



The 2017 Children's Peace Literature Award Short List

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 2017 *Children's Peace Literature Award* attracted over 90 entries submitted by publishers and authors. A judging panel of eight psychologists and children's literature specialists held a number of meetings to reach their decision.

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 latter category that met all the criteria, so there is no short list or winner for older readers in 2017.

In the junior 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 JUNIOR READERS

Blue Sky, Yellow Kite Janet A. Holmes Illustrated by Jonathon Bentley (Hardie Grant Egmont 2016)
Intrigued by William's kite, which he shares with her, Daisy runs away with it and hides it. However, when Daisy feels guilty and apologises, instead of punishing her William helps her make her own kite. An appealing story for young children about defusing a potential conflict through forgiveness and cooperation.

Boy Phil Cummings Illustrated by Shane Devries (Scholastic Australia, 2017)
This delightful and powerful picture book relates a story of friction that leads to fierce battles between a king and a dragon after the dragon is accused of burning the King's forest. A young deaf boy gets caught in the crossfire and writes a simple question in the sand with a sword 'Why are you fighting?' That leads to a dialogue about the origin of the conflict and results in a peaceful resolution. The story is tastefully told and the illustrations superbly enhance the text to create a book that will appeal to children and adults alike.

Molly and Mae Danny Parker Illustrated by Freya Blackwood (Hardie Grant Egmont, 2016)
A beautifully written and illustrated book about the journey of friendship. A gentle story of a train journey, two young friends and a "signal failure" in their relationship when one of them says something hurtful to the other. The girls consider the words that were said and the words that should have been said and between them they find a way to be friends again.

Wombat Warriors Samantha Wheeler (University of Queensland Press, 2017)
In rural South Australia wombats pose a threat to the vulnerable crops of farmers. A young girl named Mouse notices the vastly different perspectives of those who want to kill the wombats and those who wish to protect them, and how this has created tension amongst the farming community. Mouse does her best to mediate the conflict, however along the way she realizes that this will take education, patience, understanding, and courage. This story reinforces the notion that you do not need to be powerful to make a difference.

Summaries of the shortlisted books will be posted shortly on:

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