



# 2023 Premier's reading challenge

## Prep – Year 1 Book List

**Note:** The suggested books cover a range of themes and some books may be more suited to older children in this category. Parental and/or teacher guidance is recommended when selecting texts to read.

#	Author	Title and book summary	JF/F/NF	Pages	Theme	ISBN
1	Godwin, Jane; Rennie Meg (illus)	<b>Let's build a boat (2023)</b> Five children follow the design process to collaboratively plan, design and construct a sailing boat. They demonstrate how to overcome adversity when things go wrong. (QDoE)	JF	24	Building Adventures Resilience	9781760508685
2	Takeuchi, Chihiro	<b>All in a day (2022)</b> Follow a community through 24 hours in their day, with clock face to match the daily events. Interactive look and find clues on each page. (QDoE)	JF	40	Time Clocks Day andnight	9781922610539
3	Kickett-Tucker, Cheryl; Waigana, Tyrown (illus)	<b>Ninni Yabini (2022)</b> A black swan family face adversity and work together to build a new home for their baby swan. A cautionary tale about wandering away. Written in Noongar and English (QDoE)	JF	32	Family Indigenous Seasons Weather	9781760991210
4	Bell, Davina; Tapper, Hilary Jean (illus)	<b>What to say when you don't know what to say (2022)</b> An essential book for every home and classroom. For all those times when you don't know what to say. A sensitive guide to open discussions with young children about many awkward situations. (QDoE)	JF	32	Feelings Empathy Social skills Communication	9780734421142
5	Godwin, Jane; Barrow, Eve (illus)	<b>Polly's grand party plan (2022)</b> Polly is counting down to turning 6, and planning a party to celebrate. Strategies include brainstorming ideas, making plans and lists, drawing floorplans, considering rules; helping Polly to craft the best party ever! A great design process model for event planning. (QDoE)	JF	27	Planning Time Birthdays Celebrations	9781922400857



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6	Cheng, Christopher; Snell, Danny (illus)	<p><b>Pollination: How does my garden grow? (2023)</b></p> <p>A day observing nature in the garden reveals the wonder of pollination by insects and animals. Grandparents share their knowledge through simple conversations, to enlighten young readers about pollination and sustainability. Complete with glossary, labelled diagram and factual information. (QDoE)</p> <p>Teachers notes and video trailer at: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/skn4hkxh">https://tinyurl.com/skn4hkxh</a></p>	NF	32	Sustainability Environment Life cycles Bees Pollination Gardening	9781486 313235
7	Germein, Katrina; Houghton, Suzanne (illus)	<p><b>Wonderful wasps (2022)</b></p> <p>A rhyming text with exquisite illustrations to introduce readers to the wonder of Australian native wasps and their important role in our biodiverse world. (QDoE)</p> <p>Teachers notes and video trailer available at : <a href="https://tinyurl.com/mr2k2y8t">https://tinyurl.com/mr2k2y8t</a></p> <p>Wonderful wasps blog post: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/44v2b6st">https://tinyurl.com/44v2b6st</a></p>	NF	32	Insects Animal behaviour Pollination	9781486 315734
8	Godwin, Nicole; Crispe, Susannah (illus)	<p><b>Swoop (2022)</b></p> <p>A gentle story to demonstrate the role of the male magpie in swooping to protect his eggs and chicks from threats, both perceived and real. Cleverly written from the magpie's perspective.</p> <p>Four pages of informative text, including Indigenous names. (QDoE)</p> <p>Teachers notes and video trailer available at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/mpkrmk5n">https://tinyurl.com/mpkrmk5n</a></p>	NF	32	Magpies Birds Animal Behaviour	9781486 315697
9	Lightfoot, Sarah Jane	<p><b>Down the road, little bee (2021)</b></p> <p>This book ticks so many boxes – seasons, weather, months, celebrations, positional vocabulary, mapping; in addition to pollination, flowering plants and insect and animal friends in the community. Key bee facts and an interactive <i>look and find</i> completes this informative book. (QDoE)</p>	JF	40	Bees Flowers Time - seasons Weather Mapping	9781922 400741

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10	Reeder, Stephanie Owen; Hicks, Astrid (illus)	<p><b>Swifty (2022)</b></p> <p>Travel with Swifty from Tasmania to Queensland and back, facing many obstacles that threaten her migration and survival. Information about habitat and how we can help this critically endangered bird is included. Great for discussion about natural and built environment. (QDoE)</p> <p>Teaching notes and video trailer available at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/4k9ukv5j">https://tinyurl.com/4k9ukv5j</a></p>	NF	32	Birds Habitat Endangered Migration Seasons	9781486315918
11	Godwin, Jane; Frankel, Yael (illus)	<p><b>Families (2022)</b></p> <p>A riotous rhyming romp with stylized illustrations displaying all variety of families, their makeup, activities and passions. A truly colourful celebration of all the differences that make every family unique! (Adapted from publisher)</p>	JF	32	Family Diversity	9781760508678
12	Stephen, Byll; Stephen, Beth; Stevies, Teeny T; Howe, Simon (illus)	<p><b>Family: All that you dream it to be (2022)</b></p> <p>Take a walk around the neighbourhood and meet all the different families who live there. They may be different in composition but they are alike in the love they provide to each other! Same, same but different! (QDoE)</p>	JF	24	Family Diversity Love	9780733341748
13	Seymour, Jasmine	<p><b>Open your heart to Country (2022)</b></p> <p>A sensory journey to Dharug Country with rich lyrical language and jewel coloured multimedia illustrations. Written in English and Dharug, with translations, background notes and pronunciations included. (QDoE)</p> <p>Teaching notes available at Magabala Books website.</p>	JF	32	Indigenous Welcome to Country Place Language	9781922613769
14	Blabey, Aaron	<p><b>Pig the rebel [Pig the Pug #10] (2022)</b></p> <p>Pig is finally sent to obedience school to improve his behaviour. After an epic break out Pig meets with disaster (again!). Will this experience be enough to help him behave? Has Pig finally changed his ways? (QDoE)</p>	JF	24	Animal Behaviour Dogs	9781761128400
15	Cosgrove, Matt	<p><b>Alpaca picnic panic [Macca the Alpaca #10] (2022)</b></p> <p>Sometimes the best made plans go awry! "Man, that wasn't the plan!" Macca and Al know how to make the best out of a bad</p>	JF	24	Resilience Weather Picnic Alpacas	9781761204340

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		situation and always have fun together, whatever the weather. (QDoE) Finger puppets, colouring and activities at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/2s4dcf6s">https://tinyurl.com/2s4dcf6s</a>			Rhyme	
16	Tsigros, Jess; Milner, Holly (illus)	<b>We live in a caravan (2022)</b> A rhyming recount and reflection of one family's 29,000 km road trip around Australia, visiting iconic locations and building special family memories; "living the Aussie dream". A focus on simple living, family and following your dreams. Includes map and road trip hints. (QDoE)	JF	32	Australia Holidays Family Place	9781741 178173
17	Fuata, Litea; Myo Yim (illus)	<b>White Sunday (2022)</b> Sina and her Samoan family celebrate White Sunday; a special day to celebrate childhood, observed in Tonga and Samoa. A day of church celebrations, sweet <i>ulas</i> to wear, childhood games, special food and family love. A great book to highlight cultural diversity and celebrations. (QDoE)	JF	32	Family Children Culture Celebrations Courage	9781760 509873
18	Parappukkaran, Sandhya ; Pereira, Michelle (illus)	<b>Amma's sari (2022)</b> Shreya is torn between embracing her Indian culture and fitting in with her new community. Her mother dresses differently to other mothers, and Shreya is embarrassed. Finally, Shreya comes to embrace difference and celebrate her culture. (QDoE)	JF	32	India Diversity Personal identity Culture	9781760 509910
19	McRitchie, Rebecca; McDonald, Danielle (illus)	<b>Best friends [Meet Ella #9] (2023)</b> Ella and Zoe are best friends and do everything together, until Tash arrives at school. Ella learns the very important lesson that even best friends can have other friends too! A beginning reader chapter book. (QDoE)	F	48	Friendship	9781761 291975
20	Helliari, Peter; Shanks, Matt (illus)	<b>Herman crab (2022)</b> Herman thought he liked to be alone, until one persistent cousin crab arrived and changed his mind. Herman still liked spending some time alone, but not all the time! (QDoE)	JF	32	Friendship Loneliness Solitude	9781761 210853

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21	Krebs, Chrissie	<b>I have a hat! [Mack and Cheeze 1] (2023)</b> “I love this hat”, “I hate this hat”! Mack and Cheeze explore the joys and pitfalls of hats, with differing perspectives. A great introduction to graphic format texts, perfect for beginning readers. (QDoE)	JF	64	Hats Opposites Cats Dogs	9781761 121562
22	Krebs, Chrissie	<b>I am a cat [Mack and Cheeze: 2] (2023)</b> The rascally Mack tries to be a cat – with mixed results! Meowing and scratching are easy to master, but purring and being selfish are proving tricky. Beginning readers will love this joyous episode in the life of these 2 pets, told in visual graphic format. (QDoE)	JF	64	Cats Dogs	9781761 201097
23	Lai, Remy	<b>Rainbow the Koala: Surviving the wild: Book 1 (2022)</b> Rainbow must leave Mum and make a new home in the bush. Despite climbing high and holding on tight, Rainbow meets many dangers, including a bushfire. An informative and positive introduction to conservation and adaptation written in graphic novel style. (QDoE)	F	112	Graphic novel Koalas Bushfires	9781761 065453
24	Lee, Andy; McKenzie, Heath (illus)	<b>Do not open this book for eternity (2022)</b> Children love to do the opposite of what is asked! Join Wizz (or do not) as he travels back in time through history. He may, or may not, need you to turn the page quickly to propel him on his journey. (QDoE)	JF	32	Humour History Time	9780655 226048
25	Saunders, Kirli; Leffler, Dub (illus)	<b>Our Dreaming (2022)</b> A mother echidna guides her puggle across Country and shares the concepts of the Dreaming, “as the Elders told it to me.” A calm and thoughtful text with Gundungurra language translations, complemented by subtle watercolour and pencil illustrations. (QDoE)	JF	24	Indigenous Dreaming Language	9781742 995113
26	Bell, Davina; Colpoys, Alison (illus)	<b>Tomorrow is a brand-new day (2021)</b> A gentle reminder that nothing is so bad that it can't be fixed or forgiven. Everyone has a bad day sometimes – it is how we choose to mend our ways and learn from our mistakes that matters. (QDoE)	JF	32	Resilience Love Emotions	9781925 849462

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27	Barty, Ashleigh; McGaughey, Jasmine; Goodwin, Jane (illus)	<b>Perfect match [Little Ash #1] (2022)</b> Seven-year-old Ash needs to find a new sport, one that she loves. One that will give her that tingling feeling in her fingers and toes. Hopscotch, imagination ball, softball, handball... Ash has tried so many! Will she find one she loves? (QDoE)	F	64	Sport Tennis Friendship	9781460 762769
28	Racklyeft, Jess	<b>There's only one Grandma like you (2021)</b> A diverse range of animal grandmas demonstrate all the attributes of grandmotherly love, making each day feel special. Smiles, hugs, baking, songs, strolls and stories all explored in a joyous rhyming text and detailed illustrations. (QDoE)	JF	24	Family Grandmothers Love	9781922 400680
29	Dubosarsky, Ursula; Riddle, Tohby (illus)	<b>The march of the ants (2021)</b> Never underestimate the power of a book and a good story! Every expedition needs food, water, maps and tools; but Little Ant knows that to succeed they also need a good story! (QDoE)	JF	24	Ants Books Stories Persistence Expeditions	9780648 498919
30	McKinlay, Meg; Karen Blair (illus)	<b>Ella and the useless day (2022)</b> Ella and her dad discover that one family's trash is another person's treasure as their useless clutter is reclaimed and re-purposed by members of their community. A gentle reminder about consumption and re-using materials before disposing. (QDoE)	JF	32	Sustainability Recycling Materials	9781760 653095
31	Abdel-Fattah, Randa; Clarke, Maxine Beneba (illus)	<b>11 words for love (2022)</b> This colourful book describes 11 types of love and provides the Arabic word for each. The illustrations portray a family's journey to a new land with just a suitcase, and the love they find along the way. (QDoE)	JF	32	Love Family Languages Community Migration	9780734 421203
32	Cameron, Aunty Patsy; Kennedy, Lisa (illus)	<b>Sea Country (2021)</b> In a time before calendars and weather reports, Country provided all the knowledge. The moon, clouds, birds, flowers all heralded changes in seasons and time. A rich description of life on Flinders Island with intricate mixed media illustrations demonstrating connection to sea and Country. (QDoE)	NF	40	Indigenous Seasons Family Sea Country Place	9781925 936032



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33	Oziewicz, Tina; Zajac, Aleksandra (illus)	<b>What feelings do when no-ones looking (2022)</b> Curiosity climbs to the highest branch of a tree, joy bounces on a trampoline. Even the most complex feelings are illustrated in an easy to understand way. An international picture book to help explore the feelings that live inside us all. (Adapted from publisher)	JF	74	Feelings	9781953861283
34	Cheng, Christopher; Masciullo, Lucia (illus)	<b>The Imagineer (2021)</b> Penny discovers her grandpa's shed is full of treasures to make phantasmagorical creations! A perfect book for Year 1 History with a plethora of household objects from the olden days to explore. (QDoE)	JF	24	Imagination Creativity Grandfather	9781922507341
35	Kasch, Jo; Bentley, Jonathon (illus)	<b>Mo and Crow (2021)</b> Mo wants to be alone, and builds stone walls to keep everyone and everything out. A very persistent Crow penetrates his stone wall, and eventually breaks through his barriers to be a friend. A poignant story about grief and friendship. (QDoE) Teaching notes at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/27n56ab9">https://tinyurl.com/27n56ab9</a>	JF	32	Friendship Loneliness Sadness	9781760631758
36	Hutchings, Maggie; Sala, Felicita (illus)	<b>Your school is the best (2021)</b> A hilarious story that will delight children with its absurd twists, told from the perspective of the cockroaches. Sala's illustrations vividly capture the fear, disgust, shock and horror which the children and teacher display, but the cockroaches never understand. Painting will never be the same again! (QDoE)	JF	32	Cockroaches School Perspective	9781922626530
37	Milroy, Helen	<b>Willy-Willy Wagtail (2020)</b> [Tales from the Bush Mob #1] Three short stories about Willy Wagtail and how she learned the ancient languages to help her bush mob, and ultimately warn them of an impending bushfire. (QDoE)	JF	72	Indigenous Animals Birds Bushfire Wind	9781925936605

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38	Dickson, John; Bunting, Phillip (illustrator)	<b>Matt Formston: Surfing in the dark (2023)</b> Matt has never let being blind stop him. He always wanted to be a professional surfer and now he is a cycling Paralympian and world champion surfer. (Adapted from publisher) Borrow from the <a href="#">Vision Australia Library</a>	JF	40	Resilience Determination Perseverance Courage Adversity Inclusion Optimism	9780645 558401
39	Martin, Corina Martins, Fern (illus)	<b>The Toast Tree (2015)</b> Sweet, buttery toast that you pick from a tree? Could that be a real thing? A true story, this is a delightful tale about family and the power of a child's imagination, as well as the ability to believe in the impossible. (Adapted from publisher)	JF	32	Family Imagination Grandfather	9781922 142689
40	Goodes, Adam Laing, Ellie Hardy, David (illus)	<b>Ceremony (2022)</b> A joyful celebration of family and culture that introduces First Nations history to young children in a way that is positive and enriching to all. (Adapted from Publisher) Borrow from the <a href="#">Vision Australia Library</a>	JF	22	Indigenous History Celebration Community Language	9781761 065064
41	Cook, Marshia; Nuggett, Tamua (illus); Baker Cazarus (illus)	<b>Jarrampa (2022)</b> Jarrampa are yabbies - they are very tasty to eat but tricky to catch because of those snappy claws! One clever old woman has a very nifty way of catching them – using her toes! (QDoE)	JF	24	Bush tucker Language	9780648 928041
42	West, Dot; Thorne, Tony (illus)	<b>Little J &amp; Big Cuz: The big race</b> Kids in desert communities might have different kinds of toys but like all kids, they love a bit of competition! Will Little J's shiny tin roller win the big race at the annual school picnic day? A picture book based on the award-winning series on NITV. (QDoE)	JF	24	Races Bush toys Bush games Competition Friendship	9781761 210464