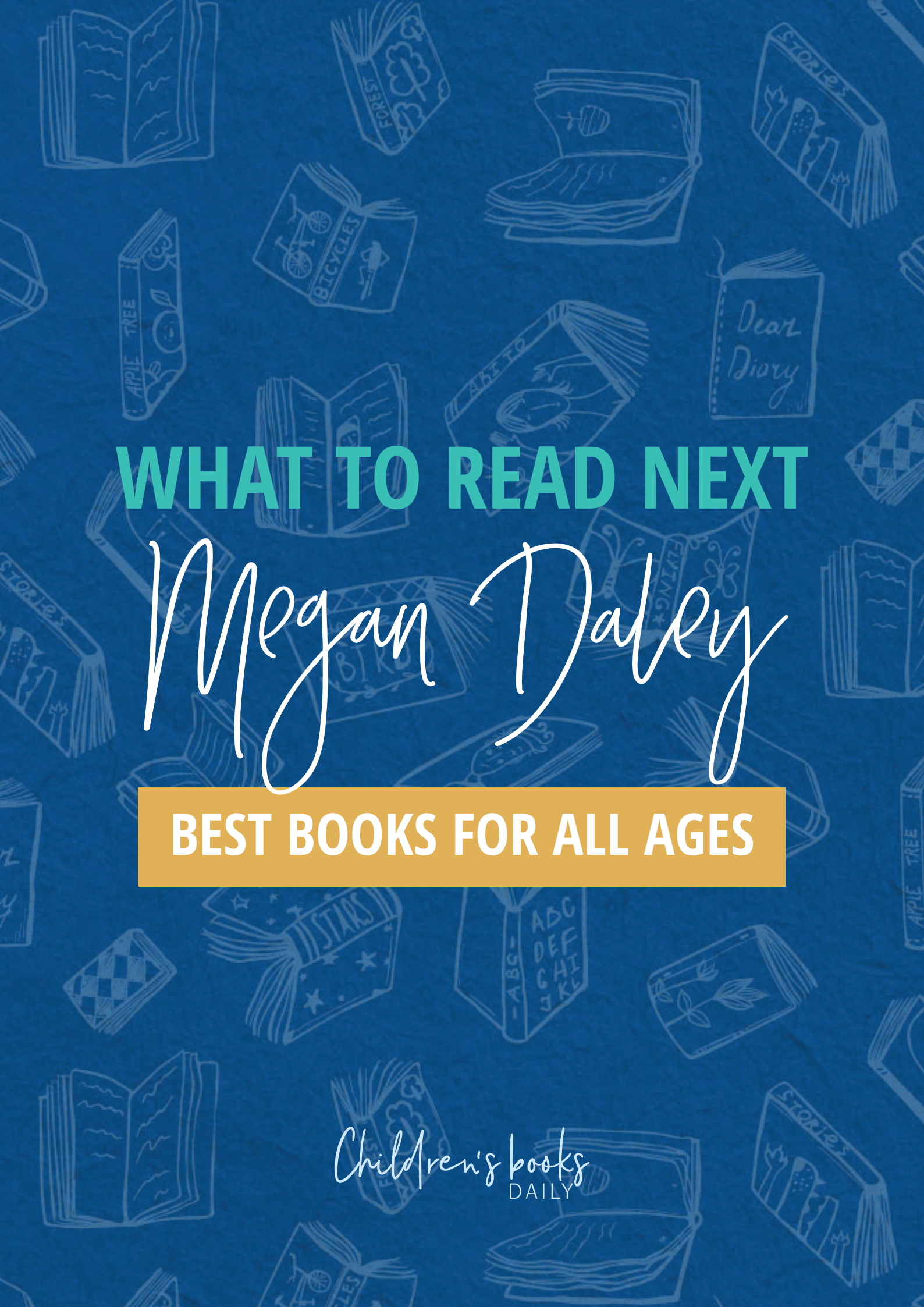


WHAT TO READ NEXT

Megan Daley

BEST BOOKS FOR ALL AGES

Children's books DAILY

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CHILDREN'S BOOKS DAILY

The lists contained in this mini-ebook are my favourite books in various age ranges from the past few years. My own lists change regularly but these titles are perennial favourites which will see you through some tricky reading spots!
For more inspiration and tips on reading with your child from birth and beyond, please see my book 'Raising Readers'.

What Will I Read Next: Early Childhood (birth – 8 years approximately)

When a loved adult reads with a baby they are hearing the rhythm of words, the expression and emotion in voices, and are building a rich and diverse network of words. Very early on, babies will be intrigued by bright, contrasting illustrations and soothed by a voice reading a story. From around six months old they may develop a liking for a particular book and pick it up to be read or become animated and excited when a favourite book is being read. Familiarity with books, words and illustrations are all important building blocks in raising a reader. Even at this young age, a baby is developing reading and book skills. They are exploring the mechanics of how books work by turning pages, looking at the cover of a book and even chewing them. Finally...experience books in a variety of ways with your little people. Go to festivals where books are transformed into performances, visit child friendly ballet productions of books such as those done by Qld Ballet and visit storytime at your local public library or independent bookshop. Immerse them in story in all its forms.

'All the Ways to be Smart'
by Davina Bell and Allison Colpoys
'This is a Ball' (and others in series)
by Beck Stanton and Matt Stanton
'Baby Business'
by Jasmine Seymour
'Birthday Baby'
by Jane Godwin, Davina Bell and Freya Blackwood
'A Quiet Girl'
by Peter Carnavas
'All of the Factors of Why I Love Tractors'
by Davina Bell and Jenny Lovlie
'Another Book About Bears'
by Laura Bunting and Phil Bunting
'No Place for an Octopus'
by Claire Zorn
'Young Engineers'
by Andrew King and Benjamin Johnston
'Goodnight, Little Tough Guy'
by Michael Wagner and Tom Jellett
'Goodbye House, Hello House'
by Margaret Wild and Ann James
'Jessica's Box'
(original and the Cerebral Palsy Edition)
by Peter Carnavas
'The Amazing A-Z Thing'
by Bronwyn Bancroft and Sally Morgan
'Too Busy Sleeping'
by Zanni Louise and Anna Pignataro

'The Big Hug' series
by Shona Innes and Irisz Agocs
'Can We Lick the Spoon Now?'
by Carol Goess and Tamsin Ainslie
'Look See, Look at Me'
by Leonie Norrington and Dee Huxley
'Thelma the Unicorn'
by Aaron Blabey
'Billie's Super Dooper Adventures' series
by Sally Rippin and Alisa Coburn
'I'm a Hungry Dinosaur' and **'I'm a Dirty Dinosaur'**
by Janeen Brian and Ann James
'Dreamers'
by Ezekiel Kwaymullina and Sally Morgan
'Mr Huff'
by Anna Walker
'A Curry for Murray'
by Kate Hunter and Lucia Masciullo
'Emu'
(and others in Nature Storybooks series)
by Claire Saxby and Graham Byrne
'Possum and Wattle: My Big Book of Australian Words'
by Bronwyn Bancroft
'Rudie Nudie'
by Emma Quay
'Little Blue'
by Gaye Chapman

'It's Bedtime William'
by Deborah Niland
'Annie's Chair'
by Deborah Niland
'Kissed by the Moon'
by Alison Lester
'Baby Bilby, Where Do You Sleep?'
by Narelle Oliver
'Don't Let a Spoonbill in the Kitchen'
by Narelle Oliver
'Goodnight, Me'
by Andrew Daddo and Emma Quay
'Puffling'
by Margaret Wild and Julie Vivas
'Baby Bedtime'
by Mem Fox and Emma Quay
'For All Creatures'
by Glenda Millard and Rebecca Cool
'Whoever You Are'
by Mem Fox
'Tom, Tom'
by Rosemary Sullivan
'Herman & Rosie'
by Gus Gordon
'The Terrible Suitcase'
by Emma Allen and Freya Blackwood

What Will I Read Next: Beginning Reader (6 – 10 years approximately)

Once a child hits a certain reading level they start to crave books with more complex storylines and ones in their area of passion: sharks; fairies; engineering; horses; family relationships; magical tales or true stories of heroes. This is a time when things can become tricky for parents and teachers: 'what on earth can I give them next?'; 'how do I know what's appropriate?'; 'I know they are only five, but they can *read* Harry Potter'; 'they should read the classics that I read as a child, they are *safe* reads'...and so on and so forth. For what it is worth, I personally think that reading material should always be age appropriate. Books are only truly great when they are read by the age group/maturity level for which they were intended. Of course this is up to the discretion of the parents – if you are happy with them reading anything and everything, go for it. Continue to encourage your newly capable reader to still engage with their classroom readers as these are designed to teach specific skills and whilst they may appear 'too easy' for your child, they serve a purpose. And finally? Make reading a joy and your child will be well on their way to developing into a life-long reader.

'Squishy Taylor' series
by Ailsa Wild
'I See, I See'
by R. Henderson
'Lunch at 10 Pomegranate Street'
by Felicita Sala
'Hey Awesome' and **'Hey Warrior'**
by Karen Young
'Toffle Towers' series
by Tim Harris and James Foley
'The Grand Genius Summer of Henry Hoobler'
by Lisa Shanahan
'Eco Rangers' series
by Candice Lemon-Scott
'Under the Stars: Astrophysics for Bedtime'
by Lisa Harvey-Smith
'Vognox the Viking'
by Nick Falk and Tony Flowers
'Australian Birds' and **'Australian Sea Life'**
by Matt Chun
'The Book of Stone'
by Mark Greenwood and Coral Tulloch

'Atticus Van Tasticus' series
by Andrew Daddo and Stephen Michael King
'Matty's Comeback'
by Anita Heiss
'Keeper of the Crystals' series
by Jess Black
'Aussie Bites' and **'Aussie Nibbles'** series
Various authors.
'Tashi' series
by Anna Fienberg and Kim Gamble
'Trouble at Home'
by Cate Whittle
'Clementine Rose' series
by Jacqueline Harvey
'Sophie Scott Goes South'
by Allison Lester
'Our Australian Girl' and **'Do You Dare'** series
various authors. Penguin Books Australia
'Lulu Bell' series
by Belinda Murrell
'Meet...' series, various authors/illustrators.
Random House Australia

'Nature Storybooks' series
various authors/illustrators. Walker Books
'The Kingdom of Silk' series
by Glenda Millard
'Amazing Babes' Written by Eliza Sarlos and illustrated by Grace Lee
'Smooch and Rose'
by Samantha Wheeler
'Mister Cassowary'
by Samantha Wheeler
'Star of Deltora' series
by Emily Rodda
'Juliet Nearly a Vet' series
by Rebecca Johnson
'Violet Mackerel' series
by Anna Branford and Sarah Davis
'Samurai Vs Ninja' series
by Nick Falk and Tony Flowers
'Explore Your World: Weird, Wild, Amazing!'
by Tim Flannery and Sam Caldwell

What Will I Read Next: Tween Readers (10 - 14 years approximately)

It can be a big jump from series designed for beginner readers to meatier works for middle readers and every child takes this leap in their own time. Many parents are, very rightly so, concerned about their young readers moving into the world of YA novels – it really does signal that your child will soon be a teen, who will soon be a young adult and then before you know it they will be in their 40's and you'll be freaking out about how that happened (hello to my mum!). I started my 'Year Six Book Club' for this very reason – to transition young readers into the world of YA reading. We read age-appropriate titles that will stretch readers and give them a taste of older novels without some of the heavier issues. Realistic fiction which is age-appropriate is a way for young people to navigate their way through some of the tricky situations in their own life and the lives of their friends, family and wider society.

Some of these books contain mature themes, please check content for suitability for your own child/students.

'Sick Bay'
by Nova Weetman
'How to Bee'
by Bren MacDibble
'Bushfire'
by Sally Murphy
'The Little Wave'
by Pip Harry
'Our Planet: The One Place We All Call Home'
by Matt Whyman and Richard Jones
'Catch a Falling Star'
by Meg McKinlay
'His Name Was Walter'
by Emily Rodda

'Liars' series
by Jack Heath
'Young Dark Emu'
by Bruce Pascoe
'The Fowl Twins'
by Eoin Colfer
'Ateban Cipher' series
by A.L. Tait
'The Mulberry Tree'
by Allison Rushby
'A Single Stone'
by Meg McKinlay
'The Extremely Inconvenient Adventures of Bronte Mettlestone' series
by Jaclyn Moriarty and Kelly Canby

'Figgy' series
by Tamsin Janu
'Kensy and Max' series
by Jacqueline Harvey
'My Australian Story' series
various authors. Scholastic
'Roses are Blue'
(and all other verse novels in this 'series')
by Sally Murphy
'The Turnkey' and **'The Seven Keys'**
by Allison Rushby
'Stuff Happens' series
various authors. Penguin Books Australia
'My Life' series
by Tristan Bancks and Gus Gordon

'Withering-by-Sea: a Stella Montgomery Intrigue'
by Judith Rossell
'Conspiracy 365' series
by Gabrielle Lord
'Ranger's Apprentice' series
by John Flannagan
'Mosquito Advertising' series
by Kate Hunter
'Skulduggery Pleasant' series
by Derek Landy
'Percy Jackson' series
by Rick Riordan
'On Track'
by Kathryn Apel
'The Ratcatcher's Daughter'
by Pamela Rushby
'Though My Eyes' series
Various authors. Allen & Unwin
'Star of Deltora' series
by Emily Rodda

'The Locket of Dreams'
by Belinda Murrell
'Ophelia and the Marvellous Boy'
by Karen Foxlee
'When You Reach Me'
by Rebecca Stead
'The Marvels'
by Brian Selznick
'The MapMaker Chronicles' series
by A.L. Tait
'Bleakboy and Hunter Stand Out in the Rain'
by Steven Herrick
'Louis Beside Himself'
by Anna Fienberg
'Flyaway'
by Lucy Christopher
'My Life as an Alphabet'
by Barry Jonsberg
'Counting by Sevens'
by Holly Goldberg Sloan

'Intruder'
by Christine Bongers
'Two Wolves'
by Tristan Bancks
'Find Your Tribe (and 9 other things I wish I'd known in High School)'
by Rebecca Sparrow
'I am Malala'
by Malala Yousafzai
'Lenny's Book of Everything'
by Karen Foxlee
'Everything I've Never Said'
by Samantha Wheeler
'Ugly' (younger readers edition)
by Robert Hoge
'The Land of Roar'
by Jenny McLachlan
'Monuments'
by Will Kostakis

What Will I Read Next: Young Adult Readers (15 - 50 years approximately)

Young adult literature is what I read most for recreational reading. YA novels have the same depth as novels written for adults, but with about half the words – which suits me! The writing is tightly edited and every extraneous word is removed. Sure I could read a ten page poetic description of a tree, but actually I don't want to...give me well edited YA any day! YA fiction tends to be action driven rather than character driven as the characters are often not old enough to explore them in the depth that some adult novels will. Young adult authors reach out to their audience through their writing and they reflect their worlds back at them. The themes are often complex and sometimes dark, helping readers to navigate their way through life situations or feel empathy and understanding for others.

Some of these books contain mature themes, please check content for suitability for your own child/students.

'The Surprising Power of a Good Dumpling'
by Wai Chim
'The Things That Will Not Stand'
by Michael Gerard Bauer
'Small Spaces'
by Sarah Epstein
'Between Us'
by Clare Atkins
'Catching Teller Crow'
by Ambelin Kwaymullina and Ezekiel Kwaymullina
'After the Lights Go Out'
by Lili Wilkinson
'This is How we Change the Ending'
by Vikki Wakefield
'Changing Gear'
by Scot Gardner
'The Art of Taxidermy'
by Sharon Kernot
'Invisible Boys'
by Holden Sheppard
'It Sounded Better in my Head'
by Nina Kenwood
'Amelia Westlake'
by Erin Gough

'Aurora Rising'
by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff
'Hive'
by A.J. Betts
'Take the Shot'
by Sue White
'We Are Okay'
by Nina LaCour
'Ghost Bird'
by Lisa Fuller
'One Would Think the Deep'
by Claire Zorn
'The Protected'
by Claire Zorn
'One True Thing'
by Nicole Hayes
'Two Wolves'
by Tristan Bancks
'The Sidekicks'
by Will Kostakis
'The First Third'
by Will Kostakis
'Spark' series
by Rachel Craw

'The Flywheel'
by Erin Gough
'Cloudwish'
by Fiona Wood
'Wayward Son'
by Rainbow Rowell
'You Don't Even Know'
by Sue Lawson
'The Incredible Adventures of Cinnamon Girl'
by Melissa Keil
'The Running Man'
by Michael Gerard Bauer
'Clancy of the Undertow'
by Christopher Currie
'The Raven's Wing'
by Frances Watts
'Are you Seeing Me?'
by Darren Groth
'I am Juliet' and **'I Am Ophelia'**
by Jackie French
'The Tribe' series
by Ambelin Kwaymullina
'The Bogan Mondrian'
by Steven Herrick