark Forest (2018) When Rosie's puppy goes missing in the forest, it is up to her to rescue him. Readers will see the dangers lurking as Rosie treks into the deep dark forest. Is she brave enough? (QDoE)	JF	32	Forests	9781742032344



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Williams, Lydia; Gifford, Lucinda	<p>Saved!!! (2019)</p> <p>Lydia lives in the outback and loves sport. But she only has the animals to play with. She really wants to find a sport that she is good at. With the help of her animal friends she finds one that is perfect for her.</p> <p>(QDoE)</p>	JF	32	Picture book Outback life Sport Animals Friends Soccer	9781760524708
Underwood, Deborah; Marks, Hannah (illus)	<p>The Panda Problem (2019)</p> <p>Every story needs a problem. But Panda doesn't have a problem. Unless Panda IS the BIG problem! With banjos, burping, jellybeans, aliens and penguins this story is out of control.</p> <p>(QDoE)</p>	JF	46	Pandas; Storytelling	9781760665906
Willems, Mo	<p>The Pigeon HAS to Go to School [Pigeon series] (2019)</p> <p>Pigeon captures the kinds of anxieties a child can feel about going to school for the first time. The zany story is relatable and the illustrations will give everyone a laugh as Pigeon talks his way onto the bus.</p> <p>(QDoE)</p>	JF	38	First day of school	9781406389012
Yolnu students; James, Ann; Haddon Ann	<p>I Saw, We Saw (2019)</p> <p>With its vibrant illustrations and simple text, this story written by Yolŋu students of Nhulunbuy Primary School provides a fascinating glimpse into their world. Children will enjoy learning some Yolŋu Matha words as they turn each page.</p> <p>(QDoE)</p>	JF	38	Animals Indigenous children Indigenous community	9780648155492
Arnold, Tedd	<p>Fly Guy Presents: Why, Fly Guy? A BIG Question & Answer Book (2017)</p> <p>For little readers whose favourite question is 'Why?' Join Fly Guy as he answers over 100 "Why?" questions! Also includes lots of fun activities so readers can experiment with what they've learned.</p> <p>(QDoE)</p>	NF	128	Science	9781338053180



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Bell, Davina; Colpoys, Allison (illus)	All the Ways to be Smart (2018) A joyous picture book that enthusiastically celebrates the power of the imagination while challenging stereotypes about what it means to be clever. With clever rhymes and delightful illustrations, this story is sure to become a classic. (Adapted from publisher)	JF	30	Imagination; Intelligence	9781925713435
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Collin, Chris; Kitchin, Megan (illus)	Funky Chicken (2013) According to legend, many, many years ago there was a great gathering of animals, right slap bang in the middle of Australia. Many of the animals felt they were more special than the rest. This is the story of how they decided, once and for all, who was the most unique. With a rollicking rhyme, this funny story that will leave you in stitches. (Adapted from Publisher)	JF	40	Australian animals Humour	9780987450784
McFadden, Clare	The Flying Orchestra (2010) A beautiful and whimsical tale of the music that is everywhere around us and tells the story of our lives. Whether we're up or down, at work or play, or just going about our day, the flying orchestra always plays for you. This delightful story cleverly explores the abstract concept of music and emotions for young children. (Adapted from Publisher)	JF	32	Music Feelings	9780702249297
Powell, Dimity; Plant, Andrew (illus)	Pippa (2019) Pippa is a little pigeon with a big blue-sky ambition to fly solo and explore the world beyond her nest. Her parents are less than thrilled with their risk-taking feathered fledging and smother her with well-meant yet suffocating warnings until one day she ignores them all, and takes the leap into the unknown . . . alone. (Adapted from Publisher)	F	32	Growing up Exploring Independence	9781925804263
Worthington, Michelle;	Glitch (2017) Glitch spends his life searching through mountains of mouldy mess at	JF	32	Recycling Resilience	9781925272703



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Plant, Andrew (illus)	the dump. He wants to make the fastest billycart ever. This year, he will be competing in the Big Race! But will his twitch stop him from winning? (Adapted from Publisher)				
Mes, Yvonne; Poli, Giuseppe (illus)	Oliver's grumbles (2017) Oliver is a happy little boy, until one day he wakes up with Grumbles in his head... and Grumbles IN HIS BED! The Grumbles dance on Oliver's chest, tug at his ears and cause all sorts of trouble for him, but when they run away with his snuggle blanket it's the last straw! Will Oliver work out a way to tame those terrible Grumbles? (Adapted from Publisher)	JF	32	Feelings	9780994557001
Poli, Giuseppe	Young MacDonald (2018) In this fun twist on an old favourite, Young MacDonald's vivid imagination transforms an ordinary day on the farm to the grandest adventure yet! (Adapted from Publisher)	JF	32	Farms Transport	9780994557018
Zorn, Claire	No place for an octopus (2019) After discovering an octopus in the rock pools at the beach, a boy wonders about all the fun adventures they could share if the octopus lived in his world. This is a gentle tale of friendship, understanding and appreciation. (Adapted from Publisher)	JF	32	Imagination Friendship Conservation	9780702262609
Carnavas, Peter	A quiet girl (2019) Mary is a quiet girl. Her family makes so much noise they hardly notice her – or anything else. Until Mary, in her own gentle way, shows them what they've been missing. (Adapted from Publisher)	JF	32	Mindfulness World around us	9780702260025
McLeod, Jodie; Short, Eloise (illus)	Leonard the Lyrebird (2018) Leonard is friends with everyone, and boy can he sing! But will his singing talents impress the one friend he really wants? Join this charismatic bird in his search for the song that will change his life...	JF	32	Australian animals	9780994450758



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	<p><i>Leonard the Lyrebird</i> is a lovely musical story about friendship, bravery and being yourself.</p> <p>(Adapted from Publisher)</p>				
King, Andrew	<p>Young Engineers (2019)</p> <p>This fun rhyming story provides examples and ideas of engineering across a wide range of disciplines and provides some information about each project. <i>Young Engineers</i> encourages children and adults together, to experience and enjoy engineering: to dream, draw, design and create.</p> <p>(Adapted from Publisher)</p>	JF	32	Design Engineering	9781925839623
Logan, Katrina; Keller, Tracey (illus)	<p>A fish with a wish (2011)</p> <p>Fish is feeling a little insecure. All of his land-loving friends are colourful, talented and noisy. Fish feels small and silent in comparison until a rollicking friend-filled adventure helps him discover the one thing that makes him truly special too?</p> <p>(Adapted from Publisher)</p>	JF	32	Acceptance Inclusion	9780980616231
Shelton, Chris	<p>Scragpie (2018)</p> <p>Every now and again, life can really ruffle our feathers. A downtrodden baby magpie learned this the hard way when she was stranded in heavy rain. Scragpie discovers the path to success is often turbulent and our hope can be clouded. With hard work (and a little help from our friends), even the sky is not the limit!</p> <p>(Adapted from Publisher)</p>	JF	32	Resilience Persistence	9781925522976
Patterson, Dannika; Forward, Megan (illus)	<p>Scribbly Gum Secrets (2020)</p> <p>Take a walk through the Australian bush with Charlie, Layla, Cooper and Max. As the children discover a world full of natural wonders, brimming with native flora and fauna, little Charlie's mind is focussed on one thing...</p> <p>Who, or what, has made those marks on the bark of the Scribbly Gum trees?</p> <p>(Adapted from Publisher)</p>	JF	32	Australian habitats Australian animals	9781925804478



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Halpin, Jacqui; Severgnini, Sandra (illus)	<p>Where's Lucky? (2019)</p> <p>Lucky, the orphaned swamp wallaby, has a knack for getting into mischief. While Theresa and Tony care for him, and their mob of other joeys, Lucky gets into lots of places he should not be. Where will they find Lucky next? An amusing tale about the delights and difficulties of caring for orphaned joeys.</p> <p>(Adapted from Publisher)</p>	JF	32	Caring for animals	9780648256335
Jackson Hill, Diane; Bury, Lois (illus)	<p>Anabel's Dance (2016)</p> <p>Annabel is no ordinary sheep. She is wiggly and jiggly. Loud noises hurt her ears and no matter how hard she tries, she just can't fit in with the flock. Until one day her supersensitive style brings her unexpected attention. How will the other sheep deal with Annabel now?</p> <p>Poignant and humorous, this story of a mud-puddle coloured sheep celebrates individual uniqueness.</p> <p>(Adapted from Publisher)</p>	JF	32	Acceptance Difference	9781925139358
Miller, Martine; Levings, Fiona (illus)	<p>Dad's wishing the rain would come (2019)</p> <p>Dad's wishing for rain, Mum's wishing for rain, I'm wishing for rain. Will the rain ever come?</p> <p>(Adapted from Publisher)</p>	JF	32	Family	9781925545845
Antony, Steve	<p>Amazing (2019)</p> <p>A delightful story of friendship, diversity, acceptance and understanding between a boy and his dragon. The little boy teaches his pet how to join in with everyone else and most importantly be yourself!</p> <p>(Adapted from Publisher)</p>	JF	32	Imagination Friendship Inclusion	9781444944709
Gray, Kes	<p>Oi Duck-billed Platypus (2018)</p> <p>A delightfully funny, rhyming read-aloud picture book - jam-packed with animals and silliness!</p> <p>(Adapted from Publisher)</p>	JF	32	Humour	9781444937329



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Muir, Aunty Fay; Lawson, Sue	<p>Respect (2020)</p> <p><i>Respect</i> whispers a soft and heartfelt message about the basic cultural principle that informs all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nations throughout Australia. Respect is about a way of life that is older than flickering stars, about stories that shimmer through tall grasses, and red-gum leaves that tumble to a parched and red earth. It teaches children the importance of family who show the way and how we need to listen, learn and share.</p> <p>(Adapted from Publisher)</p>	JF	32	Respect Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture	9781925936315
Battersby, Katherine	<p>Little Wing (2016)</p> <p>A lovely story about birds, books and belonging. Enjoy Little Wing's journey to discover his place and where he fits in.</p> <p>(Adapted from Publisher)</p>	JF	32	Birds Belonging	9780702254000

