



The Stella Prize for younger readers

The bulk of the Stella Prize Schools Program kits provide teaching notes on each of the 2013, 2014 and 2015 Stella Prize shortlisted books. As these books are mostly not suitable for students below Year 10, we have compiled here a separate reading list for Years 7 to 10, to encourage wider reading of Australian women writers at younger secondary levels too. Included are some general reading questions and classroom activities designed to encourage students to evaluate their reading habits and challenge themselves to read more broadly.

NEW AND NOTABLE BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS

***Eat the Sky, Drink the Ocean*, eds. Kirsty Murray, Payal Dhar and Anita Roy (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 7–10) Writers and artists from India and Australia collaborate in this collection of short stories that interrogates what it means to be a girl in each country.

***Figgy in the World*, Tamsin Janu (Scholastic Australia)**

(Year 7) Figgy might not be the only Figgy in the whole world, but she's the only one who can get the medicine her grandmother needs to survive.

***Red*, Libby Gleeson (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 7) A genre-crossing mystery about a girl struggling to regain her memories and solve a crime in the wake of a natural disaster.

***Pureheart*, Cassandra Golds (Penguin)**

(Year 7) Deirdre and Gal journey through an enchanted house, and their own past, to try to break a curse and reclaim their identity.

***The Three Loves of Persimmon*, Cassandra Golds (Penguin)**

(Year 7) A gaslamp novel about love and destiny.

***Moonlight and Ashes*, Sophie Masson (Random House)**

(Year 7) In this story of Selena, the tale of Cinderella is retold to enhance the magic behind the fairytale and grant Selena control over her own destiny.

***Surface Tension*, Meg McKinlay (Walker)**

(Year 7) A story about secrets and forgotten towns, and finding a place where you belong.

***The Four Seasons of Lucy McKenzie*, Kirsty Murray (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 7) A time-slip adventure about the true meaning of friendship.

***Tensy Farlow and the Home for Mislaid Children*, Jen Storer (Puffin)**

(Year 7) An orphan with no guardian angel eventually finds much more than a home.

***Cicada Summer*, Kate Constable (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 7) A time-slip tale about family, home and belonging.

***Nanberry: Black Brother White*, Jackie French (Angus & Robertson)**

(Year 7) The true story of Nanberry, a young Aboriginal boy adopted by Surgeon John White and raised to act as an interpreter between Aboriginal people and European settlers.

***Writing Clementine*, Kate Gordon (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 7/8) Clementine Darcy wants to be herself, but it seems more and more as though being herself isn't going to make her any friends. The only place she can be truly free is when she's writing.

***Song for Scarlet Runner*, Julie Hunt (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 7/8) This startling fantasy is reminiscent of Emily Rodda's *Rowan of Rin* series. It follows a young girl's search for a home as she traverses the mountains and swamps of another world.

***The One and Only Jack Chant*, Rosie Borella (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 7/8) A ghost story about growing up, growing old, and moving on, but never forgetting your family.

***Quincy Jordan: Crystal Bay Girls #1*, Jen Storer (Penguin Australia)**

(Year 7/8) Quincy Jordan doesn't want to know that her dad's cheating on her mum. She doesn't want to move to Crystal Bay to live with her hippie cousins. Life is full of unwanted surprises, but sometimes things have a way of working themselves out.

***The Crystal Heart*, Sophie Masson (Random House Australia)**

(Year 7/8) When Kasper joins the elite guard watching over a dangerous prisoner in a tower, he believes he is protecting his country from a powerful witch, until one day he discovers that the prisoner is a beautiful princess.

***The Ratcatcher's Daughter*, Pamela Rushby (Angus & Robertson, HarperCollins)**

(Year 8) The year is 1900, and thirteen-year-old Issy McKelvie leaves school to start her first job – very reluctantly – as a maid in an undertaking establishment.

***Girl Saves Boy*, Steph Bowe (Text)**

(Year 8) Being terminally ill is not going to stop Sacha Thomas from falling in love and having an amazing adventure.

***Cinnamon Rain*, Emma Cameron (Walker)**

(Year 8) Verse novel about friendship, family and falling in love.

***Whisper*, Chrissie Keighery (Hardie Grant Egmont)**

(Year 8) A teenager deals with not only her loss of hearing but also a new identity as a deaf person.

***Killing Darcy*, Melissa Lucashenko (UQP)**

(Year 8) Darcy Mango is looking for his mob, his past and himself.

(Melissa Lucashenko is the author of *Mullumbimby*, which was longlisted for the 2014 Stella Prize.)

***A Small Free Kiss in the Dark*, Glenda Millard (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 8) Trying to survive amid the rubble of war, a group of young misfits band together and, against all expectations, find hope and love.

***The Rosie Black Chronicles Series*, Lara Morgan (Walker)**

(Year 8) Rosie Black lives in a world destroyed by climate change, where people are divided into haves and have-nots. She is drawn into a mystery that will change the shape of her future.

***Vulture's Gate*, Kirsty Murray (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 8) A dystopian novel set in a desolate future world where girls are being trapped and farmed.

***Only Ever Always*, Penni Russon (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 8) Claire feels irrevocably broken, until she finds a way to escape into a dream world inhabited by Clara, who has plenty of experience in dealing with broken things.

***Crow Country*, Kate Constable (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 8) A time-slip adventure in which Sadie tries to right old wrongs involving her own family and an Aboriginal sacred site.

***Thyla*, Kate Gordon (Random House)**

(Year 8) Thyla is the story of Tasmania: a story of darkness, convicts, devils and tigers.

***New Guinea Moon*, Kate Constable (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 8) Set on the cusp of independence in New Guinea, this is the coming-of-age story of Julie as she falls in love and finds her own kind of independence.

***The Children of the King*, Sonya Hartnett (Penguin)**

(Year 8) A kind of ghost story that blends history with storytelling as two children, from different times and places, connect in a ruined building.

***India Dark*, Kirsty Murray (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 8) Based on the true story of a group of young Australian performers, travelling through Asia and India, who initiate a groundbreaking court case.

***The Forgotten Pearl*, Belinda Murrell (Random House)**

(Year 8) *The Forgotten Pearl* recounts the events of World War II through the eyes of teenager Poppy, who flees her crumbling Darwin home to start a new life in Sydney.

***Shimmer: The Rephaim #3*, Paula Weston (Text Publishing)**

(Year 8/9) The third book in the Rephaim series, where the ancient battles between fallen angels are fought along the beaches of Queensland's rainforests.

***The Book of Days*, K.A. Barker (Pan Macmillan Australia)**

(Year 8/9) An intriguing debut fantasy about Tuesday, a girl who wakes up in a house where people go to forget.

***The Cracks in the Kingdom: The Colours of Madeleine #2*, Jaclyn Moriarty (Pan Macmillan Australia)**

(Year 8/9) This highly original fantasy story brings together Madeleine, from the World, and Elliot, from the Kingdom, who communicate through a crack between the two worlds.

***The Incredible Here and Now*, Felicity Castagna (Giramondo)**

(Year 9) Michael's older brother dies at the beginning of the summer he turns 15, but this is a story of wonder, not of tragedy.

***Noah's Law*, Randa Abdel-Fattah (Pan Macmillan)**

(Year 9) A light-hearted legal thriller about a rebellious teenager's summer working at a law firm.

***Shift*, Em Bailey (Hardie Grant Egmont)**

(Year 9) A slightly supernatural tale of unhealthy friendships and the importance of self-acceptance.

***All This Could End*, Steph Bowe (Text)**

(Year 9) Nina would love to be a normal teenager – if only she could convince her family to leave their life of crime.

***Will*, Maria Boyd (Random House)**

(Year 9) Everybody can see that Will's in trouble, except Will, and things are going to get worse before they get better.

***Chasing Charlie Duskin*, Cath Crowley (Pan Macmillan)**

(Year 9) Charlie Duskin is running from her mistakes, but as she runs she's chasing dreams and hoping things will get better.

***This Is Shyness*, Leanne Hall (Text)**

(Year 9) Wildgirl is being someone else for a night. Wolfboy is just trying to get by. In a town where the sun doesn't rise, it only takes one night to fall in love.

***I'll Tell You Mine*, Pip Harry (UQP)**

(Year 9) Kate Elliot hides beneath her Goth appearance, but when she gets sent to boarding school, claustrophobic friendships bring out her secrets – and her potential.

***The Whole of My World*, Nicole Hayes (Random House)**

(Year 9) Shelley's twin brother is dead. She's dealing with it in the only way she knows how, trying to lose herself in football. But nothing is simple anymore, not even footy.

***Cry Blue Murder*, Kim Kane & Marion Roberts (UQP)**

(Year 9) A chilling dual narrative about online identity and a suburban murderer.

***Life in Outer Space*, Melissa Keil (Hardie Grant Egmont)**

(Year 9) Sam is a geek just trying to get through high school, but Camilla is determined to make Year 12 much more exciting than that.

***The Tribe series*, Ambelin Kwaymullina (Walker)**

(Year 9) A four-book dystopian series about a tribe of rebels, hunted and experimented on because their abilities make them 'illegal'.

***Fury*, Shirley Marr (Black Dog)**

(Year 9) Eliza Boans might be confessing to a murder but readers will question her guilt to the very end.

***Fairytales for Wilde Girls*, Allyse Near (Random House)**

(Year 9) The coming-of-age fairytale of Isola Wilde, who can see things that others can't.

***My Big Birkett*, Lisa Shanahan (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 9) A coming-of-age story about life, love and chucking a birkett.

***Loving Richard Feynman*, Penny Tangey (UQP)**

(Year 9) Catherine is dealing with all the things normal teenagers deal with, but she's doing it by writing to the dead scientist Richard Feynman.

***Shadows from the Requiem series*, Paula Weston (Text)**

(Year 9) Gaby thinks she remembers the accident her brother died in – she has nightmares about it – but she's about to find out that the memory is false, and that the reality is much crazier.

***Love-shy*, Lili Wilkinson (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 9) A high-school journalist searching for stories finds a love-shy student online. He's the perfect project, even if he doesn't realise it.

***The Zigzag Effect*, Lili Wilkinson (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 9) When Sage takes a holiday job as a magician's assistant to pay for her photography lessons, she gets more magic than she bargained for.

***Rise of the Fallen*, Teagan Chilcott (Magabala)**

(Year 9) The first in a YA paranormal romance series by the winner of the 2012 black&write! Indigenous Writing Fellowship.

***Grace Beside Me*, Sue McPherson (Magabala)**

(Year 9) Small-town life is explored with warmth and humour through the eyes of Fuzzy Mac in this award-winning book.

***Days Like This*, Alison Stewart (Penguin)**

(Year 9) In this dystopian thriller, Lily is a prisoner held hostage by her parents and wondering what her own fate will be following the disappearance of her brother.

***The Sky So Heavy*, Claire Zorn (UQP)**

(Year 9) One day, everything is normal; the next, Fin is fighting to make sense of a world devastated by nuclear fallout.

***Preloved*, Shirley Marr (Walker)**

(Year 9) Amy doesn't believe her mother's ghost stories, until one of the ghosts follows her home.

***The Minnow*, Diana Sweeney (Text Publishing)**

(Year 9/10) This Text Prize-winning book tells the story of Tom, who is cast adrift in the wake of a city-wide tragedy. Tom's relationships are complicated and fragile, as she desperately tries to steer a clear path for herself and the minnow.

***Every Move*, Ellie Marney (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 9/10) The final book in the *Every* series about teenage detectives Watts and Mycroft.

***State of Grace*, Hilary Badger (Hardie Grant Egmont)**

(Year 9/10) In this dystopian future, Wren lives in a paradise where everything is just 'Dotly', until a boy from outside breaks in. Then she begins to realise that things aren't as peaceful as they seem.

***The Protected*, Claire Zorn (UQP)**

(Year 9/10) Hannah's sister Katie dies in a car crash, and Hannah is left behind to grow older, pick up the pieces of her family, fall in love and move on.

***As Stars Fall*, Christie Nieman (Pan Macmillan Australia)**

(Year 9/10) The bush stone-curlew is the central image of this book about bushfires, grief, isolation, drug abuse and family.

***The Incredible Adventures of Cinnamon Girl*, Melissa Keil (Hardie Grant Egmont)**

(Year 9/10) Alba would be happy if life could continue as is. But at some point she's going to have to choose between her dream of uni, and staying in her small hometown forever. And if life wasn't already difficult enough, the end of the world arrives in her lap.

***Nona & Me*, Clare Atkins (Black Inc.)**

(Year 9/10) Rosie and Nona are sisters. Yapas. But when Nona arrives back in Rosie's life after years of absence, Rosie needs to choose between her family loyalties and her first love.

***The Astrologer's Daughter*, Rebecca Lim (Text Publishing)**

(Year 9/10) Avicenna Crowe is a genius and eccentric, in that order. She isn't especially bothered if people like her or not, but when her mother goes missing she discovers that she needs help.

***Masquerade*, Kylie Fornasier (Penguin Books Australia)**

(Year 9/10) In the glittering, masked world of the Venetian Carnevale in 1750, everyone has a secret. Seven teens, from the highest aristocrat to the lowest servant, are consumed by their secrets: their loves, desires, loyalties and betrayals.

***The Flywheel*, Erin Gough (Hardie Grant Egmont)**

(Year 9/10) Delilah is just managing to keep her life together. She's juggling high school and managing her dad's café (just), but falling in love might be one challenge too many.

***Zac and Mia*, AJ Betts (Text)**

(Year 10) A funny, raw and sometimes grotty story about love, cancer and living as hard as you can for as long as you've got.

***Pig Boy*, JC Burke (Random House)**

(Year 10) Damon Styles has been wronged and is out for revenge. But when he takes a job with the Pigman so that he can learn to shoot, he's in for more education than he anticipated.

***The Story of Tom Brennan*, JC Burke (Random House)**

(Year 10) Tom Brennan's life is pretty simple, until his brother is arrested and his whole world explodes.

***Every Thing Left Unsaid*, Jessica Davidson (Pan Macmillan)**

(Year 10) Tai and Juliet have been friends forever, and it seems like they might finally have a chance to get together. But then Tai gets sick, and it's not the kind of sick you come back from.

***Night Beach*, Kirsty Eager (Penguin)**

(Year 10) A novel about obsession and possession. Abbie is in love with Kane, but Kane has returned from holiday with the devil on his back.

***Head of the River*, Pip Harry (UQP)**

(Year 10) Siblings Leni and Christian are on track to make their Olympian parents proud. But school sports are high pressure and when life gets complicated, everything can go wrong.

***The Accident*, Kate Hendrick (Text)**

(Year 10) An intriguing novel in which three seemingly unconnected narratives tell the before, during and after of a devastating car crash.

***Notes from the Teenage Underground*, Simmone Howell (Pan Macmillan)**

(Year 10) Gem, Mira and Lou have gone Underground. But even the avant-garde and anti-social need their friends sometimes.

***Girl Defective*, Simmone Howell (Pan Macmillan)**

(Year 10) A detective story about family, love and the things that fall through the cracks.

***Cooper Bartholomew Is Dead*, Rebecca James (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 10) Cooper Bartholomew is dead. His girlfriend Libby is devastated, and she's not convinced his death was an accident.

***Kill the Music*, Nansi Kunze (Random House)**

(Year 10) An indie thriller about a rock-star teenager and a plot to kill the music – literally.

***Losing It*, Julia Lawrinson (Penguin)**

(Year 10) Four friends make a pact to 'Lose It'. They'd like to be sober, they'd like it to be with Mr Right. The only thing that's certain is that it'll be awkward.

***Burn Bright*, Marianne de Pierres (Random House)**

(Year 10) Book One of the Night Creatures trilogy. A science-fiction novel set in the intoxicating and mysterious world of Ixion.

***Cracked*, Clare Strahan (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 10) A coming-of-age story about trying to make sense of the world when it feels like it's cracking into a million pieces.

***Friday Brown*, Vicki Wakefield (Text)**

(Year 10) Running away from the past and her family curse, Friday Brown finds a new sort of belonging with a group of homeless misfits.

***Beatle Meets Destiny*, Gabrielle Williams (Penguin)**

(Year 10) When John Lennon (Beatle) meets Destiny McCartney, he falls instantly in love. The only problem is he already has a girlfriend.

***Six Impossible Things*, Fiona Wood (Pan Macmillan)**

(Year 10) Dan Cereill is watching as his life falls apart before his eyes. He's going to get through it, one day at a time, if he can just do six impossible things.

***Stolen*, Lucy Christopher (Chicken House)**

(Year 10) In a letter to her captor, Gemma relates her experience of being kidnapped and taken to a remote shack in the middle of the Australian outback by a man who expects her to love him.

***Graffiti Moon*, Cath Crowley (Pan Macmillan)**

(Year 10) It's the last night of high school, and it's going to be a big one. A story about love, hope, and making a place that's your own.

***Black Glass*, Meg Mundell (Scribe)**

(Year 10) A futuristic dystopian novel about two young teenage sisters trying to find one another and survive as 'undocs' in the City.

***As Stars Fall*, Christie Nieman (Pan Macmillan)**

(Year 10) An exploration of growing up, identity and home in the aftermath of a bushfire.

***Clara in Washington*, Penny Tangey (UQP)**

(Year 10) Clara is taking an end-of-school holiday in Washington. It's her chance to become someone else, but that person might not be quite who she imagined.

***Wildlife*, Fiona Wood (Pan Macmillan)**

(Year 10) Lou from Six Impossible Things is grieving and the last thing she needs is to be trapped in the middle of nowhere for a term of outdoor education with the accidentally famous Sybilla and a bunch of girls who she'll never fit in with.

***Steal My Sunshine*, Emily Gale (Random House)**

(Year 10) In the middle of a Melbourne heatwave, Hannah listens as her grandmother shares the heartbreak of having been a 'wayward girl'.

***Tjarany Roughtail*, Gracie Greene & Joe Tramacchi, with illustrations by Lucille Gill (Magabala)**

(Year 10) An illustrated book about the cultural history of the Kukatja people and the mysteries of the Dreamtime. Told in Kukatja and English.

***The Great Gatsby*, Nicki Greenberg (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 10) F Scott Fitzgerald's jazz-age classic The Great Gatsby becomes a vivid and delightful graphic novel.

***Hamlet*, Nicki Greenberg (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 10) A graphic adaptation of Shakespeare's Hamlet.

***Cooper Bartholomew Is Dead*, Rebecca James (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 10) Everyone believes Cooper Bartholomew killed himself. Everyone except his girlfriend, Libby.

***Razorhurst*, Justine Larbalestier (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 10) Set in the 1930s against the backdrop of Sydney's underbelly, Razorhurst is a riveting ghost story about Kelpie, a young street urchin, and Dymphna, who has more in common with Kelpie than either of them might like to believe.

***When the Night Comes*, Favel Parrett (Hachette Australia)**

(Year 10) In the greyness of Tasmania, a red ship breaks the monotony of Isla's day. She is drawn to its warmth and a particular sailor who becomes like family.

***In the Skin of a Monster*, Kathryn Barker (Allen & Unwin)**

(Year 10) Three years after her identical twin sister shot seven of their schoolmates, Alice lives a waking nightmare as she struggles with lingering trauma.

***Intruder*, Christine Bongers (Random House Australia)**

(Year 10) When Kat Jones is woken by an intruder looming over her bed, her dad issues an ultimatum: either spend her nights next door, or welcome another intruder in her life.

***Wrath*, Anne Davies (Jo Jo Publishing)**

(Year 10) Luca has been sent to a juvenile detention centre for the murder of his parents and no one knows why he did it. Inside the centre, danger, abuse and despair become his world.

***Maralinga, the Anangu Story*, Christobel Mattingley, with Yalata and Oak Valley communities (Allen & Unwin)**

(Reluctant readers) An illustrated history of Maralinga told from the Indigenous perspective.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF: READ LIKE A GIRL

How many books by Australian women have you read this year? How many books have you read about girls?

Whether you're a boy or a girl, it's important to read widely and well. Do you want to know what people who are different from you are thinking? Do you want to have the opportunity to challenge your preconceptions? Books have the potential to do just that, but it is easy to get stuck in a reading rut.

Read the following article and use it to set yourself a reading challenge. It might be to read only women, or to read only books by Indigenous Australian women – whatever will take you out of your comfort zone.

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/jan/22/year-of-reading-women-2014-bias-male-writers>

- ◆ What was your challenge?
- ◆ How did it differ from your normal reading patterns?
- ◆ What characters did you learn about?
- ◆ How did this challenge your approach to reading?
- ◆ What other thoughts have you had following the challenge?

In 2013 young adult author Maureen Johnson created the 'Coverflip' challenge, to interrogate the assumptions that arise from gendered marketing and gender-specific book covers. Read the following article.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/07/coverflip-maureen-johnson_n_3231935.html

Look at some of the books on your shelf and consider how their covers have influenced your decision to read them. Create your own Coverflip covers. Who do you think might read your selected books now, based on their 'new' covers? Who might miss out? What does this mean about how we share stories?