

Information about booklist

Rationale for booklist

Students are encouraged to select a range of fiction and non-fiction books suited to their reading ability. While there is no compulsory reading list for the Reading Challenge, booklists have been developed in conjunction with the Department of Education and Library & Archives NT to help students, teachers, parents and guardians select appropriate reading material.

Booklists are divided into year level groups. Students are welcome to read books from the lists for higher or lower year levels.

A key aspect of the booklist in the Territory is the inclusion of reading resources in first language. The role of the booklist is not to constrain students, but rather to ensure a quality selection of texts. Students are encouraged to select books from the booklist of suggested titles, but this is not mandatory.

Schools using Chief Minister's Reading Challenge grants to buy books should be guided by the booklist and consultation with local public libraries.

Booklist principles

The selection of books for the booklist was based on the following principles.

- Booklist titles must be a current publication, in print and available for purchase.
- Booklist titles must reflect and celebrate the diversity of Territory languages, culture and community.
- Booklist titles must contain a wide variety of titles for all age groupings that reflect the principles of diversity and inclusiveness. (e.g. diverse representations of girls and women, people with a disability and gender diverse people).
- Booklist titles will provide an opportunity to demonstrate the windows and mirror principles. Mirrors are books that contain story lines, characters and experiences in which you can see yourself. You can make personal connections in these books and feel seen and heard. A book that is a window helps you empathise with the life or experience of another person in wider society.
- Booklist titles should have high standards of quality in relation to use of language, publication aesthetics, appropriate themes and inclusive language.
- Booklist titles align with the [Free access to information statement](#) developed by the Australian Library Information Association (ALIA).

Booklist age groupings

The booklist includes 120 items, organised within three age groupings:

- Transition to Year 2
- Years 3 to 4
- Years 5 to 6.

Booklist criteria

Books on the booklist meet the following criteria. They:

- are about or are set in the Northern Territory
- are about or are set in Australia
- include Territory languages and culture
- include the voices of Territory children
- encourage a love of reading for interest and pleasure
- encourage reluctant readers
- include a wide range of themes, subjects and genres
- include age-appropriate content and themes
- include specific subject interest areas, such as First Nations histories, environmental sustainability, intercultural relationships and healthy emotions.

Scope of formats

A range of formats are included in the booklist. Formats include fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, picture books, audio books, eBooks and eAudiobooks.

Languages

Students are encouraged to read books in their first language as part of the Challenge. Language books have been incorporated in the booklist and all students are welcome to read and experience books in additional languages as part of the Challenge.

Resources for students with a disability

Students with a disability are able to access books in alternative formats. Students are encouraged to listen to audiobooks, have books read to them or to read graphic novels. Public libraries have access to different formats such as audiobooks, dyslexic friendly texts and graphic novels. BorrowBox, an online platform available through NT public libraries, also offers access to eAudiobooks and eBooks with dyslexic friendly texts.

Challenge booklists are inclusive and incorporate a diverse range of stories and perspectives.