The following list is a sampling of the books we have on this subject. Children’s, teen, and adult books are included here. Students and their parents should choose the books that are most appropriate for them.

**CHILDREN’S BOOKS**

_The Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee_
by Deborah Abela
Terribly shy, India Wimple is brilliant at spelling and her loving family will do whatever it takes to help her compete in a televised national spelling bee in Sydney, Australia. 240 pages

_Mac Slater Hunts the Cool_
by Tristan Bancks
Mac, an Australian youth, has one week to prove that he can be a "coolhunter," identifying emerging trends and posting images on a website, but he is competing against a classmate on whom he has a crush and dealing with resistance from his best friend and his own confusion over what "cool" means. 203 pages

_On the Run_
by Tristan Bancks
Twelve-year-old Ben, who aspires to be a police officer, struggles to do the right thing when his parents suddenly take him and his little sister "on vacation," and he learns they took a large amount of money that was mistakenly deposited in their bank account. 227 pages

_The Visconti House_
by Elsbeth Edgar
Laura Horton has always been an outsider, more interested in writing, drawing, or spending time with her free-spirited family than in her fellow teens, but she is drawn to Leon, a new student, as together they explore the mysteries of her eccentric old house. 287 pages

_The Bone Sparrow_
by Zana Fraillon
Subhi's contained world as a refugee in an Australian permanent detention center rapidly expands when Jimmie arrives on the other side of the fence and asks him to read her late mother's stories to her. 228 pages

_The Other Side of Summer_
by Emily Gale
Summer's father moves their family to Australia after the sudden death of her brother Floyd, and the only thing that keeps her grounded is Floyd's guitar, which was miraculously unharmed in the bombing that killed him. 313 pages

_Bob_
by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead
Visiting her grandmother in Australia, Livy, 10, is reminded of the promise she made five years before to Bob, a strange, green creature who cannot recall who or what he is. 209 pages
YOUNG ADULT FICTION

**The Lines We Cross**
by Randa Abdel-Fattah
Basketball enthusiast Michael attends anti-immigration rallies with his parents until a friendship with a Muslim refugee newcomer from Afghanistan compels him to question his family’s politics. 360 pages.

**Ten Things I Hate about Me**
by Randa Abdel-Fattah
Lebanese-Australian Jamilah, known in school as Jamie, hides her heritage from her classmates and tries to pass by dyeing her hair blonde and wearing blue-tinted contact lenses, until her conflicted feelings become too much for her to bear. 297 pages.

**The Harper Effect**
by Taryn Bashford
Sixteen-year-old Harper acquires a new tennis coach who immediately partners her with the moody Cole, but between Cole’s secrets and her love for sister’s ex-boyfriend, can Harper make her tennis dreams come true? 408 pages.

**Love and Other Perishable Items**
by Laura Buzo
A 15-year-old Australian girl gets her first job and first crush on her unattainable university-aged co-worker, as both search for meaning in their lives. 243 pages.

**Stolen**
by Lucy Christopher
Sixteen-year-old Gemma, a British city-dweller, is abducted while on vacation with her parents and taken to the Australian outback, where she soon realizes that escape attempts are futile, and in time she learns that her captor is not as despicable as she first believed. 299 pages.

**Words in Deep Blue**
by Cath Crowley
Teenagers Rachel and Henry find their way back to each other while working in an old bookstore full of secrets and crushes, love letters and memories, grief and hope. 269 pages.

**Munro vs. the Coyote**
by Darren Groth
Munro Maddux goes to Australia on a student exchange in order to try and deal with his younger sister’s death. 276 pages.

**The Secret Science of Magic**
by Melissa Keil
Told from two viewpoints, Sophia, 17, a Sri Lankan-Australian math prodigy with social anxiety, is panicking about her future when classmate and amateur magician Joshua proclaims his love for her. 352 pages.

**Razorhurst**
by Justine Larbalestier
In 1932, in Sydney’s deadly Razorhurst neighborhood, where crime and razor-wielding men rule, two girls with contrasting lives who share the ability to see ghosts meet over a dead body and find themselves on the run from mob bosses. 309 pages.

**Timber Creek Station**
by Ali Lewis
Thirteen-year-old Danny Dawson lives on a cattle station in the Australian outback, where his family struggles to cope with the accidental death of his older brother a year earlier and his sister’s pregnancy by an Aboriginal. 234 pages.

**Lucy and Linh**
by Alice Pung
Lucy tries to balance her life at home surrounded by her Chinese immigrant family, with her life at a pretentious private school. 340 pages.
Outback
by Robin Stevenson
Since his girlfriend dumped him, Jayden has been avoiding school—and life in general. When his eccentric uncle Mel invites him to help with his biology research at an Australian university, he figures he has nothing to lose. Soon Jayden finds himself in the scorching desert heat of the Australian outback fighting for his survival. 131 pages

Cloudwish
by Fiona Wood
Vietnamese-Australian teenager Vân Uoc Phan, the daughter of Vietnamese immigrants, doesn't believe in magic until the day an absent-minded wish actually comes true and she attracts the attention of her longtime crush. 309 pages

Wildlife
by Fiona Wood
Two 16-year-old girls in Australia come together at an outdoor semester of school, before university—one thinking about boys and growing up, the other about death and grief, but somehow they must help each other to find themselves. 385 pages

Velocity
by Chris Wooding
Cassica and Shiara have grown up in Coppermouth, a dust choked town in the Outback, but now they hope to use their skills as race driver and mechanic to take on the Widowmaker, an off-road rally through some of the most dangerous places on Earth, to win fame and fortune—provided they survive the race. 325 pages

ADULT FICTION

The Strays
by Emily Bitto
In 1930s Melbourne, Lily befriends Eva and her two sisters, and becomes infatuated with the bohemian lifestyle of their artist father and the community of like-minded artists living and working in their house. 256 pages

The Untold
by Courtney Collins
On the run from two bounty hunters in the Australian outback of 1921, Jessie reflects on her past as a circus rider, horse thief, cattle rustler, and convict while determinedly struggling to reunite with her child. 274 pages

Relativity
by Antonia Hayes
Ethan is a bright young boy obsessed with physics and astronomy who lives with his mother, Claire, and who is becoming curious about his father’s absence from his life. When Ethan intercepts a letter from his father Mark to Claire, he unleashes long-suppressed forces which pull all three together again. 362 pages

The Lost Dog
by Michelle de Kretser
When his dog is lost in the bush, professor Tom Loxley sets aside the biography he is writing to search for him, aided by Nelly Zhang, a companion of questionable trustworthiness. 326 pages

Shame and the Captives
by Thomas Keneally
A tale inspired by true events follows the experiences of a World War II prisoner's wife who befriends an Italian anarchist in the hopes of alleviating her husband's suffering, only to be swept up in a violent prison break. 367 pages

The Swan Book
by Alexis Wright
Two aboriginal “promise children” have very different backgrounds, and as their destinies entwine, they are left asking if there is room in the modern world for traditional culture.

Bittersweet
by Colleen McCullough
The story of four unforgettable sisters navigating work, love, and their dreams in 1920s Australia. 376 pages
Family Baggage
by Monica McInerney
When travel agent Harriet Turner's foster sister Lara vanishes on the eve of an overseas trip, Harriet finds herself left alone with a busload of eccentric senior citizens as she confronts questions about her family and her childhood. 499 pages

The Light Between Oceans
by M.L. Stedman
On a remote Australian island, a childless couple live quietly running a lighthouse, until a boat carrying a baby washes ashore. 345 pages

The Slap
by Christos Tsiolkas
At a festive barbecue in the Melbourne suburb a man slaps the child of another couple, triggering a court case and a variety of confrontations within the lives of the families and friends present. 482 pages

ADULT NONFICTION

The Great Barrier Reef
by Len Zell
Produced in partnership with the BBC's The Great Barrier Reef television series, this book takes readers on a journey along 2,300 km of Australia's north-eastern coastline. It discusses how the Great Barrier Reef was formed, the plants and animals that inhabit it and the environmental challenges facing this incredibly delicate ecosystem. 249 pages

Kangaroo: Portrait of an Extraordinary Marsupial
by Stephen Jackson
This book looks at the ecology, history, and behavior of kangaroos. It details their interaction with the original inhabitants and the European settlers of Australia and discusses at how to best manage the population. 338 pages

Aboriginal Art
by Wally Caruana
For some 50,000 years, Aboriginal artists have built on traditions and worked in a variety of contexts. From the sacred and secret realm of ceremony to more public spheres, and in media that include painting, sculpture, engraving, constructions, weaving, photography, printmaking, and textile design. 216 pages

In a Sunburned Country
by Bill Bryson
The author takes readers on a tour of the land Down Under that goes far beyond packaged-tour routes. 335 pages

Australia: Journey through a Timeless Land
by Roff Smith
Illustrates the history, culture, landscapes, wildlife, and maritime of the continent of Australia. 304 pages

Paradise in Chains
by Diana Preston
Presents the parallel journey of William Bligh and his mutinied men and Mary Bryant and nine Australian convicts who made the same journey and landed in the same port just a few months later. 333 pages

Commonwealth of Thieves
by Thomas Keneally
A history of the European settlement of Australia tells the story of Captain Arthur Phillip, who was empowered to govern a colony comprised primarily of unskilled criminals and petty thieves, disgruntled military men, and a sometimes hostile native population. 385 pages