

Hello,

I hope you have had a fun month and school holiday break with the chance to do some reading, writing stories and drawing. I've been doing a lot of writing, painting and drawing myself lately. My time as the Australian Children's Laureate comes to an end in November. Over my two years travelling around Australia, I've gathered lots of ideas for books. Now that I have more time, I'd like to explore these ideas in detail. The creation of a book takes a very long time. From the first idea to when you first see it in your library or in a bookshop, each one of my novels usually takes at least two years.

At the end of this month, I'm looking forward to opening Edgar Creek Primary School's library. I've opened two libraries so far and I'm so happy to do so. Every school needs a library.

Until next month, happy reading, writing and drawing.

Gabi x

Imagine Activities!

We are excited to bring you a new activity from our Laureate Gabrielle Wang encouraging everyone to exercise their imagination.

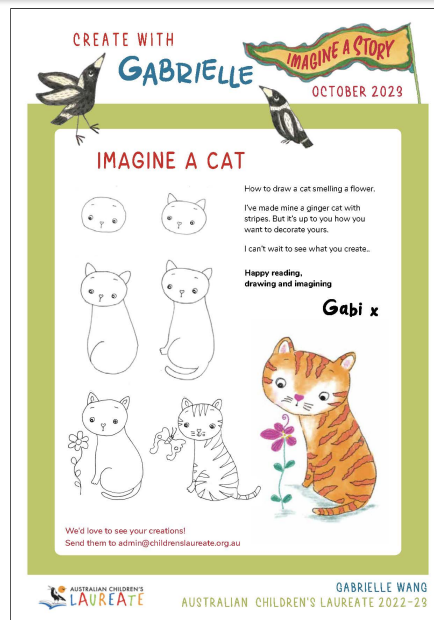
This October, it's time to IMAGINE A CAT. Be inspired by Gabi's gorgeous illustration, follow her step-by-step instructions and see what you can create.

We'd love to see your drawings and include them in our special [Illustration Gallery](#).

You can send your pictures to admin@childrenslaureate.org.au.

If you enjoy this activity, why not take a look at all the other FREE creative activities on the [Australian Children's Laureate website](#).

You will find Laureate inspired writing activities, puzzles, games and detailed instructions on drawing your own MAGPIE or DRAGON.



DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE ACTIVITY

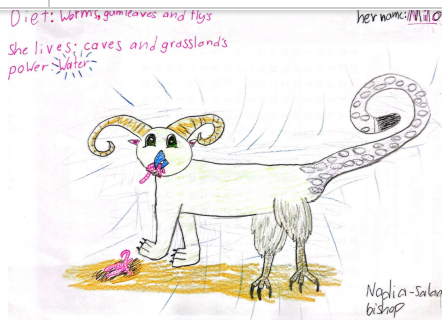
FOLLOW THE DRAGON TOUR

While it has been a quiet touring month for our Laureate Gabrielle Wang, she has still been sharing her message about the importance of imagination and reading.

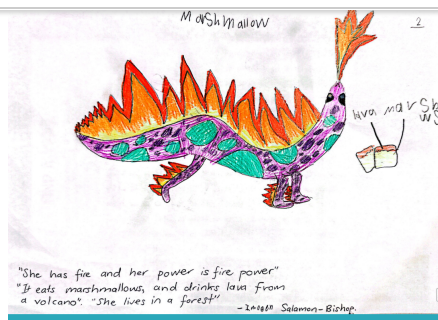
Since July, Gabi's book [Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon](#) has been [Dymocks Children's Charities' Lit Club 4 Kids](#) book. In late September, Gabi joined the book club crew for a very special live Q&A.

Lit Club 4 Kids members also shared incredible illustrations and book reviews inspired by Gabi and her fabulous book.

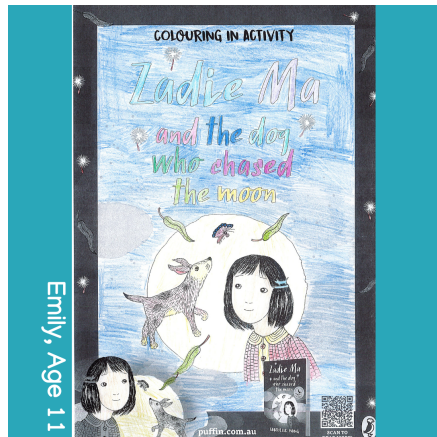
The ACLF is proud to have supported Gabi's involvement in this wonderful program and we are blown away by what these book clubbers have created. We hope you enjoy them too.



Nadia, Age 10



Imogen, Age 7



Emily, Age 11



Elita, Age 9



Lit Club 4 Kids - Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon Q&A with Gabrielle Wang!

Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon melted my heart. It is a story full of love, kindness and also hate that was happy and sad at the same time. I couldn't help hugging this book to my heart when I finished, wanting to keep it with me always. It is now sitting on my favourite bookshelf.

Ellie, Year 8



I really loved Zadie Ma and the Dog who Chased the Moon. It was a descriptive, beautiful book, with great characters and a sad but happy ending all at once. I definitely would recommend this book for you to read especially if you enjoy creative writing, fantasy, adventures and most of all fun!

Amélie, Year 4



I would highly recommend *Zadie Ma* as a magical and intriguing novel. I particularly enjoyed how the mini stories connected back to *Zadie's* life because it made the book feel layered with excitement.

William, Year 5



Zadie Ma is a beautiful book about hopes and dreams that come true. I would recommend this book for anyone who dreams and loves dogs. *Zadie Ma* is a young girl who has all the best things a person can have. She is brave, funny, hopeful, friendly and optimistic. I like how *Zadie's* life is woven in the book with the imaginative stories she has dreamed of, and we get a glimpse of how she thinks and understands the world. Thank you for introducing this book to the book club members.

Saanvi, Year 3



***Bedtime Stories* by R. A. Spratt announced as the final Lit Club 4 Kids pick for 2023.**

Bedtime Stories is a collection of wonderfully silly stories from the bestselling author and host of the hugely popular *Bedtime Stories* with R. A. Spratt podcast.

Lit Club 4 Kids is designed to inspire children aged 8-13 to explore their love of reading and discover new books, genres and authors. As well as providing amazing access to authors, it is online and completely free to join.

[Click here for more information or to sign up.](#)

National Simultaneous Storytime 2024

ALIA has announced Aura Parker's stunning picture book *Bowerbird Blues* as the National Simultaneous Storytime book for 2024.

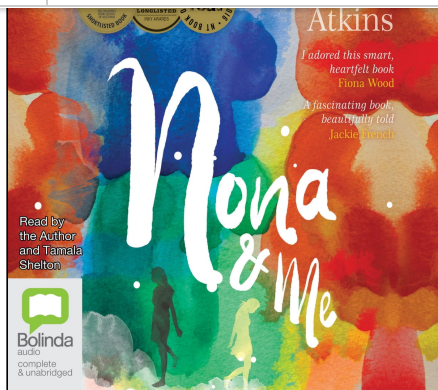
SAVE THE DATE: 22 May 2024 at 12.00pm AEST

[For more information and to register CLICK HERE.](#)



In 2023, NSS saw over 2 million kids reading on the day. For 2024, ALIA has adjusted the time slightly with the aim of further supporting librarians, teachers, parents and caregivers to get millions of kids in Australia, New Zealand and around the world reading together.

The ACLF is proud to support National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS), held annually by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). Now in its 24th successful year, it is a colourful, vibrant, fun event that aims to promote the value of reading and literacy.



Audiobook

Don't forget about your OCTOBER Audiobook. This month's special release is "Nona & Me" by Clare Atkins.

Rosie and Nona are sisters. Yapas. They are also best friends. It doesn't matter that Rosie is white and Nona is Aboriginal – their family connections tie them together for life. The girls are inseparable until Nona moves away at the age of nine.

By the time she returns, they're in Year 10 and things have changed. Rosie prefers to hang out in the nearby mining town, where she goes to school with the glamorous Selena and her gorgeous older brother, Nick. When a political announcement highlights divisions between the Aboriginal community and the mining town, Rosie is put in a difficult position – will she have to choose between her first love and her oldest friend?

Recommended for 13+

To listen and find out more [CLICK HERE](#)

The Australian Children's Laureate Foundation is proud to partner with Bolinda BorrowBox to bring you a very special collection of free audiobooks.



To further support our Audiobook program, Reading Australia is sharing connected resources from its collection.

This month's focus resource is [Two Mates by Melanie Prewett, illus. Maggie Prewett \(Year 1\)](#)

The true story of two mates is brought to life by a mother-daughter team descended from the Ngarluma people of the Pilbara region in WA. This teaching resource focuses on Jack and Raf's special friendship and highlights the story's distinct setting in Broome in Australia's north-west.

Reading Australia – which turns 10 this year – is a Copyright Agency initiative to support the teaching and reading of Australian literature in schools. The website features 275 freely available resources written for teachers, by teachers, on books aligned to the Australian Curriculum. Of these resources, 75 are for books written or illustrated by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples.



20 new titles are added to Reading Australia each year, with new resources published regularly online. Join 25,000 people receiving the latest units and updates – it's [quick, easy and free!](#)



Laureates Online

Available Now

The new school term is the perfect time to take a look at 'Laureates Online', a fantastic offering from the Australian Children's Laureate Foundation featuring our wonderfully talented Laureates.

Ursula Dubosarsky talks about Show Don't Tell, Write What You Know and Writing the First Draft, while **Alison Lester** shows you How to Create a Picture Book step by step.

The presentations are free to schools with 100 students or less or with an ICSEA rating below 1000. Other schools will be charged a small fee with all funds going to support the Laureate Program.

[CLICK HERE](#) to receive more information.

WE HAVE A NEW PO BOX

Australian Children's Laureate Foundation
PO Box 504
Forestville, NSW, 2087

Please update your contact details.

For more ACLF updates you can:

- Tell friends about the [ACLF Newsletter](#) (scroll to the bottom of our homepage)
- Follow the [ACLF on Facebook](#), on Twitter at [@OzLaureate](#), or on [Instagram](#) and share your work with the [monthly calendar themes](#)
- The ACLF's vision is to enrich the lives of young Australians through the power of story. We cannot do this without help. Consider making a [tax-deductible donation](#)

