



The 2015 Children's Peace Literature Award

A biennial award to Australian authors of books for children that encourage the peaceful resolution of conflict or promote peace at the global, local or interpersonal level.

The 2015 *Children's Peace Literature Award* attracted 109 entries submitted by publishers and authors. A judging panel of eight, psychologists and children's literature specialists held a number of meetings to decide the winner.

Although the conditions of the award allow for sharing the \$3000 prize between winners of books for children in two age categories - "junior readers" (up to middle primary years) and "older readers" (up to 18 years) - the judges agreed that there was no entry in the former category that met all the criteria, so there is no short list or winner for junior readers this year.

In the older reader category the judges decided on a **short list** of four books.

Psychologists for Peace (SA) thanks the judges for their commitment and support.

SHORT LIST for OLDER READERS

Are you Seeing me? Darren Groth (Random House, 2015)

Twins, one with a brain condition which may be autism, travel to Canada to meet the mother who left when they were toddlers. Conflict-resolution strategies are developed for use within the family but also with outsiders offended by the boy's behaviour.

New Boy Nick Earls (Puffin, 2015)

When Herschelle joins his new school in Queensland after arriving from South Africa there are many new expressions and expectations to learn. Conflicts arise, including with the school bully, but these are resolved in the end by joint actions by the adults and the main child characters.

One True Thing Nicole Hayes (Random House 2015)

Family and peer conflicts for a girl, whose mother is running for high political office and being harassed by the media, are solved by the girl's actions within the context of a stable and loving family structure.

Tigerfish David Metzenthen (Penguin, 2014)

A gritty picture of Melbourne's western suburbs and the lives of boys coping with a menacing environment, this book portrays a main character from a supportive but ordinary family and his teacher and peer relationships which facilitate conflict resolution.

The judges also commented favourably on two books that they feel would be excellent for teachers or counsellors to use with junior primary school children who are experiencing conflict with other children:

The Playground is Like the Jungle and *Friendship is Like a Seesaw* both by Shona Innes (author) & Irisz Agocs (illustrator) and published by Five Mile Press.

Summaries of the shortlisted books and the winning entry will be posted shortly on:

<http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/awards/literature/>