

Growing Up Around the World: Books as Passports to Global Understanding for Children in the United States



Growing Up in Australia and New Zealand

Australia

Baker, Jeannie. *Home*. Illus. Greenwillow, 2004.

PreS-Gr. 1. In this wordless picture book, views through a window show a girl and her neighborhood changing as she grows older. Jeannie Baker's richly textured collages depict the transformation of the community from run-down to pleasant green space through efforts like a community garden of native plants. Jeannie Baker lives in Australia.

Bateson, Catherine. *Stranded in Boringsville*. Holiday House, 2005.

Gr. 5-7. Rain May moves with her mother from Melbourne to a small town after her parents separate. She becomes a friend to Daniel, her unpopular neighbor, who teaches her chess and takes her platypus-watching. When Daniel is hospitalized, Rain is able to use his interest in *Star Trek* to enlist others in befriending him. Catherine Bateson lives in Gippsland, Australia.

French, Simon. *Where in the World*. Peachtree, 2003.

Gr. 4-7. Ari's grandfather first taught him to play the violin when he was a young child in Germany. Now living in small-town Australia behind a café run by his mother and stepfather, Ari's music helps him stay connected to his grandfather and to the rest of his family. Simon French lives in Sydney.

Germein, Katrina. *Big Rain Coming*. Illus. by Bronwyn Bancroft. Clarion, 1999.

PreS-K. An Aboriginal community passes the time in different ways while waiting for the rain to come. Bronwyn Bancroft's paintings incorporate traditional Aboriginal art techniques. Katrina Germein lives in Australia and worked in the Minyerri community. Bronwyn Bancroft, who has Bunjalung heritage, also lives in Australia.

Herrick, Steven. *Do-Wrong Ron*. Allen & Unwin, 2003.

Gr. 4-6. Ron always does the right thing at the wrong time. He feels isolated in his small town until two friends arrive—a homeless guinea pig and Isabelle, who has just moved to town. In a series of free-verse poems, Ron and Isabelle plot to find a friend for her grieving Nana Shirl and prove that Do-Wrong Ron can do right. Steven Herrick lives in Australia.

Hirsch, Odo. *Something's Fishy, Hazel Green*. Bloomsbury, 2005.

Gr. 3-6. In this sequel to *Hazel Green*, Hazel and her friend, the Yak, solve a mystery involving a shopkeeper on the ground floor of their apartment building. When king lobsters are stolen from Mr. Petrusca, he becomes depressed. Hazel realizes that he is afraid his illiteracy will be exposed, and insists on teaching him to read. Odo Hirsch lives in Australia.

Lester, Allison. *Are We There Yet? A Journey Around Australia*. Illus. Kane/Miller, 2005.

Gr. K-4. Grace and her family set off from their home in South Australia to explore the whole country in their camper trailer. As they travel and enjoy the country's diverse landscapes and cultures, they join in the regular pastimes of the family and friends they visit. Alison Lester lives in the Australian state of Victoria.

Lester, Allison. *Ernie Dances to the Didgeridoo*. Illus. Walter Lorraine/Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

PreS-Gr.1. When Ernie's parents move to work for a year in Arnhem Land, the Aboriginal land in northern Australia, he writes his friends at home with news of how he and his new friends play and work during the six seasons there.

Lester, Alison. *The Snow Pony*. Walter Lorraine/Houghton Mifflin, 2003.

Gr. 6-8. Dusty Riley comes from a ranching family that has been nearly bankrupted and driven apart by a severe drought. She escapes from her troubles by showjumping her horse, the Snow Pony. When a violent encounter disrupts the winter cattle muster, Dusty finds that only she and her horse can save her father.

Moriarty, Jacklyn. *The Year of Secret Assignments*. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, 2004.
Gr. 7-9. A penpal program between rival Sydney schools sounds like a terrible idea to Lydia, Emily, and Cassie. Lydia and Emily find themselves writing to surprisingly friendly boys, and have to team up with them to help rescue Cassie from her unsettling letters. Jacklyn Moriarty lives in Sydney and Montreal.

New Zealand

Cowley, Joy. *The Video Shop Sparrow*. Illus. by Gavin Bishop. Boyds Mills, 1999.
K-Gr. 3. When George and Harry skateboard to the closed video shop, they see a sparrow trapped inside. Their pleas to adults to rescue the bird gain no response until they meet the mayor. Watercolor with pen and ink illustrations portray the boys on their skateboards in a summery Christmas/New Year setting. Both the author and illustrator live in New Zealand.

Mahy, Margaret. *A Summery Saturday Morning*. Illus. by Selina Young. Viking, 1998.
PreS-K. A group of friends walk their dogs down to the sea, but when a gaggle of geese appear, their peaceful Saturday turns into chaos. The illustrations show a New Zealand seaside town and families enjoying the shore. Both Margaret Mahy and Selina Young live in New Zealand.

McKay, Sandy. *Recycled*. Longacre, 2001.
Gr. 5-7. When Col's teacher begins a class recycling project, Col is eager to get his family involved. The project doesn't run smoothly, and Col finds himself up against his family's and his South Island town's indifference about the environment and their opposition to the area's only recycling plant. Sandy McKay lives in New Zealand.

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