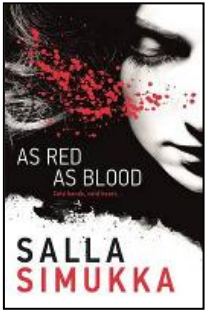


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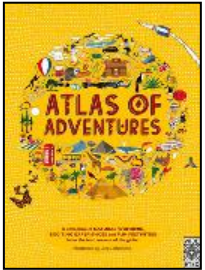
Children's Books Recommended by Lindy



As Red As Blood by Salla Simuka (Pb \$16.95)

These have been runaway bestsellers in Europe, and Finland where they originate from (there is a third to come, not translated yet). Lumikki Andersson is in high school, living alone and minding her own business. She doesn't let people close, and as the stories unfold the reader learns Lumikki was subjected to cruel and awful bullying as a younger student in her home town. In the first book, Lumikki is drawn in unwittingly, when she discovers a large amount of bloodstained money and realises the popular kids are hiding something... In the second, she has persuaded her parents to let her go to Prague for a holiday break, where she is approached by a slightly older girl who claims to be her unknown sister. Atmospheric, taut, intriguing and well plotted, these are Scandi

noir for young adult readers.



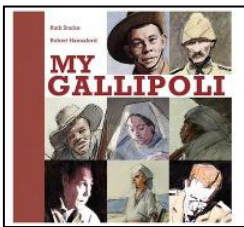
Atlas of Adventures: A Collection of Natural Wonders by Lucy Letherland (Hb \$35.00)

This is a large and cheerful book, celebrating the diversity of the world. Each section starts with a simplified map of a continent, marked with state boundaries and images that represent an aspect of that country. Within the sections are adventures - sleep under the northern lights in Finland, ski on the Bavarian Alps, meet monarch butterflies in Mexico, shower with an elephant in Thailand, cross the Sahara by camel, snorkel the Great Barrier Reef and so on, and these colourful pages are full of interesting facts scattered throughout the double page spread. There are also a couple of adventurers to follow as they make their way around the world. Lots of fun, and educational to boot!



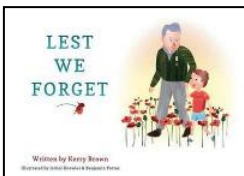
We're All Australians Now by A B (Banjo) Paterson (Hb \$24.99)

In 1915 Banjo Paterson wrote a poem as an open letter to the troops. Now perhaps it might seem jingoistic, but it captures the flavour of those early war years in a way that present-day writers cannot. Today we forget that the nation was fairly newly formed, and that the men who fought in WWI would have thought of themselves as Victorians or Tasmanians or Queenslanders before they considered themselves Australians. It might not be the best poem Banjo wrote, but it is certainly heartfelt. However it is the quality of the illustrations by Mark Wilson which make this a book worth having. Wilson has taken images from the time and beautifully rendered them using pen and ink, pencil, and acrylic paint, and these tell a story way beyond the poem. Middle primary and up.



My Gallipoli by Ruth Starke (Pb \$29.99)

There are many books to mark the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign, and this one is both informative and moving. Each double page spread - finely illustrated by Robert Hannaford in charcoal and watercolour - gives a brief impression of the character's experience of Gallipoli. Beginning with a Turkish shepherd in 1914 and finishing with an Australian backpacker in 1990, they tell what Gallipoli is to them. Some are based on real people - soldiers, including an indigenous Australian and other ethnicities, Charles Bean, George Lambert, Mustafa Kemal - and some are fictitious representations of the people who would have been there. A well rounded presentation of a place that meant different things to different people, but who in the end are all united by stories of courage and loss.



Lest We Forget by Kerry Brown (Pb \$24.99)

This is a very simple but effective book for young readers. The illustration is naïve rather than realistic, which makes it more suitable for the younger audience it plans to reach. A boy tells of significant happenings, because his granddad has told him there are two types of days - those you want to remember and those you want to forget. Alternate double pages tell two stories - the boy in his every day life, and his granddad as a young man going to war. So the boy tells of being afraid at starting school, and over the page (wordlessly) a young man leaves for the war; or tells of his pet dog dying, followed by the wordless illustrations of a telegram being handed over and a woman wiping tears as she reads it. A good book for discussing large themes.