



NATIONAL WEEK OF DEAF PEOPLE

An annotated bibliography of books related to deafness and hearing



The National Week of Deaf People (NWDP) is a week-long national celebration of Deaf individuals and the Australian Deaf community, which includes celebrating the International Week of Deaf People (IWDP) and International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL) which are initiatives of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD). These two events are traditionally held during September and are based on the founding date of the WFD (23 September 1951). is an opportunity for Deaf people to celebrate their communities, language, culture, and history; make the public aware of their local, state, and national Deaf communities; and to recognise their achievements.

It is also an opportunity for organisations involved with or wishing to be involved with the Deaf Community to build and maintain relationships with Deaf people and be recognised as an ally to the Deaf community. (*Deaf Australia – National Week for Deaf People 2025 website information*)

An annotated bibliography of books that relate to deafness or hearing difficulties. Where available, a link to a NCACL database entry is provided. Database entries include annotations, subject headings and additional resources to extend the book and its subject matter. The links included here all relate to NCACL's *Picture Books for Older Readers* database

PICTURE BOOKS

1. BERTELS, Sarah. Illustrated by Catherine Hewitt
The River of Silence Lothian, 1990. ISBN: 0850914000
<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/the-river-of-silence/>
2. BRUCE, Jasna. Illustrated by Ian Armstrong
Savvy the Great. Deafness Foundation Victoria, 2001. ISBN: 0959084770
Savvy is a hearing-impaired boy who has a Cochlear implant and signs Auslan. Here he shares with the reader his experience of the hearing aid and Australian Sign Language.
3. CUMMINGS, Phil. Illustrated by Shane Devries
Boy. Scholastic Press, 2017. ISBN: 9781760277055
<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/boy/>
4. GRAHAM, Alexander Brett. Illustrated by Mawarini
Bori's Missing Muffins. Era Publications, 2015. ISBN: 9781863745116
Everyone is special in Baba Village. Bori can't hear very well but she loves to bake loves to bake especially muffins for her shop. One a day she forgets to wear her hearing aid, and the muffins go missing from her shop. Where did the muffins go?
5. HILTON, Nette. Illustrated by Vincent Agostino
My Silent World. Lothian Children's Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780734410375
A lyrical description of how a deaf child treasures her silent world and how it is changed by a cochlear implant, which she sees at first as 'the intruder.
6. HULL, Eliza and RIPPIN, Sally. Illustrated by Daniel Gray-Barnett
Come over to my house. Bright Light, 2022. ISBN: 9781761210082
An interesting and colourful introduction to a range of disabilities including deafness in both children and adults and how it doesn't limit their lives.
7. LUCAS, Mike. Illustrated by Jennifer Harrison
Olivia's Voice. MidnightSun Publications, 2017. ISBN: 9781925227192
Olivia is deaf but here she describes her world, a world brought alive by her heightened other senses and strategies enabling her to share with friends and take part in school.
8. THORNDYKE, Julie. Illustrations by Jennifer Harrison
Alice's Shoe. MidnightSun, 2023. ISBN: 9781922858139
<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/alices-shoe/>

9. WHATLEY, Bruce

The Watchmaker who saved Christmas. Random House, 2006. ISBN: 9781741662245
Peter lived upstairs from the Watchmaker. He loved seeing the Watchmaker work and even helped him with some tasks. He also loved to draw, especially aeroplanes. Peter is also almost totally deaf. In the days before Christmas an old man asked the Watchmaker to repair a rather unusual watch which he needed by Christmas Eve. Could the Watchmaker fix this strange watch in time?

10. WHITE, Dee. Illustrated by Tracie Grimwood

Reena's Rainbow. EK Books, 2017. ISBN: 9781925335491
Reena is deaf and Dog is homeless, but they are also so much more than that. At first Reena and Dog feel like they don't belong, but when they form a unique bond with each other, and become friends with the hearing children in the park, they discover that everyone is different and special in their own way. Reena's Rainbow is about friendship, diversity, and acceptance. It sends the message that true friends will always accept your differences and love you just the way you are.

NOVELS (Please note all the books listed would have a Secondary or Young Adult Readership)

11. ASPHYXIA

Future Girl. Allen & Unwin, 2020. ISBN: 9781760294373
Piper's mum wants her to be 'normal', to pass as hearing and get a good job. But when peak oil hits and Melbourne lurches towards environmental catastrophe, Piper has more important things to worry about, such as how to get food. When she meets Marley, a CODA (child of Deaf adult), a door opens into a new world where deafness is something to celebrate rather than hide, and where resilience is created through growing your own food rather than it being delivered on a truck.

12. BEER, Sophie

Thunderhead. Allen & Unwin, 2024. ISBN: 9781761180958
Meet Thunderhead: awkward, music-obsessed and a magnet for bad luck. Their favourite things in life are listening to records and hanging out with their best and only friend Moonflower. But Thunderhead has a big secret. And when Moonflower moves schools, they're faced with the reality of surviving the wilderness of high school alone. Make new friends? NOTHANKYOUVERYMUCH. As two big life events approach, Thunderhead posts playlists and heartfelt diary entries as an outlet to try to make sense of their changing world, to try to calm the storm brewing in his brain and to find the courage to unfurl their heart.

13. KEIGHERY, Chrissie

Whisper. Hardie Grant Egmont, 2011. ISBN: 978192159321

How do you know if your friends are talking about you behind your back, or if a boy really likes you. They could act innocent, but you'd know from the rumours. You'd hear the whispers. But what if you couldn't hear those whispers anymore? Being a teenager is hard enough. But being a deaf teenager...Hard doesn't even begin to cover it.

14. LOMER, Kathryn

Talk under water. University of Queensland Press, 2015. ISBN: 9780702253690

Will and Summer meet online and strike up a friendship based on coincidence.

Summer lives in Will's old hometown, Kettering, a small Tasmanian coastal community. Summer isn't telling the whole truth about herself, but figures it doesn't matter if they never see each other in person, right? When Will returns to Kettering, the two finally meet and Summer can no longer hide her secret - she is deaf.

15. WILLIAMS, Sean

Impossible Music. Allen & Unwin, 2019. ISBN: 9781760637156

Music is Simon's life -- which is why he is devastated when a ministroke obliterates his hearing. He resists attempts to help him adjust to his new state, refusing to be counselled, refusing to learn sign language, refusing to have anything to do with Deaf culture. Refusing, that is, until he meets G, a girl dealing with her own newly experienced hearing loss. So begins Simon's quest to create an entirely new form of music that forces him into a deeper understanding of his relationship to the hearing world, of himself, and of those around him.