

Book Week 2016 shortlisted books

Reviews by Library staff



Book of the Year: Older Readers

The Flywheel

Erin Gough

I like this book - first time for author Erin Gough. A large burden on a 17-year old's shoulders who has to run a café when Dad takes a much-needed vacation, attend school and deal with her romantic life which is getting her deeper and deeper into strife with her classmates. There is a lot going for teens - sound advice from Delilah about dealing with a break-up, holding your head high and riding out the bad times. D decides to drop out of school, help keep friend Charlie out of jail, and stare out of her dad's window at beautiful Rosa. The romance between Rosa and Delilah comes up too suddenly and could have done with a build-up.

3.5 out of 5

The Pause

John Larkin

Aptly titled The Pause in which Declan who, burdened with the break-up with his girlfriend decides to end it all. The author presents two ways how this goes - death and life and deals adroitly in both situations. However, there are bits in the book which are very melodramatic that we could have done without.

3 out of 5

Freedom Ride

Sue Lawson

Before reading this novel, I had never heard about the Freedom Ride in 1965 to raise the issue of the rights of indigenous Australians. This compelling novel by Sue Lawson, beautifully illustrates the conditions and beliefs that were current at the time. Told from the point of view of 16-year-old Robbie, a young man raised with one set of beliefs, exposed through his part time job to a completely different reality. Driving him towards an astonishing and justified conclusion. Highly recommended.

5 out of 5

A Single Stone

Meg McKinlay

I thought I would not like a dystopian novel where there are slaves - all girls at that and a cultish setting. But I kept reading and found I enjoyed the style of writing, characterisation and all the positive vibes from young Jena.

4 out of 5

Cloudwish

Fiona Wood

This book is about the social and cultural divide in teenager, Van Uoc's life. Between her parent's wishes of study, work and no leisure time and her social life with a new-found distraction in the form of Billy, Van is left with feelings of guilt and misgivings. Did she magically wish Billy's love into existence or is it for real? Can she un-wish him? These thoughts race round in her head as she bravely tackles the meanness of some of her classmates.

5 out of 5