



NATIONAL CENTRE for  
**AUSTRALIAN  
CHILDREN'S  
LITERATURE** Inc  
*Sharing our nation's heritage*

# Champions Australian Children's Books

## Introducing the Australian Verse Novels Resource a Comprehensive, Free Resource of Books for Young People

The National Centre for Australian Children's Literature offers the Australian Verse Novels Resource a new, free resource, available from the Centre's website.

Verse novels (also called novels in verse) are extended narratives told in free verse. Some verse novels are made up of short, individual poems, others are longer, chapter-length poems. Always, the poems work to tell a story. Verse novels are suited to multiple viewpoints and often focus on emotive issues, using humour and heart.

### Providing Perspectives and Expertise

A team of knowledgeable and experienced experts on Australian children's literature researched the field of Australian verse novels for young people. Together they bring various perspectives and expertise including teaching, public and teacher librarians, parents, professionals in early learning and childcare centres, editors, reviewers, authors, researchers and academics. Team members included Belle Alderman, Kathryn Apel, Sally Murphy and Ruth Nitschke, with Susan Hall as editor.

### Scoping the Resource

Australia has a long history in publishing verse novels, from well-known authors and new creators. The stories are diverse in representing various cultures, historical periods and presentation styles and innovative illustrations by well-known creators. They

will appeal to young people from lower primary through upper secondary.

### Using the Resource

The Australian Verse Novels Resource is attractive and accessible. In addition to publication details the resource includes

- annotations
- readership level
- themes
- awards
- Australian Curriculum links and
- hyperlinks to free resources available on the web, with additional material about the creators, interviews, teaching resources and more.

This Resource celebrates verse novels by Australian creators and provides a diverse range of books and related information that supports teachers, librarians, parents, care-givers, home schooling groups and others working with young people. It is a valuable resource for those looking to write within the genre.

Australian Verse Novels Resource is available from [ncacl.org.au/resources/bibliographies/australian-verse-novels-resource](http://ncacl.org.au/resources/bibliographies/australian-verse-novels-resource)

National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc, University of Canberra  
**11 Kirinari Street, BRUCE ACT 2617**