

Good Aboriginal books for young people;

**'Molly the Grey Kangaroo and the Bush Clean Up Crew'** by Gunditjmara Elder John Lewis Clarke – perfect for ages 3 up to primary school, talks about caring for Country and the problems that happen when we don't put rubbish in the bin

**'The Red Dress Woman; Bringing Them Home'** by Barunggam/Wakka Wakka/Garrwa Waanyi Elder Gloria Daylight Corliss

Very simple but powerful story about a woman in a red dress looking for her brothers and sisters – finally finding them and taking them home to laughter, happiness and culture. Perfect for ages 3 up to primary school .

**'Sorry Sorry'** By Anne Kerr. This is a simply told story about Australia's history and the devastations of Invasion forced upon the First Peoples. It is told simply but is multi-layered and gives kids a good base to think about what it might be like to be a First Nations person facing colonisation. It has a positive message for the future about coming together to right past injustices. Perfect for ages 3 up.

**'Mad Magpie'**

**'Kookoo Kookaburra'**

**'Silly Birds'**

All three if these books are by Kamilaroi/Yuwalayaay man Gregg Dreise. These are my current favourites to share with young people as they are perfect for ages 2 up they also contain Aboriginal language, Dreaming narratives as well as speaking strongly to issues of bullying, speaking with kindness, learning to calm ourselves down when we are upset or angry, the dangers of hanging around with disrespectful people and the importance of looking after our Country and not being greedy.

**'A is for Aunty'** by Kamilaroi artist Elaine Russell. This book is perhaps better for slightly older readers – 5 and up but my two year old also listens intently when I read it! It's an alphabet book with gorgeous stories about Elaine's life growing up on a Mission. It includes stories of eating bush tucker and games she and her siblings and relatives played with animals and on the river. It gives an insight into growing up without much money and the ingenuity that naturally comes with such circumstance.

**'I listened and I looked'** by Yorta Yorta author Sue Briggs. Perfect for ages 3 up – talks about daily life of people living by the river and centres around the protagonists wish to finally see the bunyip in the river her Elders constantly speak of.

**'Emus Under the Bed'** by Mara/Wiradjuri author Leann J Edwards. Perfect for ages 2 up this lovely story about connecting with culture and family – a young girl visits her Aunty and they make feather flowers together and find a surprise under the bed.

**'Welcome to Country'** by Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Joy Murphy

Brilliant especially for anyone living, working, teaching anything in Melbourne ! Written by a traditional custodian of this land. Ages two up to primary school.

## Good places to find Aboriginal books

<http://www.yarnstrongsista.com/>

- This is an Aboriginal owned and run business, good to support and they have an excellent range of quality books.
- Readings bookstore is also really good.
- I was recently at Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney and they have a brilliant range of Aboriginal children's titles and also sell online