Boys will be boys by Clementine Ford. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2018. 305.31 FOR

“All boys start out innocent and tender, but by the time they are adolescents many of them will subscribe to a view of masculinity that is openly contemptuous of women and girls. Our world conditions boys into entitlement, privilege and power at the expense not just of girls’ humanity but also of their own. Ford demolishes the age-old assumption that superiority and aggression are natural realms for boys, and demonstrates how toxic masculinity creates a disturbingly limited and potentially dangerous idea of what it is to be a man. Crucially, Boys will be boys reveals how the patriarchy we live in is as harmful to boys and men as it is to women and girls, and asks what we have to do to reverse that damage.” – Back cover.

Exploding some of the myths about learning to read: a review of research on the role of phonics by Robyn Ewing. Surry Hills, NSW: NSW Teachers Federation, 2018. 372.465 EWI

“This review of research about the role of teaching phonics in learning to read initially briefly considers some of the most powerful and well established predictors for success in learning to read. These predictors include the development of oral language with parents and caregivers, shared reading and access to a range of reading in the home and preschool. It then focuses on developing an understanding of the background to and rationale for the focus on synthetic phonics in early reading in England, and more recently the suggestion that Australia might introduce a synthetic phonics check for all six-year-olds. Contemporary research about phonics – synthetic and analytic – and the role it plays in learning to read is then considered alongside other strategies …. This review concludes that the costly introduction of a ‘phonics check’ for all Australian six-year-old children is not supported by research.” – Abstract, p. 4.


“Dr Greene describes how best to: Understand the factors that contribute to challenging episodes; Identify the specific situations in which challenging episodes are likely to occur; Reduce or eliminate challenging episodes by solving the problems that cause them; Solve problems collaboratively (rather than unilaterally) and proactively (rather than reactively); Help your child develop the skills to be more flexible, solve problems, and handle frustration more adaptively.” – Back cover.


“Provide anonymous feedback.” ‘Hire smart people.’ ‘Hold people accountable.’ These are all sound business practices – right? … In fact, these mantras are completely wrongheaded, yet they are so deeply ingrained in organisational cultures that no one has questioned them. Until now. In Fierce leadership, Scott teaches us how to spot the worst ‘best practices’ in our organisations.” – Back cover.


This is “the story of the Ticonderoga, a clipper ship that sailed from Liverpool in August 1852, crammed with poor but hopeful emigrants …. Three months later, a ghost ship crept into Port Phillip Bay flying the dreaded yellow flag of contagion. On her horrific three-month voyage, deadly typhus had erupted, killing a quarter of Ticonderoga’s passengers and leaving many desperately ill … [Hell ship] brings to life the hardships and horrors endured by those who came by sea to seek a new life in Australia.” – Back cover.

Meet me at the intersection edited by Rebecca Lim and Ambelin Kwaymullina. Fremantle, WA: Fremantle Press, 2018. YA F MEE

 “[A]n anthology of short fiction, memoir and poetry by authors who are First Nations, People of Colour, LGBT+ or living with disability. The focus of the anthology is on Australian life as seen through each author’s unique, and seldom heard, perspective … [This anthology is designed to challenge the dominant, homogenous story of privilege and power that rarely admits ‘outsider’ voices.” – Publisher website. Audience: For young adults.

Nganga: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander words and phrases by Aunty Fay Muir and Sue Lawson. Newtown, NSW: Black Dog Books, 2018. 499.15 MUI

“Aunty; Uncle, sorry business, marングrook, dreamtime, Elders, songlines. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander words have become part of our everyday vocabulary but we may not know their true meaning or where the words come from. In Nganga, Aunty Fay Muir and Sue Lawson have brought together these words, their meanings and their history.” – Book flap.
Secrets of a successful organizer by Alexandra Bradbury, Mark Brenner and Jane Slaughter. Brooklyn, NY: Labor Notes, 2016. 331.88 BRA

The authors “have distilled the insights and know-how of generations of organizers into 47 secrets, illustrated with hundreds of real-life examples and practical tips. You’ll learn how to indentify the key issues in your workplace, build campaigns to tackle them, anticipate management’s tricks and traps, and inspire your co-workers to stand together despite their fears.” Back cover.

All the handouts and exercises can be downloaded for free: http://labornotes.org/secrets

Stepping stones: a refugee family’s story by Margaret Ruurs; artwork by Nizar Ali Badr. St Lucia, Qld: University of Queensland Press, 2016. MF RUU

“Rama and her family are forced to leave behind everything they know and love. With only what they can carry on their backs, Rama’s family sets out to find refuge in Europe. Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr’s stunning stone images illustrate Margaret Ruurs’s thoughtful story.” Back cover. In Arabic and English. Audience: For primary school students.


This book “helps readers to create effective science learning experiences for primary students by using a constructivist approach to learning. This best-selling text explains the principles of constructivism and their implications for learning and teaching, and discusses core strategies for developing science understanding and science inquiry processes and skills ... Throughout there are strong links to the key ideas, themes and terminology of the revised Australian Curriculum: Science.” Publisher website.

Tell me your story: confirming identity and engaging writers in the middle years by Janet Dutton et al. Newtown, NSW: Primary English Teaching Association Australia (PETAA), 2018. 372.6 DUT

“Identity texts are oral or written texts that reveal some aspect of a student’s own life and experiences. They have been used successfully to support the development of language, literacy and especially writing. By embracing and confirming the student’s home language and personal story, identity texts lead to greater student engagement and better learning outcomes. Tell me your story suggests a range of pedagogical approaches for working with students in the middle years, illustrated with real-world examples showing how they can be implemented. It combines practical teaching strategies with suggestions for confirming student identity, especially with children from a range of cultural backgrounds.” Back cover.


“This is the compelling story of Anne Summers’ extraordinary life. Her story has her travelling around the world as she moves from job to job, in newspapers and magazines, advising prime ministers, leading feminist debates, writing memorable and influential books. Anne has not been afraid to walk away from success and to satisfy her constant restlessness by charging down new and risky paths. Whatever position she has held, she has expanded what’s possible and helped us see things differently-often at high personal cost.” Publisher website.


“When a young boy’s parents divorce, he thinks it’s because of the chocolate pudding he and his brother smeared all over the wall. If only he had brought a spoon! With this gentle story, young children can begin to understand that divorce is about grown-up problems, while getting comforting answers to their most pressing questions. Was it the chocolate pudding? also includes a comprehensive afterword for parents written by children’s author and psychologist Jane Annunziata about helping children deal with the common but difficult emotions and reactions to separation and divorce.” Back cover. Audience: For children aged 2-6.

Woo’s wonderful world of maths by Eddie Woo. Sydney: Pan Macmillan Australia, 2018. 510.7 WOO

“Why is a rainbow curved? Why aren’t left-handers extinct? How is a sunflower like a synchronised swimmer? Why is ‘e’ a magic number? The answer to these questions is contained within one simple word: maths. Because maths is all about patterns, and our universe is extraordinarily patterned. With enthusiasm, humour and heart, Eddie Woo shows how card tricks, conspiracy theories, teacups, killer butterflies, music, lightning and so much more illuminate the spellbinding world of maths that surrounds us.” Back cover.

New Journal

The monthly, Issue 150, November 2018.

This issue includes an article by Shaun Hanns entitled “I left the Department of Immigration to speak out: the current system is destroying lives for no reason”, a critical commentary by Professor Megan Davis on the misguidedness of many journalists’ conception of free speech (and how it fails to address racism), a defence of a woman’s right to walk at night, and much more.