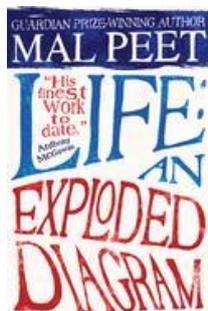


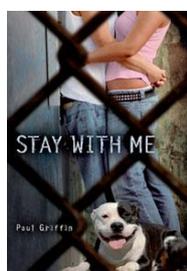
CBCA WA Book Discussion Group - Books Discussed in 2012



Life an Exploded Diagram by Mal Peet

Age: 15+ The complex narrative structure and historical perspective of this memorable coming-of-age novel make it an engrossing read for thoughtful teenagers and adults. While the book spans 3 generations in the life of a family from the late 1880s to 2001, at its core it is an emotional story of forbidden first love between a working-class English boy, Clem and Frankie, the daughter of a wealthy farmer, set against the backdrop of the Cold War. Told in flashbacks from an adult perspective the story moves between times, countries and major world events, vividly describing the impact of these events on individual lives.

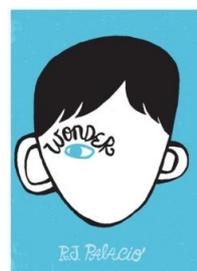
2012 Boston Globe-Horn Book, Honor Book Award



Stay with Me by Paul Griffin

Age 14+ Narrated from alternating first-person viewpoints, this is an absorbing, realistic tragic romance that will long remain with readers. Two fifteen-year old opposites, Céce and Mack develop an unlikely friendship over a rescued dog. They fall in love and plan their future but Mack makes a shocking mistake that has life-changing consequences for both of them.

Winner of numerous American awards including Best Books of 2011 Kirkus Reviews, Best Books of 2011, School Library Journal; New York Times Editor's Choice.



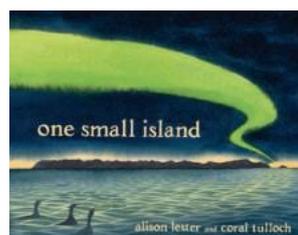
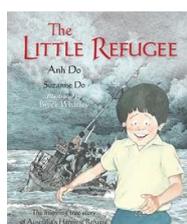
Wonder by R.J. Palacio

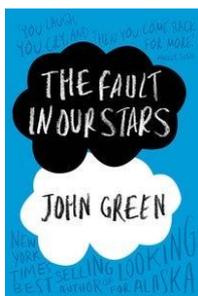
Age: 10+ **Wonder** tells the story of 10-year-old August (Auggie) Pullman, who has terrible facial abnormalities, and the events that occur during his first year at school in fifth grade after a lifetime of home-schooling. Narrated by Auggie, his sister, Via, and four young friends, **Wonder** is a memorable, heart-warming story that explores themes of friendship, fear and kindness. According to *The London Times*, first time novelist R. J. Palacio is one of the Top 100 People to Watch in 2012.



CBCA Book Awards Shortlist 2012

A bumper crowd of thirteen examined the books on the [2012 Shortlist](#). There was some discussion about the placement of **The Last Viking** in the Early Childhood list and the changing format of information books to picture books featuring many different text forms.

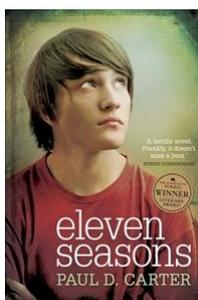




The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

Age 14+ Green's fourth highly acclaimed YA novel is an achingly beautiful romance between Hazel Lancaster and Augustus Waters who meet at a Cancer Kid Support Group. The witty conversations between the two raise questions that apply to all of us such as, 'Will I be remembered?' According to the *Time* review, this book is 'a good example of why so many adult readers are turning to young adult literature for the pleasures and consolations they used to get from conventional literary fiction.'

On numerous American recommended book lists including School Library Journal, New York Times and Kirkus Reviews.



Eleven Seasons by Paul D. Carter

Age 15+ Unanimously selected by the judges from 150 entrants, **Eleven Seasons** was the Australia/Vogel's winner for an unpublished manuscript by an author under 35 years. It is set in inner-city Melbourne in the mid-1980s and AFL football plays a crucial role in the life of Jason Dalton as he matures into adulthood. Carter explores the difference between being a man and being an adult, using football as a context and a point of conflict between Jason and his Mum.



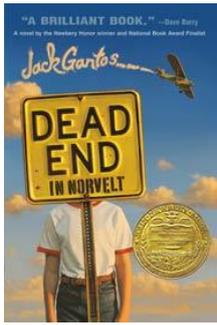
Sea Hearts by Margo Lanagan

Age 15+ **Sea Hearts** is based on the Scottish and Nordic myth about selkies, seals that live in the sea but shed their skins to become human on land. On remote Rollrock Island, Misskaella Prout grows up enduring the taunts of the village children. When she discovers she is able to draw beautiful girls from seals, everything changes and she exacts her revenge on the village. A review in *Booklist* describes **Sea Hearts** as 'a haunting, masterfully crafted novel that, as one should by now expect from Lanagan, isn't a bit like anything else.' It was nominated for the 2012 INKY award for an Australian YA book.



The Children of the King by Sonya Hartnett

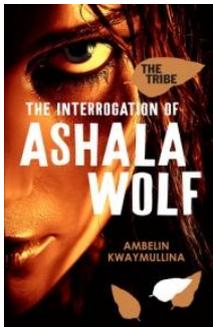
Age 10+ This is an historical tale within a tale, written in the tone of a retro adventure story. Cecily and Jeremy Lockwood retreat with their mother to their Uncle Peregrine's country estate to escape the London Blitz in 1940. On the way they pick up a working-class evacuee, May Bright, who proves to be a catalyst to a ghostly world of the two princes, who were imprisoned in the Tower of London and allegedly murdered by Richard III in 1483. Through listening to Uncle Peregrine's retelling of the story of Richard III, the children learn of the corrosive nature of power and the impact of the past on the future. The quest for power and the effects of war are common to both time periods.



Dead End in Norvelt By Jack Gantos

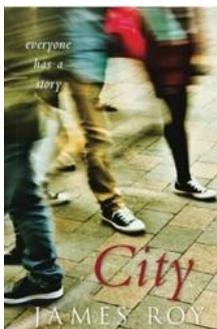
Age 12+ This is a semi-autobiographical novel set in 1962 in Norvelt, a small town in Pennsylvania, built by the US Government to house poor families and named after Eleanor Roosevelt. The first-person narrator, 12-year-old Jack Gantos is grounded for the summer and only released to assist Miss Volker, an elderly woman who writes obituaries and a history column for the local newspaper. The main focus of this quirky novel is the lives of the characters in the New Deal town and the theme, the importance of keeping history alive. As Miss Volker says, "If you don't know your history you won't know the difference between truth and wishful thinking."

2012 Newbery Medal; Guardian Children's Prize longlist



The Interrogation of Ashala Wolf (The Tribe Book 1) by Ambelin Kwaymullina

Age 12+ Set in a dystopian world, post an environmental disaster known as The Reckoning, this sci-fi/fantasy is the first of a planned four-part series. In this society anyone different, anyone with 'special powers' is treated as an illegal, unable to gain citizenship and is harassed and persecuted; and the powerful and the bureaucrats rule in a manner not dissimilar to the Third Reich. Ashala is an illegal and leader of The Tribe, a group of young people with special powers who believe they should be protected, not persecuted by the Accords. When Ashala is captured and her mind probed what will happen to her and her people?



City by James Roy

Age 15+ **City** is a companion book of short stories to the multi-award winning **Town**, which was published in 2007. Set in an anonymous city, the twenty-two short pieces reflect a cross-section of city life. Many of the characters are connected but in anonymous ways such as through found objects and random acquaintances. Haiku poems written in public places provide a mysterious thread through the book.

