

PLAY BY THE BOOK

Books aren't just a passive pursuit. These exciting activity books give kids a chance to challenge their minds and bodies in all sorts of directions.

Anorak: The Happy Activity Book 2

This one comes with a warning: it could be highly distracting from homework, work and friends! 30 pages of mazes, colouring in, building paper teepees and more.

(The Anorak Press) £4, anorak-magazine.co.uk

Simple Steps Towards a Healthier Earth

It's all about the bigger picture. These engaging in-book and out-of-book activities don't just entertain, they also teach kids about environmental issues.

(Chronicle Books) A\$20, mymessyroom.com.au

The Doodle Book

Packed with cuttings, pasting and drawing fun, this book gives kids the chance to fill in the gaps with their own imagination.

(Thames & Hudson) A\$29.95, kidstore.com

Everyone Dreams of Peace

64 pages of ways to help kids express their feelings. You can draw in it, read it, or simply colour yourself out of a bad day.

(Smiling Planet Press) US\$14, smilingplanet.net

Mummy Mazes

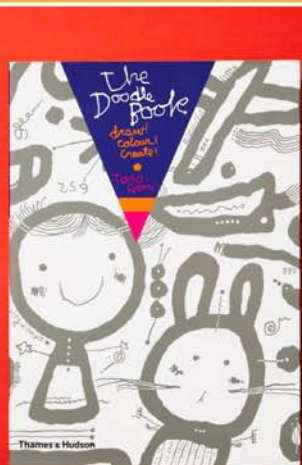
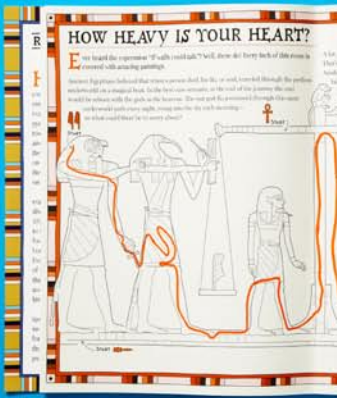
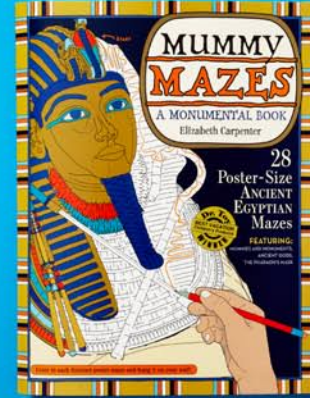
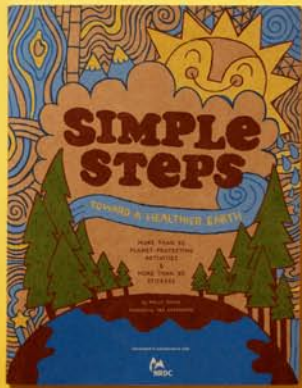
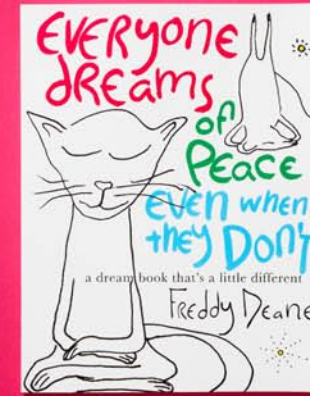
Did you know it sometimes took three miles of linen to wrap a mummy? Enjoy adventures and fascinating facts galore as you follow the expedition of Professor Archie Ologist through some intricate mazes.

(Workman Publishing) A\$12.40, booktopia.com.au

Zig Zag Zebra

Get arty with these 22 absorbing activities that help small kids master drawing skills, shape recognition, line drawing and colour combination, while also learning to read.

(Barefoot Books) US\$6.99, barefootbooks.com





A suitable place for your books to rest. pg 62



Meet Meredith Alexander. pg 5

Welcome

Every year we dedicate an issue to a very special theme. It's undoubtedly my favourite edition to produce: each theme a challenge at first, but then the endless story ideas, concepts, visuals and products to showcase eventually present themselves and we swing into action.

This year we're All About Books. We celebrate many of the great children's book authors and illustrators – many of whom you will surely know. In "Paper Dahls", (page 13) Jayme McGowan's exquisite paper-cut illustrations showcase some of Roald Dahl's most popular stories – the results are fantastic. And we celebrate the works of my current children's literary hero, Anthony Browne who recently completed his tenure as Children's Laureate.

Speaking of picture books, you'll find a celebration of the art of book illustration from some of the world's most talented artists on page 47.

Don't miss our classic reads for under 5s (page 17) – and our top picks of new releases from around the world (page 9). Isabel Roxas has generously created a series of charming bookplates for your kids to cut out and paste in their most cherished stories, on page 22.

Have you seen what our best-loved fictional characters are wearing this season? On page 34, Trixie, Iggy Peck, Eloise and other literary heroes show off their natty attire.

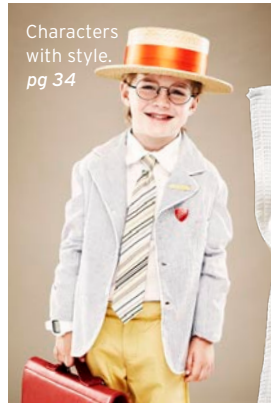
Sadly, we say goodbye to Joel Henriques. It's been so much fun to collaborate with Joel and we wish him all the best. He's left us with a fantastic craft idea – check out the ingenious River of Words on page 58.

There's plenty more in this issue and I hope you'll have as much fun exploring it from cover to cover as we did in putting it together.

So curl up in your favourite reading spot and enjoy our 4th annual themed edition. Happy reading!

Jenny Lacey
Editor in Chief

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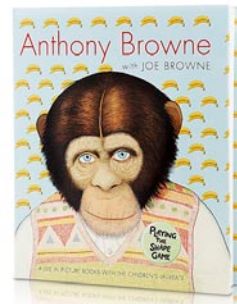
Characters with style. pg 34

Freshly baked titles. pg 40



Free bookplates. pg 22

Fresh finds hot off the press. pg 9



Shape Shifter. pg 24



Read. Give. Grow. pg 11

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LAUGH • MAKE • NURTURE • ORGANISE • PLAY

ALL ABOUT BOOKS!

It's our 4th Annual Themed Edition



Chloe as Freckleface Strawberry
Photographed by Ian MacPherson

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