

AUSTRALIA READS

TEACHERS' NOTES

INTRODUCING THE AUSTRALIA READS SPECIAL EDITIONS

Young readers and teens are going to absolutely adore our Australia Reads Special Editions!



Published for Australian Reading Hour 2021 to celebrate the wonder and magic of reading, these books have been specially written and illustrated by some of Australia's most admired (and generous) authors: the award-winning team of Ursula Dubosarsky and Andrew Joyner, the dynamic duo of Professor Lisa Harvey-Smith and First Dog on the Moon, AFL kids series writers Nicole Hayes and Adrian Beck, plus acclaimed YA rom-com writer Jenna Guillaume.

There's fun for every student who loves reading, and for every student who doesn't... yet!

Key Curriculum Areas

Learning areas: Science as a Human Endeavour | Nature and development of science | Scientific knowledge has changed peoples' understanding of the world and is refined as new evidence becomes available (ACSHE119 - Scottle)

Elaborations:

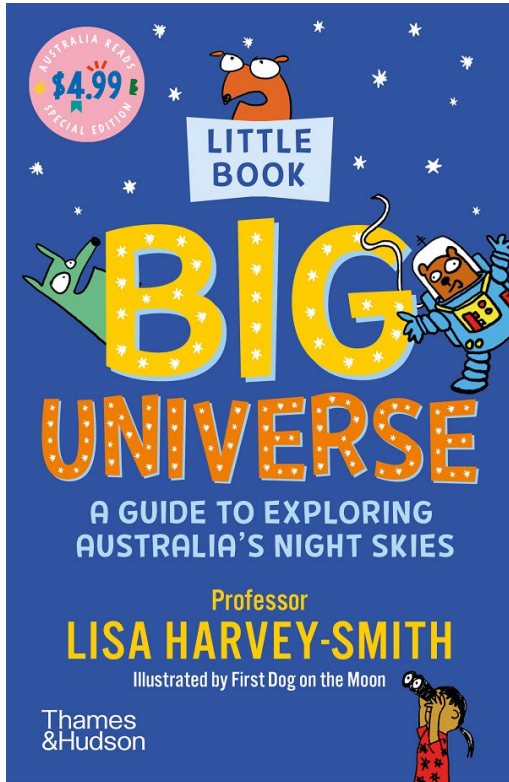
- ✓ investigating the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' knowledge in the identification of medicinal and endemic plants (OI.9)
- ✓ investigating how advances in telescopes and space probes have provided new evidence about space
- ✓ researching different ideas used in the development of models of the solar system developed by scientists such as Copernicus, Khayyám and Galileo

LITTLE BOOK BIG UNIVERSE

A Guide to Exploring Australia's Night Skies

By Professor Lisa Harvey-Smith with illustrations by First Dog on the Moon

9781760762292 | Thames & Hudson | September 2021



Synopsis

Want to watch spectacular meteors rain down on Earth?
Wave to astronauts as they fly overhead?
Find your way home using only the Southern Cross?

Professor Lisa Harvey-Smith's easy step-by-step guide to exploring Australia's night skies is full of mind-blowing facts about our cosmos. You will master time travel and planet hunting, learn how to take amazing photos in the dark and use helpful gadgets to supercharge your new hobby.

Sprinkled throughout the pages, First Dog on the Moon's awesome drawings show the best entertainment in town is found by simply looking up.

An Australia Reads exclusive story.

Recommended Ages: 8-12 | For Grades: Two-Six

Themes: Astronomy | Science | Geography | Environment and Sustainability

About the book creators

Professor Lisa Harvey-Smith left school at the age of 11 and taught herself at home where she developed a passion for astronomy. She joined her local amateur astronomical society in 1992, where she first learned to use a telescope and she is now an award-winning astrophysicist, author, and the Australian Government Women in STEM Ambassador. She has a talent for making the secrets of the universe accessible to all. She has appeared on ABC TV's *Stargazing Live* and her own stage show, *When Galaxies Collide*.

<https://lisaharveysmith.com/>

First Dog on the Moon is an award-winning political cartoonist who has written and illustrated various books and performed live onstage in a number of shows.

<https://firstdogonthemoon.com.au/>



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TEACHERS NOTES

A BIT MORE ABOUT THE BOOK

This wonderful book is a perfect introduction to astronomy for students. Readers of fiction and nonfiction alike will find this step by step, easy to understand introduction to the night sky and its myriad of mysteries fascinating.

The book offers a plethora of activities, which we have included below for easy reference. There is also a comprehensive glossary and don't forget to check out the Fun Facts pages!

Suggested Activities

Class Presentations

Ask students to choose a particular star or planet and do some further research. This can be presented to the class as an oral presentation, a slide show, a Prezi, a short video or even a podcast.

Students might like to make an informative poster on a chosen planet, constellation or star to share with the class.

As a class, investigate why light pollution is a problem in Australia and which animals it is affecting. You might like to start with this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAcl4FKPtHw&t=14s>

There is also more excellent information here <https://www.zoo.org.au/possums>

Letter from a Planet

Write a letter from a chosen planet imagining you are that planet. What would you like the world to know about you? How might you describe what you can see from your vantage point in the sky?

6 Word Story

Using only six words, write a story about a chosen star, constellation, or planet.

Book Trailer

Ask students to make a book trailer for *Little Book Big Universe*. Reference for teachers

<https://englishteaching101.com/book-trailer-project/>

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TEACHERS NOTES

Handy list of websites and apps recommended in the book

- Help fight light pollution in Australia: australasiandarkskyalliance.org
- Pick a perfect stargazing location near you with this dark-places map: darksitefinder.com
- Find out the current lunar phase: timeanddate.com/moon/phases
- See an up-to-date map of the night sky from the Sydney Observatory or Perth’s Scitech museum (choose the one closest to you): maas.museum/observations/category/monthly-sky-guides
scitech.org.au/explore/the-sky-tonight
- Stargaze and planet hop like a pro with these night sky apps:
Sky Guide (\$4.49, available for iPhone)
or SkyView Lite (free, but has fewer features; available for iPhone and Android)
- Capture images of stars, planets, star trails and even the southern lights with this photo app:
NightCap Camera (\$4.49, available for iPhone)
- Look up the position of planets in your area tonight: timeanddate.com/astronomy/night
- Explore the surface of the moon: quickmap.lroc.asu.edu Note: the default map shows a view of the Moon in the Northern Hemisphere – pick the Lunar Globe (3D) projection and drag the image to match the Moon as it appears in the Australian sky. Select the ‘nomenclature’ overlay to see the names of maria and craters.
- View an eclipse safely using a homemade pinhole camera like this one:
jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/project-how-to-make-a-pinhole-camera
- Find out when the International Space Station will be flying over your location next:
spotthestation.nasa.gov
- Look up the location of the Starlink satellites, a mega-constellation of more than 1200 small spacecraft that beam fast wi-fi to Earth: findstarlink.com
- Keep an eye on the aurora forecast for your area at the Bureau of Meteorology website:
sws.bom.gov.au/Aurora
- Join your local amateur astronomical society: astronomy.org.au/amateur/amateur-societies/australia

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TEACHERS NOTES

A note on reading from our book creators

'I virtually lived in the library when I was a kid. We would spend hours browsing and reading before borrowing our maximum allowance of 6 books for the week. I read almost every book in the place before I was 18! However busy you are, I reckon there is always time before bed to read a few pages...'

Professor Lisa Harvey-Smith

'READING! I LOVE TO READ! BOOKS ARE OUR FRIENDS! THE MAGIC OF WORDS! I'm getting a bit teary just thinking about it.'

First Dog on the Moon

Suggested Further Reading

[UNDER THE STARS: ASTROPHYSICS FOR BEDTIME](#), by Lisa Harvey-Smith, Mel Matthews, published by Melbourne University Press, 2019.

[THE SECRET LIFE OF STARS](#), by Lisa Harvey-Smith, Eirian Chapman, published by Thames & Hudson, 2020.

[ALIENS AND OTHER WORLDS](#), by Lisa Harvey-Smith, Tracie Grimwood, published by Thames & Hudson, 2021.

[ASTROPHYSICS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN A HURRY](#), Neil deGrasse Tyson, Gregory Mone, published by WW Norton & Company, 2019.

[LEGENDS OF THE STARS](#), by Stella Caldwell, published by Allen & Unwin, 2019.

[UNLOCKING THE UNIVERSE](#), by Stephen Hawking, published by Penguin Random House, 2020.

Get involved with Australian Reading Hour!

#AustraliaReads #StoriesThatMatter #MoreBooksMoreOften #AustralianReadingHour

Australian Reading Hour celebrates **Stories that Matter** on Tuesday 14 September 2021 with events and activities in schools, libraries and bookshops featuring some of Australia's best-loved authors.

- Sign your school up for one of our virtual events: <https://australiareads.org.au/events/>
- Encourage students to start a book club with some friends or classmates.
- Create your very own Australia Reads logo: <https://australiareads.org.au/custom/>
- Plan an event in your school library: <https://australiareads.org.au/australian-reading-hour/>
- Follow along and join in @australiareads on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

AUSTRALIA READS | PROMOTING A LOVE OF BOOKS

Order Australia Reads Special Editions for School

These Australia Reads Special Editions have been created to help make good books readily accessible for young people and are available from your usual school suppliers.

For Primary Schools	
Title:	The Magnificent Hercules
Creators:	Ursula Dubosarsky & Andrew Joyner
ISBN:	9781761065712
Publishers:	Allen & Unwin
Format:	96 pages B format Paperback
RRP:	\$4.99
Category:	Fiction, Adventure, Humour
For Primary Schools	
Title:	AFL Little Legends: The Missing Cup
Creators:	Nicole Hayes & Adrian Beck
ISBN:	9781760509828
Publishers:	Hardie Grant Children's Publishing
Format:	96 pages B format Paperback
RRP:	\$4.99
Category:	Fiction, Humour, AFL, Sport, Mystery
For Primary Schools	
Title:	Little Book Big Universe
Author:	Professor Lisa-Harvey Smith
Illustrator:	First Dog on the Moon
ISBN:	9781760762292
Publishers:	Thames & Hudson Australia
Format:	96 pages B format Paperback
RRP:	\$4.99
Category:	Non-Fiction, STEM, Science, Natural History
For Secondary Schools	
Title:	The Deep End
Author:	Jenna Guillaume
ISBN:	9781760987305
Publishers:	Pan Macmillan Australia
Format:	96 pages B format Paperback
RRP:	\$4.99
Category:	Young Adult, Teenage, Relationships

At Australia Reads we're passionate about getting more Australians to read more books, more often.

Discover 300 ambassadors available for school visits and events, plus downloadable learning activities and more at australiareads.org.au

With special thanks to the wonderful teams at Allen & Unwin, Hardie Grant Children's Publishing, Pan Macmillan Australia and Thames & Hudson who have made the publication of these four fabulous books possible!

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STORIES THAT MATTER

Get involved | Tuesday 14 September 2021 | australiareads.org.au