**Tehani’s Top Ten**

This week I was interviewed for the West Australian newspaper [http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/wa/10115555/books-still-fire-childrens-minds/], and was asked to compile a list of ten books every child should read before they leave primary school. What a tough job! I ended up making three lists, then created a final list for the paper (unfortunately the list doesn't show on the electronic version). Here I'd like to share my original three lists with you all.

Tehani's Top 10 Australian Picture Books (picture books are not just for young children)

 Home and Away by John Marsden (illustrated by Matt Ottley)

 Possum Magic by Mem Fox (illustrated by Julie Vivas)

 Snugglepot and Cuddlepie by May Gibbs

 The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek by Jenny Wagner (illustrated by Ron Brooks)

 The Red Tree by Shaun Tan

 Window by Jeannie Baker

 The Lost Thing by Shaun Tan

 Harry and Hopper by Margaret Wild (illustrated by Freya Blackwood)

 Mulga Bill's Bicycle by AB "Banjo" Paterson (illustrated by Deborah and Kilmeny Niland)

 My Place by Nadia Wheatley (illustrated by Donna Rawlins)

Tehani's Top 10 Australian Books every primary school child should read

 Stormboy by Colin Thiele

 The Silver Brumby by Elyne Mitchell

 Pearl vs the World by Sally Murphy

 The Magic Pudding by Norman Lindsay

 The Barrumbi Kids by Leonie Norrington

 The Changeling by Sean Williams

 Pigs might fly by Emily Rodda

 Nips IX by Ruth Starke

 Hitler's Daughter by Jackie French

 Misery Guts by Morris Gleitzman

Tehani's Top 10 Australian Books every teen should read

Liar by Justine Larbalestier

Tender Morsels by Margo Lanagan

Eon/Eona by Alison Goodman

Tomorrow when the war began by John Marsden

Looking for Alibrandi by Melina Marchetta

Came back to show you I could fly by Robin Klein

Destroying Avalon by Kate McCaffrey

Jarvis 24 by David Metzenthen

Deadly, Unna? by Philip Gwynne

Playing Beatie Bow by Ruth Park

In addition, here's a top 50 (not necessarily Australian) which I really liked: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/books/the-list-top-50-childrens-books/2008/02/22/1203467440437.html>

And if you are looking for great books, you could do worse than check out the CBCA Awards for the past 60 or so years! cbca.org.au/awardshistory.htm

Making lists of just ten books is a VERY difficult thing to do, and if you asked me on a different day, get different lists! There are so many great books and authors I'd love to mention, so if your favourites aren't on there, I'm sorry! Why not send me YOUR top 10s? If we get enough interest we can publish a bunch of them in ic3 - deadline is 15 September, 2011 - email lists (and they can be aimed at different audiences than my lists, don't be shy! Top 10 fantasy books for kids? Top 10 funny books for kids?) to editormum75@gmail.com.

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