



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Illuminating Australian Children's Literature

Four-week online course - May 1 to May 28 2026



A SPECIAL PROGRAM WITHIN OUR
SUN PROJECT
illuminating children's literature



In collaboration with the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA), and hosted by **Professor Alyson Simpson** from the University of Sydney, this course is designed to inspire engagement with quality Australian children's literature, and to directly support the 2026 CBCA Book of the Year Awards and the CBCA Sun Project: Shadow Judging program. It will highlight the 2026 CBCA shortlist and Award winners. For educators it will provide valuable insight, enjoyment, and professional learning for teaching and student/reader support. It will provide all participants with opportunities to spend time exploring books and sharing ideas.

A story will transport a child to another world, empower them, ignite their imagination, and build empathy. This course will prompt discussion about reading and illuminate examples of award-winning Australian children's literature. It is suitable for anyone wishing to increase their engagement with reading Australian children's literature as well as those curious to learn more about promoting enjoyment and critical appreciation of children's literature.

Registration

Fees: \$99.00 (GST inclusive) for 4-week course.

[Register online here](#) or visit the [Professional Learning 2026 Calendar](#) and follow the calendar links to see all professional learning.

Payment by credit card at the time of registration is required to confirm enrolment, and Canvas access details will be forwarded to you prior to the course start date. You will need a stable internet connection to access the Canvas site, online resources and participate in Zoom webinars.

For enquiries please contact:

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The course will run online over four weeks using a Canvas learning management system and will include extensive resources.

Each week you will have access to a pre-recorded lecture (up to one-hour, broken into chunks), using real-world examples that relate to CBCA Book of the Year Award categories and criteria, plus a one-and-a-half-hour interactive Zoom webinar to discuss weekly topics.

Lectures will be available to view from Fridays 1, 8, 15 and 22 May.

Zoom webinars will be held on Thursdays 7, 14, 21 and 28 May @ 6pm-7.30pm AEST.

Weekly topics for Zoom discussions:

MAY 7 - WEEK 1 Reading for pleasure - why personal choice matters

MAY 14 - WEEK 2 Engaging the reader - developing aesthetic appreciation of picture books, novels and non-fiction

MAY 21 - WEEK 3 Responding to literature - building critical awareness through close reading & paying attention to literary language

MAY 28 - WEEK 4 Choosing quality literature - how to find quality literature - why does quality matter?

This course is open to everyone, so please feel free to share details with your parent/carer networks.

The Zoom sessions for the program allow time for additional quality dialogue and interaction through breakout spaces and feed-in from authors and shadow judges. We understand that the timing of Zoom meetings may not be suitable for all participants on all weeks. These sessions are optional. We will endeavour to record the Zooms and post them on Canvas where possible.

This course will be valuable Professional Learning, and teachers in all states and territories may be able to submit their PL hours under their respective regulatory authorities' policies as elective or individually identified professional development.