

Susea Spray



Author Library Visits



Information Booklet

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Contact Details

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Working With Children Checks:

South Australia

New South Wales

Victoria

ACT

Regions Susea is Coming to in 2027

Adelaide

Naracoorte

Portland

Parkes/Orange

Tamworth

Cootamundra

Eden

*Today was simply unbelievable!! Teachers and students both loved your highly engaging visit. The kids talked about it for ages and went home proudly holding their boats. The staffroom was a hive of feel good, positive feedback. Thank you so much for showing us the art of storytelling. We have missed anything like this since before Covid. You are a talented and special artist (and a teacher forever at heart!!).*

*Leanne (Teacher Librarian)*

## About Susea



Susea is a retired classroom teacher who majored in English and Children's Literature and spent 23 wonderful years turning literacy lessons into joyful adventures. Her absolute favourite part of every school day? Snuggling into a story or two and inviting her students to step softly into the rich, magical world of books.

Writing has always been stitched through Susea's life like a bright thread. She tried (and tried!) to write picture books, but the words simply refused to behave. They hid. They sulked. They wouldn't play nicely together.

Then, more than a decade ago, she and her husband set sail on the adventure of a lifetime: an around-the-world voyage on the real Big Blue Boat. As the ocean stretched wide and blue around them, Susea began recording their travels on her sailing blog. Mile by mile, wave by wave, something shifted. The stories gathered. The ideas grew. And at last, the words decided to come out and play.

Today, Susea shares her love of language, sailing, and the sea through stories told in the voice of a big blue boat and a determined young girl, its Captain.

Although she loves the peaceful rhythm of writing, Susea's favourite part of being an author is meeting children. Each year she packs her books (and plenty of enthusiasm!) for Autumn and Spring author tours, working with students from Preschool to Year 6. She has visited tiny schools with just two students and bustling schools with more than 400; and she treasures every single one.

When she's not writing, you'll likely find Susea researching curious details, cooking something delicious, taking photographs, heading out for a walk, or happily returning to the page of her sailing blog, where it all began.



### Award Results:

***A Big Blue Boat:*** Purple Dragonfly Award winner, 2023; Silver Award Winner, Literary Titan 2022; Top 20, Indie Children's Book Cover Award, 2022; Book finalist, Page Turner Awards 2022; Writing Finalist, Page Turner Awards 2022

***A Day on the Brine:*** Children's Picture Book Genre Winner and shortlisted, 2022 Page Turner Awards; Gold Book Award winner, Literary Titan 2025, Purple Dragonfly Honourable Mention; 2025 Royal Dragonfly Honourable Mention

***Sequel 3:*** Writing finalist, 2022 Page Turner Awards

***Moon Song:*** Longlisted, Just Write for Kids Pitch It Competition, 2024 (illustrations commence 2026)

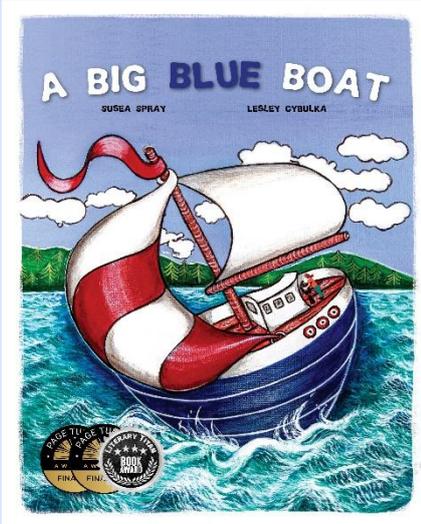
***Frog's Tale:*** Writing Finalist, 2025 Page Turner Awards (coming 2026)

***Nature's Song:*** Writing Finalist, 2025 Page Turner Awards (coming 2026/2027)

***Bird of the Swamp:*** Longlisted, Just Write for Kids Pitch It Competition, 2025

## The Books

### *A Big Blue Boat*



When the sea is calm and the breeze just right, the Big Blue Boat and her captain set out for a perfect day of sailing. But as the wind begins to strengthen and the waves start to rollick and frolic, adventure rises on the horizon. Will the Big Blue Boat and her fearless captain make it safely back to shore?

In the spirited tradition of *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* and *One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree*, *A Big Blue Boat* sweeps young readers into an ever-growing, rhythmic tale filled with rhyme, repetition, and delightful surprises. Perfect for preschoolers and early readers, this sing-song adventure builds anticipation with every turn of

the page.

Featuring a confident female captain at the helm, this charming picture book celebrates courage, curiosity, and a love of the sea. Beloved by educators and families alike, *A Big Blue Boat* supports early learning skills while delivering a fun-filled sailing adventure that will have children asking to read it again and again.



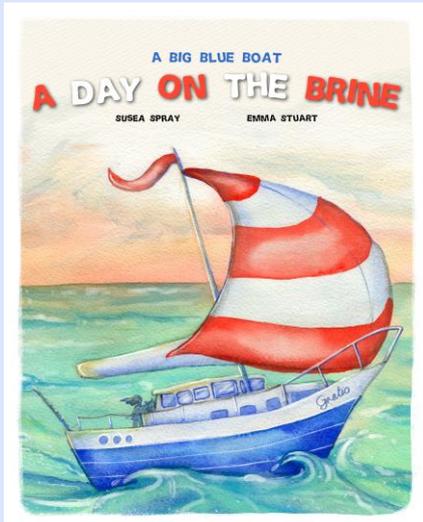
*'A simple title for a book that delivers a lot of value in a picture book. The author employs rhyme, alliteration, onomatopoeia, descriptive adjectives, and sentence building to offer a host of learning opportunities.*

*The words are associated with the colours that represent them, each page adds more text so that as the book unfolds readers repeat and reinforce the learning. At the end of the book of glossary is included to remind young readers exactly what those 'hard words' mean.*

*The female captain is a role model for young girls unaccustomed to seeing females heading up the captain's job. This book is one that will be read over and over, each time reinforcing and building upon the learning that has already taken place. Highly recommended for parents, teachers, and librarians who work with children'*

*Barbara Anne*

## A Day on the Brine



With the wind in her hair and salt tickling her nose, the hungry Captain sets her line — only to discover the sea is full of surprises. From the orange-red blush of sunrise to burnished sunset, the sea begins to share its secrets. Albatross glide on wide, whispering wings as whales roll and splash in the deep, dappled brine. All around her, the ocean hums: busy, breathing, alive.

Out here, life moves like the tide - in and out, ebb and flow; a gentle reminder that everything has its rhythm.

Brought to life by Emma Stuart's stunning illustrations, this magical rhyming tale captures the wonder of a day on the water.

Set along the wild west coast of Australia, this award-winning sequel to *A Big Blue Boat* is perfect for anyone who loves boats, sea creatures, and that delicious, salty stretch of endless blue.



*'... this tale speaks to the interconnectedness of life on the ocean and the quiet magic of the sea.*

*Right from the start, I was pulled in by the rhythm. The repeated structure "And what do you think she sees?" makes it feel like a lullaby, or a chant you'd say to a child while swaying on a boat. It's simple, but it works. I especially loved the line about the "squid pink and shy" who "peeks at the sky." That moment stuck with me, there's something so soft and endearing about it. It's playful but also poetic.*

*The writing isn't trying to be clever. It's honest and kind. There's a real respect for the sea here, and that shines through the gentle language and Emma Stuart's dreamy illustrations. I found myself lingering on the page with the "whale large and grey" coming up for a play. That spread, both in words and visuals, felt alive. There's no heavy lesson being pushed, but you still get this sense of awe for marine life and the beauty of slowing down to look at the world.*

*One thing I appreciated deeply is the circular nature of the story. It begins and ends with the big blue boat, creating a feeling of coming home, of completing a cycle. The moon watching the boat and captain at the end made me smile. It's subtle, but it tugs at something warm in you. It reminded me of how, as a kid, I'd imagine the moon following me on car rides home. Also, the glossary and activities at the end are a nice bonus, educational without being dry, and great for curious young readers. ...'*

## The Visit

Suitable for ages 18 months – 12 years +

In addition to sharing my book with the children and parents, my visit introduces to them the adventure that led to my writing of the 'A Big Blue Boat' books.

The session includes:

- The use of a map and imagery that introduces them to a sailing journey where they learn about rare and extinct animals, ocean life, and the life people on remote islands lead.
- The reading which includes learning the actions for the story and parts of a boat.
- Children and parents are encouraged to join in as I read.
- Children making a boat.
- Q&A
- All activity materials are provided by the author.
- A Big Blue Boat Resource PDF Booklet provided prior to the visit



## Materials Provided by the Library

- A monitor for presenting to larger groups.
- Pencils, textas, crayons, and scissors for the children to use.
- Table for displaying books on sale and for Susea sit for book signing.
- If possible, an area for displaying an A Big Blue Boat quilt.

## The Visit

### A Day on the Brine (1 Hour) (Caters for F-2/3 and F-6 combinations)

A new session focussing on A Day on the Brine has been formatted.

A Day on the Brine is set in Western Australia. The session's focus will be on the Shark Bay region where humpback whales play, whale sharks meander and ancient stromatolites grow.

The activity provided will match the focus of this lesson.

Resource notes aligned to the curriculum for teachers are now available for my webpage.

In addition to sharing my book with the children and parents, my visit introduces to them the adventure that led to my writing of 'A Day on the Brine'.

The session includes:



- The use of a map and imagery that introduces them to a sailing journey in the Indian Ocean and Shark Bay, where they learn about rare and extinct animals and ocean life.
- The reading which includes learning the actions for the story.
- Children and parents are encouraged to join in as I read.
- Making an animal found in *A Day on the Brine*. Activities are age appropriate.
- Q&A

- A Big Blue Boat Resource PDF Booklet provided prior to the visit

Most activity materials are provided by the author.

Materials Provided by the Library: Pencils, textas, crayons, glue and scissors for the children to use.

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Book Prices:

<b>A Big Blue Boat Hard Cover:</b>	<b>\$24.00 RRP</b>
<b>A Big Blue Boat Soft Cover:</b>	<b>\$15.00 RRP</b>
<b>A Day on the Brine:</b>	<b>\$21.99 RRP</b>
<b>Activity Book:</b>	<b>\$15.00 RRP</b>
<b>Captain's Cave</b>	<b>\$19.60 RRP (up to 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2027 when it returns to \$24.99 RRP)</b>
<b>Frog's Tale</b>	<b>\$24.99 RRP (available for pre-order)</b>

Books Available from:

Spray Publications Direct at: 0419818174 or [susea.spray@gmail.com](mailto:susea.spray@gmail.com) or my webpage: <https://suseaspray.com/product-category/books/>

Peter Pal  
ALS Library Services  
James Bennett  
West Books  
Book Stop, Victor Harbor  
The Book Cow, Canberra  
Collins Booksellers, Warrnambool

Time Duration

**1 hour**

Pricing:

The price includes:

- **Teacher Resource Bundle** emailed prior to my visit. The pack caters for grades F-3 and it's possible to adapt activities for years 4-6.
- **Additional extension activities** are provided on the day of the visit.
- **Two signed books** for your library.
- **A 1 hour session.**
- **Delivery of books ordered to the school at no additional cost.**
- **A 'meet and greet' session for parents and teachers before or after school.**
- **Includes travel costs.**
- **Up to 3 sessions per day.**

**\$249 for up to 30 children. There is an additional charge of \$6.99 for each additional child.**

**There are no additional charges or fees, regardless of how many days I come to your venue.**

**NOTE: Prices are subject to change**

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Payment

Payment can be made prior to the visit, on the day of the visit, or within 7 working days after the visit.

A credit card facility is available.

Words from Librarians

“What a fantastic presenter! Susea toured all three of our libraries with her book, A Big Blue Boat, presenting the story with incredible style and skill, then leading the children in an excellent craft. Those in attendance were thoroughly engaged with Susea throughout the session, and we can’t wait to have her back again.”

Penny Evans, Childrens and Youth Services Librarian, Port Macquarie Library

“Susea Spray’s story ‘A Big Blue Boat’ takes children on a wonderful adventure. It’s clever use of rhythm and words that roll off your tongue make it fun to read and listen to. I found that even for children who live a long way from the ocean, that aren’t really familiar with boats, were provided with beautiful imagery to trigger their interest and make them want to read more and to go sailing.’

Having Susea Spray visit our regional library branch, to read the book, talk about her inspiration and do some sailboat craft with the children, was a great treat. Local families were delighted to welcome the author, and the children engaged well with her as she passionately read her book.

Children from infants to primary school students were entertained by this reading and delighted to ask her questions – she certainly spurred some interest in sailing.”

Cassie McKenna, Library Services Coordinator and Youth Services Librarian, Walcha Library

“Kempspey Library patrons really enjoyed our visit from Susea Spray, author of ‘A Big Blue Boat’. Susea had the adults and kids alike enthralled with her stories of her travels around the world in her own big blue boat. They also enjoyed learning sailing actions as we read through her story and sang some songs. Susea made her story even more engaging by incorporating the actions and her real-life experiences. Susea provided a range of craft activities suited to different age groups and the kids went home with something nautical inspired.”

Melanie Webb, Librarian, Kempsey

Words from Children

**'I love the dolphin picture you showed us. I liked making the boat. I mostly liked singing the book.'**

**Year 1 Boy**

**'I like the photos and I liked making the boat and the singing and the rhyming words.'**

**Year 2 Girl**

**'I like the rhyming and how it sounds like a song.'**

**Year 1 Girl**

**I liked that you told us about the things that you saw on your journey and how you made the book feel like you're on the boat.'**

**Year 6 Boy**

Sample of schools, preschools and libraries visited to 2023 - 2024: \* denotes return visits since

Hallet Cove Library (SA)	Robinvale Library (NSW)*	Mittagong Library (NSW)*
Parkholme Library (SA)	Swan Hill Library (Vic)*	Bowral Library (NSW)*
Marion Library (SA)	Echuca Library (Vic)*	Ngunnawal Primary School (ACT)
Walcha Library (NSW)*	Rochester Library (Vic)	St Benedict's Primary School (ACT)
Kempsey Library (NSW)	Kyabram Library (Vic)	St Michael's Primary School Tallangatta (Vic)
Forster Library (NSW)	Cohuna Library (Vic)	Katamatite Primary School (Vic)
Heron's Creek Public School (NSW)	Kerang Library (Vic)	Euroa Library (Vic)
Halliday's Point Library (NSW)	Barham Library (Vic)*	Numurkah Library (Vic)
Picton Public School (NSW)	Mathoura Library (Vic)	Mooroopna Library (Vic)*
Lockhart Central School (NSW)	Avenel Library (Vic)	Rand Public School (NSW)
Ballan Primary School (Vic)*	Tatura Library (Vic)	Snake Valley School (Vic)
Callington Primary School (SA)	Cobram Library (Vic)	Beaufort Library (Vic)*
Murray Bridge Library (SA)*	Strathmerton Primary School (Vic)	Avoca Library (Vic)*
Yankalilla Library (SA)*	Cobram Anglican School (Vic)	Horsham Library (Vic)
Rapid Bay Primary School (SA)	Berrigan Library (NSW)	Navarre Primary School (Pyrenees Cluster) (Vic)
Victor Harbor Library (SA)*	Berrigan Public School	Ararat North Primary School (Vic)
Playford Library (SA)	Conargo Public School (cluster group) (NSW)	Stawell Library (Vic)*
Findon Library (SA)*	Yarrowonga P-12 School (Vic)*	St Arnaud's Library (Vic)
Mount Barker Library (SA)	Lavington Library (NSW)	Buangor Primary School (Vic)
Lameroo Library (SA)	Albury Library (NSW)	Edenhope Library (Vic)
Mildura Library (NSW)*	Middle Indigo School (Vic)	Halls Gap Primary (Vic)
Merbein Library (Vic)*	Goulburn Library (NSW)	Central Yorke School
Karoonda Library (SA)	Shepparton Libraries*	
	Captain's Flat Public School (NSW)	
	The Book Cow (ACT)*	

2025-2027 Sample

Hayman Island State School (Qld)	Macarthur Kindergarten (Vic)	Hayman Is State School (Q)
Edenhope College (Vic)	Bundarra Primary School (Vic)	Yarrowitch Public School (NSW)
Robe Primary School (SA)	Hawkesdale P-12 (Vic)	Walcha Central School (NSW) *
All Saints Parish School (Vic)	Elsa Macloud Kindergarten (Vic)	Mt Gambier Library (SA)*
Dartmoor Primary School (Vic)	Grassmere MARC Van (Vic)	Cassilis Public School (NSW)
Coleraine Primary School (Vic)	Colac West PS (Vic)	Lameroo Area School (NSW)
Mt Burr Primary School (SA)	Laurieton Library (NSW)	Pinnaroo Area School (NSW)
Hillvue Public School (NSW) *	Walcha Preschool (NSW)	Ballan PS (Vic) *
	Sacred Heart PS	Cootamundra Library (NSW)
	Yarrowonga (Vic)	
	Gundagai Library (NSW)	

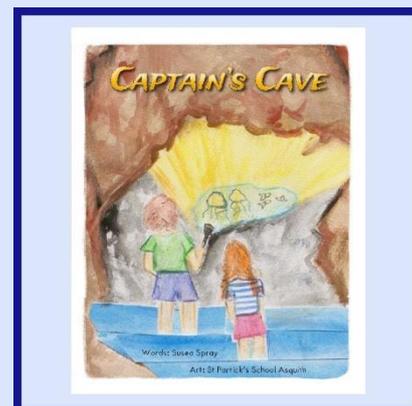


Coming March 27<sup>th</sup> 2026

## A young Captain's Adventure

Illustrated by  
St Patrick's School Asquith

Available for pre-order



A girl. A cave. A mysterious tail. What will she find?

When Captain slips away, adventure-bound, a fleeting glimpse of a mysterious tail leads her and Dad into a magical cave world filled with strange and wonderful creatures.

As curiosity pulls them deeper inside, Captain can't stop wondering, 'What does that mysterious tail belong to?' Will she and Dad discover its secret, or will the cave keep its magic hidden?

This rhyming picture book is a prequel to the *A Big Blue Boat* stories and is written as a playful sing-along that encourages children to join in from the very first page.

Perfect for fans of children's adventure books, rhyming picture books, read-aloud stories, and imaginative exploration, this story celebrates curiosity, family, and the joy of discovery.

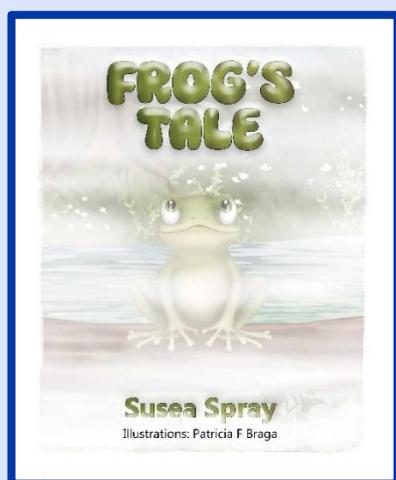
Ideal for ages 3–7.

Perfect for bedtime reading, classrooms, and story time sing-alongs.

## A Froggy Tale

(phonetic fun)

Available for pre-order



**SWOOSH! EEEEEEEE! CLUNK-UNK-UNK!**

A fun read. A teaching tool. A frog's unforgettable flight.

One foggy morning, something *very strange* falls from the sky and Frog's quiet life becomes chaos.

When a mysterious *clog* crashes onto his log, it catapults Frog skyward! From up above, Frog watches in wide-eyed suspense as Hog and Dog panic over a bizarre creature that seems to appear out of nowhere. Is it dangerous? Is it friendly? And what on earth does it have to do with the clog?

As Frog tumbles toward the ground, two big questions remain: Will Frog land safely? And will he ever enjoy a peaceful morning again?

Bursting with onomatopoeia, laugh-out-loud moments, and rhyming text, *Frog's Tale* builds early reading confidence through repeated text, with a strong focus on the 'og' word family, making it a valuable phonics resource for parents, teachers, and educators.

Perfect for reading aloud, phonics fun, and giggle-filled story time, *Frog's Tale* delivers both edge-of-your-seat fun and classroom-ready learning.

Written for ages 3- 6 this humorous, suspenseful, and sneakily educational, *Frog's Tale* is an engaging classroom resource, a go-to story time favourite, and a joyful way to build reading confidence.



Coming 2029-2030



## A Port Macquarie Story

My husband and I first arrived in Port Macquarie in November 2020. Since then, it's become our home away from home and holds a special place in our hearts.



Illustrations commencing  
March 2026 by local  
illustrator Samantha Kate

## A Big Blue Boat Christmas Story

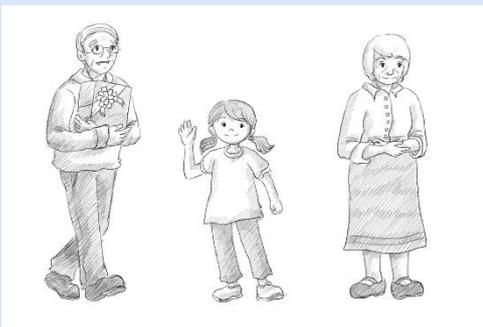
Based upon the Christmas Bob and I spent on a small island opposite Carnarvon in Shark Bay, Captain and her friends must deal with mozzies, gulls and sandflies. Illustrations now underway by Tasmanian illustrator, Jessica Stennings.

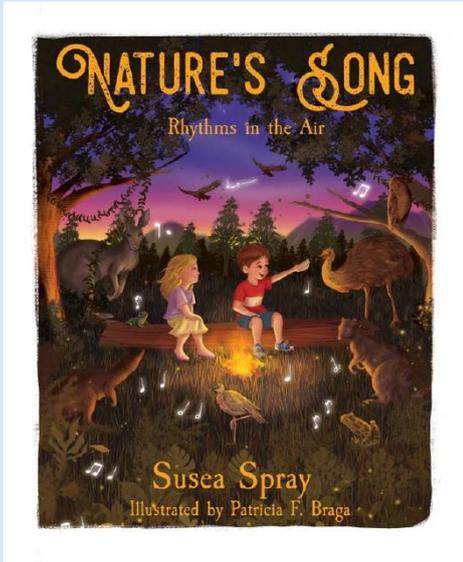


And

Based upon a real-life story, this is a narrative about the special relationship between a girl and her Grampy.

Illustrations underway by illustrator Triandhika Anjani.





Discover the music of the natural world with *Nature's Song*! Join Liz and Leo as they explore the rhythms and sounds around them.

Designed for children aged 1–6, this rhyming picture book encourages young readers to pause, listen, and connect with the beauty of nature through playful onomatopoeia.

With its lyrical text and delightful illustrations, *Nature's Song* supports early literacy, develops listening skills, and nurtures curiosity about the outside world. Perfect for bedtime, school activities, or quiet exploration, this book inspires imagination and a love for music and nature.

Illustrations by Patricia Braga

## A Big Blue Boat Teacher Pack

**\$39.99**  
AUD

1 x Hard Cover



69 pages



9 pages



40 pages



Postage not included

## A Day on the Brine Teacher Pack

**\$31.99**  
AUD

1 x Hard Cover



17 pages



8 pages



27 pages



+ Poster



Postage not included

## Package 2

1 x A Big Blue Boat soft cover  
1 x A Big Blue Boat Activity Book




**\$30 + postage**

## Package 1

1 x A Big Blue Boat hard cover  
1 x A Big Blue Boat Activity Book




**\$36.99 + postage**

## Triple the fun

2x hard cover books  
+ Activity Book

RRP \$61.98





**NOW \$54.18**

postage not included

## A Big Blue Boat Reading Pack

30x soft cover books  
+ Teacher Resource pack  
+ Literacy K-1 Pack  
+ Poetry & Songs







RRP 473.96  
+ postage 29.00

Special Price  
+ free postage **now \$385.00**

## Double the fun

2 hard cover books RRP 46.98



now **\$42.28**

Postage not included

## A Big Blue Boat Reading Pack

6x hard cover books

+Teacher Resource pack

+Literacy K-1 Pack

+Poetry & Songs

+Exploring

A Big Blue Boat



RRP \$166.91  
+ postage \$29.99

with **FREE**  
postage **NOW** **\$149.22**

## A Day on the Brine Reading Pack

6x hard cover books

+ Exploring A Day on the Brine

+Teacher Notes

+Activity Pack

+3 posters to print



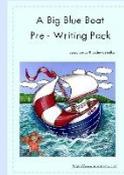
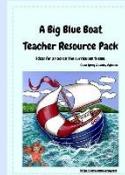
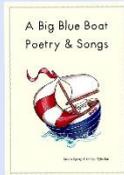
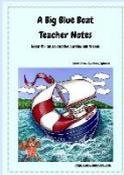
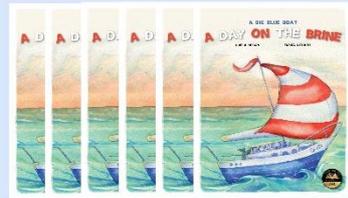
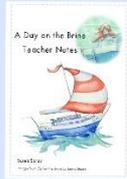
RRP \$150.88  
+ postage 29.95

with **FREE**  
postage **NOW** **\$135.79**

# Special Reading Pack

6x hard cover 'A Day on the Brine'

6x hard cover 'A Big Blue Boat'



9 x Resource & Activity Packs

+7 A3 sized PDF posters to Print



RRP \$347.73

+ postage 18.95

with **FREE** postage **NOW** **\$295.00**