

Resource Guide

English

The information and resources contained in this guide provide a platform for teachers and educators to consider how to embed important ideas around reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions, within the specific Subject/Learning Area of [English](#). Please note that this guide is neither prescriptive nor exhaustive, and users are encouraged consult with their local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and [critically evaluate resources](#), in engaging with the material contained in the guide.

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Please be aware this guide may contain references to names and works of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that are now deceased. External links may also include names and images of those who are now deceased.

Background and Introduction to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Content and Perspectives within the Subject/Learning Area of English

“We have now mastered the same language that was once used against us – describing us as barbaric and savage – and we have empowered ourselves to tell our stories, in our styles, for our people.” – Dr Anita Heiss, Wiradjuri Author, Poet, Satirist and Social Commentator

While this guide focuses predominantly on contemporary texts, it is important to acknowledge that storytelling, in many forms, has been an essential element of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures for tens of thousands of years, and continues to play an important role in cultural life to this day. The contemporary inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and cultural conventions in ‘western’ literary spaces and styles is an extension of longstanding traditions, amplifying a voice that has otherwise had a history, since European colonisation, of being marginalised or excluded.

It is also worth noting that, while the Subject/Learning Area of English is a large and complex teaching area, this resource guide is not exhaustive. The example texts included in this guide have been organised into distinct modal categories of fiction, non-fiction, picture books, graphic novels, and poetry. Each category includes diverse and relevant texts by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors and creators, as well as non-Indigenous authors whose work provides key links to themes of reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures more broadly. It is important to recognise the category of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authorship extends beyond writing that is categorised as ‘Indigenous,’ including genres of romance, sci-fi, drama, history, and more. Note that a number of dramatic, musical, and media arts texts, as well as texts in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, are further listed in the Narragunnawali resource guides pertaining to each of these separate, even if related, Subject/Learning Areas.

While English is formally listed as Australia’s “official language,” it is important to appreciate that, for tens of thousands of years prior to colonisation, hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages have been spoken across Australia, reflecting the rich oral storytelling and knowledge sharing traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across generations. Studies show that there were at least 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages at the time of European arrival. These were distinct languages (not dialects – indeed, the number of dialects is much greater), each with its own extensive vocabulary and complex grammar. This linguistic diversity reflects the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and identities more generally. Unfortunately, colonisation and past policies of assimilation— including systemic condemnation of First Language(s) use and forced separation of children from their families and speaker communities— have severely affected the practice and continuation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. It is also important to appreciate the resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and languages, and recognise that, across Australia, there are a number of communities actively and effectively working to revive, revitalise and maintain their First Languages. There is also the recognised dialect of English known as Aboriginal English, as well as distinct creole languages such as Kimberley Kriol, which exist alongside other traditional languages, creoles and dialects.

Timeline of Significant Contemporary Events relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Content and Perspectives in the Subject/Learning Area of English

This list outlines some of the many notable events within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authorship and the wider modes of the Subject/Learning Area of English. Initial western communications undertaken by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people took the form of letters to people in positions of authority, petitions, reflecting initial activism and opposition to the treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by the colonisers — something that formed a continuing trope among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authorship. It is important to acknowledge the long-standing history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's extensive systems of language and dialects, and other communication techniques such as [welcoming](#) and [acknowledging](#) Country, something that has always been done between Aboriginal nations and that has now been modernised for contemporary contexts. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures are tied to Dreaming stories and stories of the Tagai, which continue to inform Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life today and reinforce the importance of the oral tradition.

- **60,000+ years ago:**
 - 250+ distinct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages were spoken across Australia prior to European colonisation, and the subsequent introduction of the English language.
- **1796:**
 - Bennelong's Letter to Mr. Phillips, Lord Sydney's Steward- The first known text in English by an Aboriginal author.
- **1929:**
 - *Native Legends* by David Unaipon considered the first authored book by an Aboriginal person.
- **1964:**
 - *We Are Going* by Oodgeroo Noonuccal is the first published book of poetry by an Aboriginal person.
- **1971:**
 - *The Cherry Pickers* by Kevin Gilbert is the first play by an Aboriginal person to be performed in mainstream theatre.
- **1972:**
 - The National Black Theatre was established [in](#) Redfern.
- **1973:**
 - *Basically Black* is the first Australian [n](#) television show with an all-Indigenous cast.
- **1981:**
 - *Wrong Side of the Road* is the first feature film with an all-Indigenous cast.
- **2006:**
 - *Ten Canoes* is the first Australian film to be filmed entirely in an Aboriginal language.

- **2008:**

- *PEN Anthology of Aboriginal Literature* (Ed. Anita Heiss and Peter Minter) is the first anthology of this kind to be published.

- **2016:**

- Bruce Pascoe's *Dark Emu* wins the Book of the Year category in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

- **2017:**

- Ali Cobby Eckermann wins the international Windham-Campbell prize for her poetry.

Fiction by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Authors

The table below lists a number of fictional texts written by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors. The list focuses on published texts that are in circulation to ensure access by educators and students alike.

| Year of Publication | Title | Author | Short Synopsis |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 1989 | <i>Lori</i> | John Wilson | A story about Lori and her experiences of growing up in the cane fields of North Queensland in the 1960's. A reflection of resilience and courage. |
| 1993 | <i>Me and Mary Kangaroo</i> | Kevin Gilbert | A celebration of friendship in a verse style that celebrates the friendship of a young Aboriginal boy and his pet kangaroo. |
| 1993 | <i>Sweet Water-Stolen Land</i> | Phillip McLaren | An Aboriginal and non-Indigenous family's lives and destinies meet in this exploration of racial brutality and the Myall Creek massacres of the Frontier Wars. |
| 1994 | <i>Bridge of Triangles</i> | John Muk Muk Burke | Exploring the struggle a young Aboriginal boy's experiences of family difficulty when juggling the path to identity. |
| 1997 | <i>Plains of Promise</i> | Alexis Wright | Utilising imagery of the urban and the outback, this novel explores human ambition and the notion of failure alongside a clash of black and white. |
| 1997 | <i>Steam Pigs</i> | Melissa Lucashenko | Sue, a young Aboriginal woman escapes life with her large family to live in the city, but she finds herself on the receiving end of violence from a new man. |
| 1998 | <i>My Girragundji</i> | Meme McDonald & Boori Pryor | A vivid story about a young boy's childhood friend, a green tree frog who through spirituality guides him through difficulty. |
| 1999 | <i>Benang: From the Heart</i> | Kim Scott | This multi-modal challenges pre-conceived notions and ideas around white invasion. |
| 1999 | <i>The Binna Binna Man</i> | Meme McDonald & Boori Pryor | A novel that illustrates the powerful connection to Country. A journey of knowledge and staying true to yourself, told through laughter and affection. |
| 1999 | <i>Hard Yards</i> | Melissa Lucashenko | This novel explores protagonist Roo Glover's challenges of striving for athletic greatness and overcoming challenges of adoption, detention, poverty and finding family. |
| 2001 | <i>Bitin' Back</i> | Vivienne Cleven | A humorous novel set around single mother Mavis and her son who decides he is a white woman and the subsequent challenges in a small town. Touching on issues of homophobia and racism. |
| 2001 | <i>Earth</i> | Bruce Pascoe | A story of love, hypocrisy and murder. Overcoming despair to see hope triumph against all odds as old values are brought back to life. |
| 2001 | <i>Long Time Now</i> | Alf Taylor | An original collection of witty stories weaved together. |
| 2001 | <i>There'll be New Dreams</i> | Phillip McLaren | A journey from the earth grounded country town to the city where dreams live. Exploring marriage, kidnapping, family, music and art. |
| 2001 | <i>Who Am I? The Diary of Mary Talence, Sydney 1937</i> | Anita Heiss | A diary of a young Aboriginal girl who is a member of the Stolen Generations. Her struggles, resilience and experiences are stored in her diary as she journeys to her identity. |
| 2002 | <i>Her Sister's Eye</i> | Vivienne Cleven | This novel explores the diversity of emotions that stem from the saying 'always remember where you're from'. Through two sisters comes a story of survival, and how to move on from the past. |

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| 2002 | <i>Njunjul the Sun</i> | Meme McDonald & Boori Monty Pryor | The story of a young Aboriginal boys experience and struggles since leaving his family for the city life and his realisation that he must know his own people to know his own sense of identity. |
| 2002 | <i>Too Flash</i> | Melissa Lucashenko | An exploration of the challenges of being a young Aboriginal person in an Urban environment – touching on friendship, class, race, history and identity. |
| 2003 | <i>Kakadu Calling</i> | Jane Christophersen | A collection of stories from Jane Christophersen, a Bunitji Elder from Kakadu. Depicting the Australian bush and the experience of travelling through Country. |
| 2003 | <i>Not Quite Men No Longer Boys</i> | K. C. Laughton | An Aboriginal boy who was barely nineteen, leaves the bush for a tour of duty in Vietnam. This novel explores the associated lessons, challenges and ultimately life and death he encounters, alongside friendship. |
| 2004 | <i>Home</i> | Larissa Behrendt | A young Aboriginal lawyer returns to the traditional land of her grandmother, bringing to life a family history affected by the Stolen Generations. |
| 2005 | <i>Butterfly Song</i> | Terri Janke | Where does a black lawyer fit in a white system? Tarena explores this question by heading back to the home of her grandparents, Thursday Island where she takes on her first case that includes a man, a guitar and a special song. |
| 2006 | <i>Carpentaria</i> | Alexis Wright | An epic set in the gulf of North Western Queensland, a town called Desperance, that explores several interconnected stories within the Aboriginal community and outside it. |
| 2006 | <i>Swallow the Air</i> | Tara June Winch | A narrative of a broken family and a young girl's search for identity and belonging. May learns that it is the people you meet that shape you. |
| 2007 | <i>Me, Antman & Fleabag</i> | Gayle Kennedy | A collection of short stories that encapsulates the story of the Aboriginal narrator, her partner Antman, their dog Fleabag and their life in travelling in rural Australia. |
| 2007 | <i>Yirra and Her Deadly Dog, Demon</i> | Anita Heiss & Students of La Perouse Public School & illustrated by Adam Hill | Yirra needs to find a dog trainer quickly or she'll be forced to give Demon to a new family, as Yirra's mum and neighbors are sick of him. Bursting with energy Yirra and Demon offer a view into contemporary Aboriginal life and identity. |
| 2009 | <i>Bloke</i> | Bruce Pascoe | Jim Bloke is a typical Aussie guy – as an orphan he has had some tough trots but takes care of himself and knows what's important in life. Jim tackles the difficulties and challenges in finding out his identity. |
| 2009 | <i>Every Secret Thing</i> | Marie Munkara | In a clash of faith and culture, life on an Aboriginal mission is positioned between a battle of saving souls and saving traditional cultures. |
| 2009 | <i>Legacy</i> | Larissa Behrendt | Simone, a young and clever Aboriginal lawyer studying at Harvard juggles her relationship with her father, a prominent Aboriginal rights activist. |
| 2010 | <i>That Deadman Dance</i> | Kim Scott | Young Noongar man, Bobby befriends new arrivals, joining them for hunting and land exploration. Unrest around the community means Bobby is left to take sides, who will he choose? |
| 2011 | <i>Blood</i> | Tony Birch | Although only a child, Jesse knows he will be the one to take care of his sister. In a path of destruction from his mum, Jesse seeing violence and trouble before him, knows to trust what's in his blood. |
| 2011 | <i>Purple Threads</i> | Jeanine Leane | A book based on childhood experiences of growing up Aboriginal in a white country farming town. In a |

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| | | | household of fiercely independent women, the Aunties have sage advice for their nieces. |
| 2012 | <i>Charlie Burr: and the Crazy Cockroach Disaster</i> | Sally Morgan & illustrated by Peter Sheehan | After having his magic box confiscated, Mischievous Charlie must get back into his mum's good books if he wants to perform in his school's magic show. |
| 2012 | <i>Fog a Dox</i> | Bruce Pascoe | Albert is a bushman, living life surrounded by animals and birds, with a pet dingo, and now Fog, a dox (a fox raised by a dingo). Everything is going well for Albert until he has an accident. |
| 2012 | <i>Grace Beside Me</i> | Sue McPherson | Follow Fuzzy, a teenage girl living in rural NSW with her Nan and Pop, facing the challenges of adolescence and finding self-acceptance. |
| 2012 | <i>The Interrogation of Ashala Wolf</i> | Ambelin Kwaymullina | Ashala has been captured by a man intent on destroying her tribe by using a machine to extract secrets from her mind. Will the tribe survive this interrogation? |
| 2012 | <i>Mazin Grace</i> | Dylan Coleman | Growing up on the Mission isn't easy for Grace. She struggles to find a place she belongs in a community that rejects her for reasons she doesn't understand. |
| 2012 | <i>Ruby Moonlight</i> | Ali Cobby Eckerman | A verse novel focused around the impact of colonisation in South Australia in 1880. Ruby, the refuge of a massacre, shelters in the woods and must overcome fear of discovery up against the need for human contact. |
| 2013 | <i>Calypso Summer</i> | Jared Thomas | Calypso, a Nukunu man who is fresh out of high school, fails to secure what he thinks is his dream job in sports retail, and begins working for a health food shop. Pressure from his boss to gather native plants leads him to his Nukunu family and an immersive journey into culture. |
| 2013 | <i>Deadly D and Justice Jones: Making the Team</i> | David Hartley & Scott Prince | Dylan is unhappy after having to move from Mt Isa to Brisbane. Dylan finds support in his principal and newfound friend in Justice Jones. When an excursion to watch the Broncos train turns into Dylan's alter ego being scouted as 'Deadly D'. How will he keep the curse a secret? |
| 2013 | <i>The Disappearance of Ember Crow</i> | Ambelin Kwaymullina | Ember Crow is missing. To find her friend Ashala Wolf, she must control her behavior and abilities. What no one realizes is Ember is harboring terrible secrets, and is trying to protect the tribe. |
| 2013 | <i>The Heaven I Swallowed</i> | Rachel Hennessy | A tale of the Stolen Generations, told from the perspective of the white perpetrator. Grace takes Mary, an Aboriginal girl into her home believing she can save her by providing the benefits of white society. How will her past condemn her? |
| 2013 | <i>Mullumbimby</i> | Melissa Lucashenko | Jo's divorce settlement evokes her need for a sea change, buying a property on her ancestor's Country to grow a connection with the land. With dissent from her teenage daughter, disdain from her white neighbours and Native Title war looming, where will she find herself? |
| 2013 | <i>A Most Peculiar Act</i> | Marie Munkara | This story casts a sardonic eye on the protectionist policies of the early 20 th century. Following Sugar, an Aboriginal fringe-camp dweller who resists assimilation and challenges the authorities. With an outcome, no one could foresee. |
| 2013 | <i>Rise of the Fallen</i> | Teagan Chilcott | A paranormal romance, including demons, angels and elementals all at war for power. Emilie, a feisty young girl finds herself stuck in a love triangle and is soon lost in the world she's been running from. |

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| 2014 | <i>Deadly D & Justice Jones: Rising Star</i> | David Hartley & Scott Prince | The rugby league adventure Deadly D finds himself in as a new NRL Superstar keeps getting deadlier. What will Dylan and Justice Jones do when a reporter finds out about Dylan's curse? |
| 2014 | <i>Rift Breaker</i> | Tristan Michael Savage | A sci-fi adventure novel that explores alienation and identity. Milton Lance, a lowly engineer returns to the interior of the space vessel to find the entire crew dead, Milton undertakes a journey leading him to a knowledge that he is a savior of worlds. |
| 2015 | <i>Becoming Kirrali Lewis</i> | Jane Harrison | Kirrali, an Aboriginal girl adopted into a white family, is comfortable where she is in life and where she is headed, although not knowing 'who she was'. University serves as a catalyst for her awakening and pursuit for identity. |
| 2015 | <i>Deadly D & Justice Jones: The Search</i> | David Hartley & Scott Prince | Dylan and Justice Jones continue their journey of keeping Dylan's secret of the curse that makes him Deadly D. Should Dylan fess up to his mum that he has been using his superpowers? |
| 2015 | <i>The Foretelling of Georgie Spider</i> | Ambelin Kwaymullina | Georgie Spider has foretold the end of the world, and the only one able to stop it is Ashala Wolf. Georgie has foreseen Ashala's death, but can she change the future? |
| 2015 | <i>Ghost River</i> | Tony Birch | The river is a place of history and secrets. For Ren and Sonny it serves as a place for freedom and adventure. Each visit sees a secret slip into the waters. Who has the courage to survive it? |
| 2015 | <i>Harry's Secret</i> | Anita Heiss | Harry has a secret – he loves to draw. Art isn't as cool as skateboarding, fishing and footy. Harry enters an art competition, will his talent remain hidden? |
| 2015 | <i>Sea Horse</i> | Bruce Pascoe | Jack and his family escape to Seahorse Bay whenever they can, enjoying exploring the waters, fishing and cooking. When Jack and his dad find a sunken ship, they decide to salvage it. What story does it hold? |
| 2015 | <i>Sister Heart</i> | Sally Morgan | A young Aboriginal girl must find strength in new friendships in the face of tragedy after being stolen from her family and sent to an institution. |
| 2015 | <i>The Swan Book</i> | Alexis Wright | Set in the future, with Aboriginal people still living under the Intervention in the north, climate change is affecting the environment. Drawing attention to issues faced by Aboriginal people today. |
| 2016 | <i>After the Carnage</i> | Tara June Winch | A collection of punchy and emotional short stories which encapsulates intergenerational grief, cross-cultural grief, racism and family dysfunction. |
| 2016 | <i>Eagle, Crow and Emu</i> | Gladys Milroy & Jill Milroy | Three stories told in the tradition of teaching stories, follow the journeys of self-discovery and fulfillment. |
| 2016 | <i>Matty's Comeback</i> | Anita Heiss | Matty adores football, and is South Sydney's number one supporter and a star in his local team. When things don't go to plan in helping his team to the semifinals, help comes from surprising places. |
| 2016 | <i>Mrs Whitlam</i> | Bruce Pascoe | Marnie loves riding horses but does not own one. The adventures begin when she is gifted a horse, Mrs. Margaret Whitlam, a big Clydesdale dubbed Maggie. |
| 2016 | <i>Songs that Sound Like Blood</i> | Jared Thomas | Roxy goes on a confronting journey searching for herself, with music in her soul and songs in her heart moving to the city from a small town to follow her dreams. Her biggest challenge is experiencing emotions extending beyond her knowledge. |
| 2017 | <i>My Australian Story: Our Race to Reconciliation</i> | Anita Heiss | An unforgettable journey to Corroboree 2000, celebrating Australia's Indigenous heritage and the acknowledgment of past wrongs. |

Fiction by non-Indigenous Authors, with Reconciliation-related Themes

The table below lists a number of fictional texts written by non-Indigenous authors, but which reflect the concept of reconciliation and/or may meaningfully explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures. The list focuses on published texts that are in circulation to ensure access by educators and students alike.

| Year of Publication | Title | Author | Short Synopsis |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1973 | <i>The Nargun and the Stars</i> | Patricia Wrightson & illustrated by Robert Ingpen | After losing his parents, Simon is forced to live with distant cousins on a sheep run, making him feel like an outsider in Wongadilla. Simon soon develops an attachment to the land and a drive to protect it when threatened. |
| 1994 | <i>The Burnt Stick</i> | Anthony Hill | A story reflecting one of many stories of the Stolen Generations, following John Jagamarra a young Aboriginal boy who was stolen. |
| 1998 | <i>Deadly, Unna?</i> | Phillip Gwynne | A rite of passage novel about two friends, one Nunga and one white, their friendship and their journey of tackling the depths of racism that exist around them. A film adaptation, <i>Australian Rules</i> was released in 2002. |
| 2000 | <i>Two Hands Together</i> | Diana Kidd | Lily makes a new best friend when the Riley's move next door, but she cannot understand why her dad does not like them. Why is he being mean? |
| 2002 | <i>The Barrumbi Kids</i> | Leoni Norrington and Rachel Maza | A story of two best mates who deal with struggles, adventures and the paradoxes of life in a rural setting. |
| 2002 | <i>Journey to the Stone Country</i> | Alex Miller | After a marriage breakdown, Annabelle retreats to her old family home in tropical North Queensland, where she meets an Aboriginal man of the Jangga people, Bo, who claims to hold the key to her future. |
| 2005 | <i>The Secret River</i> | Kate Grenville | A historical fiction that transports the reader to a corner of the new colony of New South Wales where. The protagonist, William realizes that if he is to develop a new home he must forcibly take it from the rightful owners. |
| 2006 | <i>Bye, Beautiful</i> | Julia Lawrinson | A family drama set in the 1960's around a policeman and his teenage daughters, Sandy and Marianne. After moving from a small town both daughters are drawn to the town heart throb Billy, even though they are warned off him. |
| 2007 | <i>Sorry</i> | Gail Jones | Following Perdita and her experience of a troubled childhood, and the bonds she develops with an Aboriginal girl, Mary and a deaf boy, Billy. A story of friendship, loyalty and sacrifice. |
| 2008 | <i>The Lieutenant</i> | Kate Grenville | The record of a friendship of a first fleet soldier and a young Aboriginal girl, post invasion. A tale of friendship and difference. |
| 2009 | <i>The Devil You Know</i> | Leonie Norrington | Damien, a resilient young boy faces domestic violence, bullying and racism. A story of the difficulty of facing his mother's violent partner who returns to their new home in the Northern Territory. |
| 2009 | <i>Jasper Jones</i> | Craig Silvey | Jasper Jones, an Aboriginal boy who is an outcast in a small mining town, knocks on Charlie's window in the middle of the night, leading to challenges, white lies and the ultimate search for the truth. |

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| 2011 | <i>Crow Country</i> | Kate Constable | Sadie reluctantly moves to the country from the city with her mother, but soon begins making connections with Country, with the past and with Lachie and Walter. A story of righting past wrongs. |
| 2011 | <i>Nanberry: Black Brother White</i> | Jackie French | In a story set in a colony post invasion, Australia's first western surgeon adopts Nanberry, a young Aboriginal boy to raise as his son. Walking in two worlds, Nanberry and his brother Andrew explore the world around them. |
| 2014 | <i>Nona and Me</i> | Clare Atkins | Rosie and Nona are sisters and best friends. It doesn't matter that Rosie is white and Nona is Aboriginal. After moving apart at age 9 and returning for school in year 10 Rosie has lost interest. When political issues arise, will Rosie choose her first love or her oldest friend? |

Biography and Non-Fiction by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Authors

The table below lists a number of non-fictional texts written by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors. The list focuses on published texts that are in circulation to ensure access by educators and students alike.

| Year of Publication | Title | Author | Short Synopsis |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1987 | <i>My Place</i> | Sally Morgan | An autobiography about the journey for knowledge about Morgan's family history and the false pretense she lived with when growing up. |
| 1988 | <i>Don't Take Your Love to Town</i> | Ruby Langford Ginibi | A story covering 5 generations of familial ties, an autobiography portraying growing up in Australia, depicting the social divide of black and white. |
| 1991 | <i>A Boy's Life</i> | Jack Davis | An autobiography of Davis' experience of boyhood in south-west WA during the Great Depression. |
| 1994 | <i>Auntie Rita</i> | Jackie Huggins | Rita Huggins told her memories to her daughter, and this book encompasses some of that conversation as well as their two voices, and two views on a shared life. |
| 1995 | <i>Jandamarra and the Bunuba Resistance</i> | Banjo Woorunmurra & Howard Pederson | The true story of the Aboriginal resistance fighter, Jandamarra and the fight against the last stage of invasion as leases and lines are marked across Aboriginal Country. |
| 1995 | <i>When the Pelican Laughed</i> | Alice Nannup | Exploring growing up as a black woman in Australia through humour and insight. |
| 1996 | <i>Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence</i> | Doris Pilkington Garimara | Telling the story of her mother, this novel follows the journey home after escaping a settlement where she was placed after being stolen from her family as a result of government policies. |
| 2003 | <i>Is That you, Ruthie?</i> | Ruth Hegarty | A memoir depicting Ruthie's life living on an Aboriginal Mission in Cherbourg from where she was sent to work as a domestic servant. |
| 2003 | <i>Shadow Lines</i> | Stephen Kinnane | The story of Jessie Argyle, a survivor of the Stolen Generations and her life of falling in love with an Englishman against strong opposition. |
| 2007 | <i>Born to Run, My Story</i> | Cathy Freeman | A memoir of Cathy Freeman's childhood, earmarked by running and determination. |
| 2010 | <i>Maybe Tomorrow</i> | Meme McDonald & Boori Monty Prior | Exploring the life and career path of Boori Monty Prior, from the Aboriginal fringe camps of his birth to the catwalk, basketball court and DJ console. Told with humour and compassion. |
| 2011 | <i>The Aboriginal Soccer Tribe</i> | John Maynard | An exploration of Aboriginal contributions to soccer on a worldwide scale |
| 2012 | <i>Am I Black Enough For You?</i> | Anita Heiss | A memoir on identity, asking the question what does it mean to be Aboriginal? |
| 2012 | <i>Double Native</i> | Fiona Wirrer-George Oochunyang | A memoir depicting life and the search for identity, and exploring the contemporary Indigenous dance movement. Finding the missing piece and discovering how Austrian heritage meshes with Indigenous identity. |
| 2012 | <i>The Little Red Yellow Black Book: An Introduction to Indigenous Australia (3rd Ed.)</i> | Bruce Pascoe and AIATSIS | The bestselling introduction to Indigenous Australia, written from an Indigenous viewpoint, the book facilitates understanding, respect and reconciliation between all Australians. |

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| 2013 | <i>Our Stories Are Our Survival</i> | Lawrence Bamblett | This story brings light to the continued strength of Aboriginal culture, focuses on the continuity of Wiradjuri culture |
| 2014 | <i>Dark Emu</i> | Bruce Pascoe | Dark Emu provides an extensive argument in opposition to the 'hunter-gatherer' label placed on pre-colonial Aboriginal people. |
| 2015 | <i>Not Just Black and White</i> | Lesley Williams & Tammy Williams | A memoir about two women's determination to ensure history is remembered accurately. With honesty, humour and unexpected friendship. |
| 2015 | <i>Old Man's Story: The Last Thoughts of Kakadu Elder Bill Neidjie</i> | Bill Niedji and Bill Lang | In his own words, 'Old man' records aspects of his life and the importance of looking after Country for the younger generation of Gagudju people. With personal reflection throughout. |
| 2016 | <i>Finding Eliza: Power and Colonial Storytelling</i> | Larissa Behrendt | In this personal story, the story of Eliza Fraser's life forms a starting point to interrogate the nature of colonial storytelling and the way in which this has contributed to a racial divide in Australia. |
| 2016 | <i>Pictures from My Memory: My Story as a Ngaatjatjarra Woman</i> | Lizzi Marrkilyi Ellis | Ellis' autobiographical account of experience in the Australian Western desert, at the time of her birth there was first contact between her family and white Australians. Weaving personal reflections with history. |
| 2016 | <i>Talking to My Country</i> | Stan Grant | A powerful and personal memoir on race, culture and national identity. A response to racism in Australia and the hardship and difficulty in being an Aboriginal person. |
| 2018 | <i>Gathering Sticks – Lighting Up Small Fires</i> | Margaret Heffernan (with Gerard Waterford and Frances Coughlan) | A biography that captures Margaret Heffernan's desire to pass on to her children and future generations the story of her life, a life in transition from traditional culture to a very different world that is still unfolding. |

Non-Fiction by Non-Indigenous Authors, with Reconciliation-related Themes

The table below lists a number of non-fiction texts written by non-Indigenous authors, but which reflect the concept of reconciliation and/or may meaningfully explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures. The list focuses on published texts that are in circulation to ensure access by educators and students alike.

| Year of Publication | Title | Author | One-Sentence Synopsis |
|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
| 1999 | <i>Why Weren't We Told?</i> | Henry Reynolds | The story that resonates with many Australians, exploring the teaching of a false, and idealised history of Australia, and shattering myths of a peaceful history of Australia. |
| 2003 | <i>Art, History, Place</i> | Christine Nicholls | Nicholls looks at the astonishing diversity and visual power of Indigenous art and how traditions and influences have shaped its progress. |
| 2003 | <i>The Papunya School Book of Country and History</i> | Nadia Wheatly | A collaboration involving students and staff of the Papunya school, Wheatley combines many voices and stories in a multi-layered text. |
| 2007 | <i>The 1967 Referendum: Race, power and the Australian Constitution</i> | Bain Attwood and Andrew Markus | An exploration of the legal and political significance of the referendum and the long struggle to achieve change. |
| 2008 | <i>The Tall Man: Death and Life on Palm Island</i> | Chloe Hooper | The story of two worlds colliding through a death in custody in a tropical paradise. |
| 2010 | <i>Listening to Country: A Journey to the Heart of What it Means to Belong</i> | Ros Moriarty | A non-Indigenous insight into the spiritual and emotional world of Aboriginal women. Ros Moriarty details her learning from hearing stories and secrets from the matriarchs of her husband's family. |
| 2010 | <i>Riding the Black Cockatoo</i> | John Danalis | This non-fiction text explores a personal journey of reconciliation and friendship in returning an Aboriginal skull kept in the Danalis family to the traditional owners, the Wamba Wamba descendants. |

Picture Books by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Authors

The table below lists a number of picture books written and/or illustrated by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors and illustrators. The list focuses on published texts that are in circulation to ensure access by educators and students alike.

| Year of Publication | Title | Author & Illustrator | Short Synopsis |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| 1972 | <i>Stradbroke Dreamtime</i> | Oodgeroo Noonuccal & illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft | A collection of 27 short stories reflecting old and new Dreaming stories with colourful illustrations. |
| 1987 | <i>Tjarany Roughrail: The Dreaming of the Roughtail Lizard and other stories</i> | Gracie Greene, Joe Tramacchi and Lucille Gill | Eight Dreaming stories from the Kukatja people of the remote Kimberly region of Western Australia. |
| 1993 | <i>As I Grew Older: The Life and Times of a Nunga growing up Along the Murray River</i> | Ian Abdulla | An autobiographical picture book by an Aboriginal artist who recreates his experiences as a child growing up on the banks of the Murray River, and his family's survival and skill development. |
| 2000 | <i>Kupi-kupi and he Girl</i> | Daphne Punytjina Burton & illustrated by Carolyn Windy | A traditional bilingual story from Areyonga in the Northern Territory. A whimsical account of a young girl who spends her time chasing willy-willies, when one day the Kupi spirits take her away to a waterhole where she is guarded by a giant watersnake, and her subsequent rescue. |
| 2001 | <i>A is for Aunty</i> | Elaine Russell | This book explores the alphabet to illuminate life growing up on a mission, including billycart racing and yabby fishing. |
| 2004 | <i>The Mark of the Wagarl</i> | Lorna Little & illustrated by Janice Lyndon | Maadjit Walken is the Sacred Rainbow Serpent. She is the mother spirit and creator of Nyoongar Country in the south west of WA. This is the story of how a little boy dared to question the wisdom of his Elders and how he received his totem. |
| 2006 | <i>The Lizard Gang</i> | Kirra Somerville & illustrated by Grace Fielding | Zed, Boo, Eliza and Zoro, a spirited gang of monitor lizards who are constantly trying to one up each other have to learn the meaning of teamwork if they want to escape a raging flood. |
| 2007 | <i>Bilby and the Bushfire</i> | Joanna Crawford & illustrated by Grace Fielding | When a storm sparks a raging bushfire Bilby and his friends must leave their homes to escape the danger. What will Bilby do? |
| 2008 | <i>Malu Kangaroo</i> | Judith Morecroft & illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft | This story tells how people first learned to surf through the kangaroo spirit of Malu Kangaroo who teaches and guides the young children on the beach. |
| 2009 | <i>Maralinga, The Anangu Story</i> | Yalata, Oak Valley Communities with Christobel Mattingley | In words and pictures, the Anangu story is told, what happened in the Maralinga Tjaritja lands of South Australia before and after the bombs went off. |
| 2009 | <i>Sam's Bush Journey</i> | Sally Morgan & illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft | Sam loves DVD's, iPods and iPhones and hates the outdoors; he would not even care if it disappeared. When he goes to stay with his Nanna he begins walking in the bush. |
| 2010 | <i>Caterpillar and Butterfly</i> | Ambelin Kwaymullina | A caterpillar lived all alone the world was large and strange which made her fear. Caterpillar was determined to escape any possible danger so she hid |

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| | | | in the safety of her chrysalis until gaining the inner strength to enjoy the wonders of the world. |
| 2010 | <i>Dead Man's Gold</i> | Michal Torres & illustrated by Sharyn Egan | A story that draws on the legends of the outback, featuring treasure hunting, droving and gold prospecting. Billy Stone heads out on a cattle muster but it leads to startling discoveries. |
| 2010 | <i>Fair Skin Black Fella</i> | Renee Fogorty | The other girls shun Mary, a young girl who lives on a cattle station because she has fair skin. A community Elder speaks up for her and with wisdom instills that Aboriginality transcends skin colour. |
| 2010 | <i>How Frogmouth Found Her Home</i> | Ambelin Kwaymullina | Frogmouth is not like the other birds. She does not want to live in trees so she travels the land for somewhere else that feels like true home, along the way helping other animals finding their homes. |
| 2010 | <i>Loongie, the Greedy Crocodile</i> | Kiefer Dann and Lucy Dann | Loongie is a greedy saltwater crocodile who lives in the mangroves at Walaman Creek in the remote Kimberley region. He doesn't have any friends, Loongie needs to learn why he shouldn't be greedy. |
| 2010 | <i>Me and My Dad</i> | Sally Morgan | While spending the day at the beach with his dad, a young boy soon learns that even his fearless dad has something he's afraid of, and needs help to overcome. |
| 2010 | <i>The Old Frangipani Tree at Flying Fish Point</i> | Trina Saffioti | Set in a small Queensland town in the 1950's, a young girl must get help off her family when she has nothing to wear to the annual fancy dress carnival. |
| 2010 | <i>Our World Bardi Jaawi, Life at Ardiyooloon</i> | One Arm Point Remote Community School | Ardiyooloon is home to the Bardi Jaawi people and is at the end of a red dirt road at the top of the Dampier Peninsula. This book explores the lives of the children living in this community. |
| 2010 | <i>Scaly-Tailed Possum and Echidna</i> | Cathy Goonack & illustrated by Marlene, Katrina and Myron Goonack. | A Dreamtime story that features the scaly-tailed possum that is only found in the remote Kimberley region, and the echidna. This story tells of the Wandjina, the Creator. |
| 2010 | <i>Shake a Leg</i> | Boori Pryor & Jan Ormerod | A collaboration about having fun, sharing the cultural power of story and dance. From a pizza parlor and an Aboriginal chef who makes deadly pizza, three young boys are in for a surprise. |
| 2010 | <i>Why I Love Australia</i> | Bronwyn Bancroft | Celebrating country through vivid imagery and words to explore the beauty of Australia and the associated feelings. |
| 2011 | <i>The Girl From the Great Sandy Desert</i> | Jukuna Mona & Pat Lowe, illustrated by Mervyn Street | An account of the life of Mana, a young Walmajarri girl and her family in the desert country of north-west Australia. A collection of stories accompanied by black and white illustrations. |
| 2011 | <i>Once There Was a Boy</i> | Dub Leffler | The story of a small boy with a broken heart and the young girl he befriends who shares his secret. A timeless text for both children and adults. |
| 2011 | <i>Stolen Girl</i> | Trina Saffioti & illustrated by Norma MacDonald | A fictionalised account of one member of the Stolen Generations, a young girl being taken from her family and sent to a children's home. Until she opens the door and ventures her first step home. |
| 2012 | <i>A Beach for us to Play</i> | Nola Turner-Jensen & illustrated Maggie Prewett | Have fun with Maggie and her family whilst on their beach adventure. Part of Deadly Reads for Deadly readers – Salt Water Series. |
| 2012 | <i>Bubbay: A Christmas Adventure</i> | Josie Boyle | Bubbay lives in the outback spending his days protecting a herd of goats from dingoes, sleeping in his swag and occasionally visiting Mrs Timms for eggs. One Christmas Bubbay wishes for something he had never wished for, and used the natural and spiritual world and other companions to get it. |

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| 2012 | <i>Bush Bash!</i> | Sally Morgan & illustrated by Ambelin Kwaymullina | Dingo is headed somewhere and seems very excited, but he won't tell the animals where he is going, so they follow him until his final destination is revealed. |
| 2012 | <i>My Home Broome</i> | Tamzyne Richardson & illustrated by Bronwyn Houston | Centered on a poem, this book encapsulates the multicultural town of Broome with vivid illustrations and artistic expression. |
| 2012 | <i>The Sugarbag</i> | Nola Turner-Jensen | An adventure of two young brothers who are travelling to visit their grandfather, encountering a tiny native bee and follow it in hope of some delicious sugarbag. |
| 2012 | <i>Two Mates</i> | Melanie Prewett | A true story of the special mateship of two boys growing up in Broome, Jack is Indigenous and Raf is a non-Indigenous boy who has Spina bifida. They share their daily life together and go on adventures, hunting barni and dressing up. |
| 2013 | <i>Alfie's Search for Destiny</i> | David A. Hardy | This story follows Alfie's search for his destiny, and the high and lows he experiences after leaving home to pursue his destiny. |
| 2013 | <i>Bakir and Bi</i> | Jillian Boyd & illustrated by Tori-Jay Mordey | Based on a Torres Strait Islander Creation story, Bakir (rock) and Mar (storm bird) live together on a remote island with their two young children. While fishing they discover a special pelican named Bi. |
| 2013 | <i>Remembering Lionville: My Family Story</i> | Bronwyn Bancroft | This book brings together Bronwyn's family's oral history and her own childhood memories. |
| 2013 | <i>Too Many Cheeky Dogs</i> | Johanna Bell & Illustrated by Dion Beasley | A cheeky story about naughty camp dogs living in a remote Indigenous community. |
| 2014 | <i>Alfie's Big Wish</i> | David Hardy | Alfie goes on a quest for companionship after his friends leave him which causes him to feel alone and sad. Sometimes wishes come true. |
| 2014 | <i>Badudu Stories</i> | May L O'Brien & illustrated by Angela Leaney | True stories about young Aboriginal children moving from a remote community to a mainstream school, from the children's perspective. |
| 2014 | <i>The Lost Girl</i> | Ambelin Kwaymullina | A girl has lost her way, wandering away from her Mother and the Aunties. Mother nature will help her find her way home. |
| 2014 | <i>Silly Birds</i> | Gregg Dreise | A tale of morality that follows Maliyan a proud eagle who meets a turkey who is a silly bird and their adventure to working towards doing the right thing through the guidance of Elders. |
| 2014 | <i>The Spotty Dotty Lady</i> | Josie Boyle & illustrated by Fern Martins | A story of a woman who is inspired by a flower in her garden and she begins to paint spots on everything she owns. Touching on the transformative power of nature. |
| 2015 | <i>ABC Dreaming</i> | Warren Brim | A book that features the artwork of Warren Brim utilising Australian plants and animals to explore the alphabet. |
| 2015 | <i>Budinge and the Min Min Lights</i> | Uncle Joe Kirk & illustrated by Sandi Harrold | A Dreaming story about young Budinge, who sees a bright light twinkling through the trees in the deep Australian bush. Could these be the Min Min lights? |
| 2015 | <i>Kookoo Kookaburra</i> | Gregg Dreise | Follow Kookoo the kookaburra who moves from entertaining to making fun and teasing the other animals that leaves him alone. How will he learn his lesson and regain his friends? |
| 2015 | <i>My Lost Mob</i> | Venetia Tyson | A story about a young emu who has lost his mob, and his journey to find them. Interacting with various other characters who provide the young emu with their own directions. |

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| 2016 | <i>Dingo's Tree</i> | Gladys Milroy & Jill Milroy | A story of Dingo, Wombat, Crow and their friends as they struggle to exist alongside mining, and surviving its devastating impact. |
| 2016 | <i>Dream Little One, Dream</i> | Sally Morgan & illustrated by Ambelin Kwaymullina | This bedtime story celebrates the wonders of nature in a rhythmic way, from morning to night. |
| 2016 | <i>I Love Me</i> | Sally Morgan & illustrated by Ambelin Kwaymullina | A story about self-esteem and celebrating individuality. |
| 2016 | <i>Joey Counts to Ten</i> | Sally Morgan & illustrated by Ambelin Kwaymullina | Through the rhythm of life in the bush, learn to count as Joey and his mum go about their day. |
| 2016 | <i>My Mum's Special Secret</i> | Sally Morgan & illustrated by Ambelin Kwaymullina | A book about mother's day, where mum tells baby kookaburra her special secret, and baby kookaburra has a secret too. |
| 2017 | <i>Mad Magpie</i> | Gregg Dreise | Mad Magpie tells the story passed from his elders about Guluu, the angry magpie and how Guluu resolves his anger. |

Picture Books by non-Indigenous Authors, with Reconciliation-related Themes

The table below lists a number of picture books written and/or illustrated by non-Indigenous authors and illustrators, but which reflect the concept of reconciliation and/or may meaningfully explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures. The list focuses on published texts that are in circulation to ensure access by educators and students alike.

| Year of Publication | Title | Author & Illustrator | Short Synopsis |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1987 | <i>My Place</i> | Nadia Wheatley & illustrated by Donna Rawlins | This story follows one piece of land in Australia and the people who have lived there, from the Dreaming until present day. From families, their pets and their celebrations. |
| 1997 | <i>And a Kangaroo Too</i> | National Gallery of Australia | Explore Australian animals represented by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, alongside the names of the animals in English as well as the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language of the artist. |
| 2000 | <i>Ernie Dances to the Digeridoo</i> | Alison Lester | Ernie moves to the outback community of Gunbalanya in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory for a year, he writes home to his friends about his experiences all whilst making new friends. |
| 2000 | <i>The Rabbits</i> | John Marsden and Shaun Tan | A part allegorical fable about the coming of the 'rabbits', friendly and curious soon becomes dark as it appears the visitors are invaders. Looking at the perspective of the colonised. |
| 2007 | <i>You and Me: Our Place</i> | Leonie Norrington & illustrated by Dee Huxley | Uncle Tobias is joined by two young boys on his fishing trip, who listen to Uncle Tobias, and other Uncles and Aunties tell stories about their ancestors. Exploring how cultures coexist. |
| 2008 | <i>Collecting Colour</i> | Kylie Dunstan | Through the sharing of two cultures Aboriginal women's weaving is celebrated in Arnhem Land, as Rose and Olive must collect colours to make coloured mats with Olive's mum and Aunty. |
| 2008 | <i>Tom Tom</i> | Rosemary Sullivan & illustrated by Dee Huxley | This story explores the nurturing and adventure in the day of Tom Tom, a young Aboriginal boy in the Northern Territory. |
| 2010 | <i>Look See, Look at Me</i> | Leonie Norrington & illustrated by Dee Huxley | A story about growing up and exploring the world. Celebrating outback life in an Aboriginal community. |
| 2011 | <i>Playground</i> | Compiled by Nadia Wheatley & illustrated by Ken Searle | In this anthology Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are brought together to tell stories of childhood, utilising memoirs, oral histories, photographs and illustrations. |
| 2015 | <i>Stories for Simon</i> | Lisa Miranda Sarzin & illustrated by Lauren Briggs | A story about coming together to work towards a brighter future whilst acknowledging the past. Simon learns about the national apology to the Stolen Generations after receiving a boomerang. |

Graphic Novels by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Authors

The table below lists examples of graphic novels written and/or illustrated by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors. The list focuses on published texts that are in circulation to ensure access by educators and students alike.

| Year of Publication | Title | Author | Short Synopsis |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| 2011 | <i>Ubby's Underdogs: The Legend of the Phoenix Dragon</i> | Brenton McKenna | Set in Broome in the 1940's, Ubby the streetwise Aboriginal girl leads her rag-tag gang of underdogs through myths, legends and adventure. After recruiting Sai Fong, a Chinese girl from Shanghai a series of bizarre adventure full of myths begin. |
| 2013 | <i>Neomad</i> | Yijala Yala Project | This three-part sci-fi fantasy adventure comic is available with an interactive comic for iPad's and weaves in the significant cultural heritage of Murijuga, in the Burrup Peninsula. |
| 2013 | <i>Ubby's Underdogs: Heroes Beginnings</i> | Brenton McKenna | The ambitious pearling master Paul Donappleton challenges Ubby and her underdogs. Old myths and legends start to take new meaning as the limits of courage and friendship are tested. |
| 2017 | <i>Cleverman</i> | Ryan Griffen, Wolfgang Bylsma & Emily K Smith | Ancient creatures known as the 'Hairypeople' must co-exist among humans and battle for survival. While one young man, The Cleverman must navigate his power and unite this divided world. |

Graphic Novels by non-Indigenous Authors, with Reconciliation-related Themes

The table below lists examples of graphic novels written and/or illustrated by non-Indigenous authors and illustrators, but which reflect the concept of reconciliation and/or may meaningfully explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures. The list focuses on published texts that are in circulation to ensure access by educators and students alike.

| Year of Publication | Title | Author | Short Synopsis |
|---------------------|--|----------------|--|
| 2007 | <i>Requiem for a Beast: A Work for Image, Word and Music</i> | Matthew Ottley | A boy who goes on a melancholy, challenging and terrifying journey that transcends into a life-affirming lesson of self-discovery. Including the stories of dispossessed Aboriginal peoples. |
| 2010 | <i>Deadly</i> (Series) | James Fossdike | Australia's population flees as the earth becomes toxic, with only Aboriginal people remaining and surviving. |
| 2015 | <i>Reg Saunders: An Indigenous War Hero</i> | Hugh Dolan | The story of Reg Saunders, the first Indigenous Australian to become an Army officer. |

Poetry by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Poets

The table below lists a number of poems, and poetry collections written by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander poets. The list focuses on published poems that are in circulation to ensure access by educators and students alike.

| Year of Publication | Poem or collection of poems | Author | Short Synopsis |
|---------------------|--|---|---|
| 1970 | <i>My People: a Kath Walker Collection</i> | Oodgeroo Noonuccal | A large collection of Oodgeroo Noonuccal's poetry, dedicated to those fighting for treaty for her people. |
| 1982 | <i>Yoogum Yoogum</i> | Lionel Fogarty | A collection of poems that explores the anger and hurt that many oppressed black Australians feel, whilst including the warmth and compassion of Aboriginal people for their communities. |
| 1991 | <i>Do Not Go Around the Edges</i> | Daisy Utemorrah & illustrated by Pat Torres | This book tells the story of Daisy Utemorrah's life through poems and parables, touching on Creation, tradition, family and Country. |
| 1992 | <i>The Dawn is at Hand</i> | Oodgeroo Noonuccal | A collection of a variety of poems exploring Aboriginal experience in Australia. |
| 1992 | <i>Raukkan and Other Poems</i> | Margaret Brusnahan | Lyrical poetry exploring the memories of growing up in South Australia's Coorong Lagoon country. |
| 1996 | <i>Dreaming in Urban Areas</i> | Lisa Bellear | A collection of emotional poetry that combines a journey of personal and social reconciliation. |
| 1999 | <i>Of Muse, Meandering and Midnight</i> | Sam Wagan Watson | A contemporary poetry collection exploring relationships the urban landscape and youth. |
| 2004 | <i>Romaine Moreton</i> | I Shall Surprise You By My Will | A singular poem reflecting the challenge of working against oppression, and surprising the oppressor. |
| 2004 | <i>Smoke Encrypted Whispers</i> | Sam Wagan Watson | A volume of selected poems earmarked with language and images of the mangrove lined city, childhood and ancestors. |
| 2007 | <i>Story About Feeling</i> | Bill Neidjie & Keith Taylor | A collection of poetry that reflects on all aspects of life, with the oral tradition echoing in the words Bill uses to move between subjects of the spiritual and environmental realm. |
| 2012 | <i>Mogwie Idan: Stories of the Land</i> | Lionel G. Fogarty | Illustrating the struggles of Aboriginal people in contemporary Australia, and reflecting life on a Murri mission. |
| 2014 | <i>Love Poems and Death Threats</i> | Sam Wagan Watson | This collection of poetry reflects a dark and satirical take on contemporary Australia. These poems reflect politics, and wit through vivid imagery. |
| 2015 | <i>Inside My Mother</i> | Ali Cobby Eckerman | This poetry collection serves as a tribute to Country, to elders, to animals and to the spirits of the landscape. |
| 2016 | <i>Comfort Food</i> | Ellen van Neerven | Exploring different places and cultures, this collection of poetry touches on identity, sovereignty and quest for love. |
| 2016 | <i>Lemons in the Chicken Wire</i> | Allison Whittaker | A collection of poems that explores that borders or barriers are no contestant for love through distinct imagery and gritty textures. |
| 2016 | <i>Sunset</i> | Maggie Walsh | This collection of poetry reflects Maggie Walsh's hardships and success, personal and distinct. |
| 2019 | <i>Kindred</i> | Kirli Saunders | A poetry anthology that talks to identity, culture, community and the role of Earth as healer. |

Poetry by non-Indigenous Poets, with Reconciliation-related Themes

The table below lists examples of poems, or poetry collections written by non-Indigenous poets, but which reflect the concept of reconciliation and/or may meaningfully explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures. The list focuses on published poems that are in circulation to ensure access by educators and students alike.

| Year of Publication | Poem or collection of poems | Author | Short Synopsis |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 1954 | <i>At Coolalah</i> | Judith Wright | This poem explores the black-white relationship in Australia |
| 1973 | <i>Two Dreamtimes</i> | Judith Wright | A poem dedicated to Aboriginal poetry Oodgeroo Noonuccal, exploring race relations and discrimination in Australia. |
| 2008 | <i>Anna the Goanna</i> | Jill McDougall & Jenny Taylor (Illustrator) | A picture book filled with verse exploring the diverse lives of Aboriginal children. |

Should you wish to engage with further texts, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander music/songs, films, digital stories, wider media arts, and texts in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, please consider consulting the following other Narragunnawali [resource guides](#):

- Drama
- Media Arts
- Music
- Technologies – Design & Technologies and Digital Technologies
- Languages

Celebrations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Authorship

Listed below are examples of Awards that celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authorship and contributions to wider textual areas:

- [The Balnaves Foundation Indigenous Playwrights Award](#)
- [Patrick White Indigenous Writers Award \(NSW, K-12 creative writing\)](#)
- [NSW Premiers Literary Awards – Indigenous Writer’s prize](#)
- [Black&write! – Indigenous writing and editing competition](#)
- [Deadly Awards \(1995-2013\)](#)
- [Unpublished Indigenous Writer – David Unaipon Award](#)
- [QPF Oodgeroo Noonuccal Indigenous poetry prize](#)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Publishing Companies

The field of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander publishing agencies allows the process of production and publication to remain in the hands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples which, in turns, helps to support culturally appropriate and responsive storytelling and knowledge-sharing. These agencies assist in heightening the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, provide support from pitch to final product, and support the growth of Indigenous authorship and creation. Below are some examples:

- [Aboriginal Studies Press](#)
- [Batchelor Institute Press](#)
- [Binabar Books](#)
- [Black Ink Press](#)
- [IAD Press](#)
- [Magabala Books](#)

There are a number of book resources which have been written and/or translated into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. In searching for these resources, consider contacting your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Language Centre, and exploring the collections of publishing companies focused on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and content.

Other Online Guides/Reference Materials

The following links provide areas for furthering resources, research and support for promoting reconciliation in the English classroom:

- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures resources: English](#)
A Queensland Studies Authority guide for supporting the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures cross-curriculum priority within the Subject/Learning Area of English.
- [Australian Centre for the Moving Image – About Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures](#)
An overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contributions to screenwriting and wider moving image media.
- [BlackWords: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Writers and Storytellers](#)
A database of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authored texts with over 6000 writers recorded and over 17,000 texts
- [‘Bringing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into the classroom: Why and how’ \(2013\) Cara Shipp](#)
Discussions on why these perspectives are important and strategies to include them in the classroom.
- [Deadly Vibe magazine pdf’s and accompanying teaching resources](#)
A history of Deadly Vibe magazines and associated teaching resources for a variety of issues.
- [‘Getting it Right’ Anita Heiss on Indigenous characters](#)
An article on how to write, and include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander characters in creative writing.
- [Macquarie PEN Anthology of Aboriginal Literature \(2008\) Ed. By Anita Heiss and Peter Minter](#)
A collection of work from Aboriginal authors from the past 200 years, from Bennelong’s 1796 letter to more contemporary writers.
- [Teaching resources to accompany Magabala books](#)
Teacher guides for a range of fiction, non-fiction and children’s books as well as guides to working with Indigenous content.

Reflective Questions for English Staff and Students

Some questions for reflection and discussion when studying texts authored by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and texts with themes pertaining to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories and cultures, or to reconciliation in Australia:

- How have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures influenced Australian literature, and what active role do these histories and cultures play today?
- How has Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authorship contributed to the field of Australian literature as a whole?
- Why is it important to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices within varying texts?
- What is the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authorship/storytelling and the Subject/Learning Area of English? How does this relationship simultaneously intersect with wider Subject/Learning Areas such as Music, Drama, Media Arts, Visual Arts and Languages? Why are these relationships important to appreciate?
- How can an author's personal and cultural context contribute meaning to their work? Reciprocally, how can a reader's personal and cultural context contribute to the way in which they interpret, and/or respond to, a literary work?
- Research one or more Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander authors or poets. How do you think their personal and cultural context, and experiences, inform their authorship? Why is recognising context and perspective an important consideration when looking at texts?
- Engage with a timeline of significant historical events relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures, and to reconciliation in Australia. Select a few of the texts listed above and consider when they are written in terms of the wider timeline. Are these historical events reflected or visible in the published work? Why do you think this is an important consideration in exploring the wider context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authorship? Consider using [this timeline](#) for inspiration, and you may also wish to explore the resources listed in the Narragunnawali History resource guide to support you in responding to this question.
- Analyse the meaning and messaging of the following quote pertaining to the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authorship: *"First Nations people and communities have not only had history denied to us, OUR stories have been both destroyed and misappropriated. I like the comment of the German writer, Bernhard Schlink, that those who have their history denied to them, are entitled to the dignity of telling and controlling their own narrative"* – [Tony Birch Interview](#).
- How can embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content and perspectives in the Subject/Learning Area of English help to promote reconciliation?