

Susea Spray



Author School Visits



Information Booklet

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Contact Details

Ph: 0419818174

E: susea.spray@gmail.com

W: www.suseaspray.com

Ig: <https://www.instagram.com/suseaspray/>

Ig: <https://www.instagram.com/childrensbookstagramaustralia> (a new initiative for sharing Australian children's books – new and old.)

Working With Children Checks:

South Australia

New South Wales

Victoria

ACT

Queensland: Blue Card application underway

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)

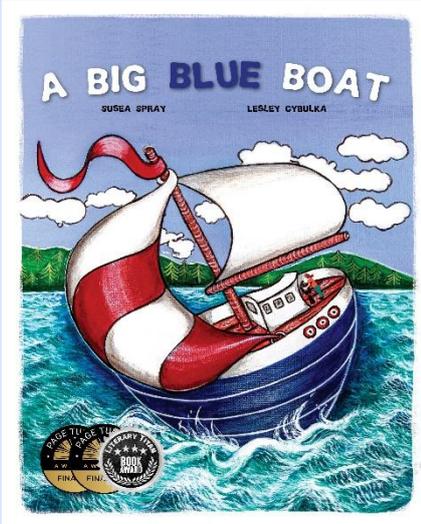
Frog's Tale: Writing Finalist, 2025 Page Turner Awards (coming 2026)

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.



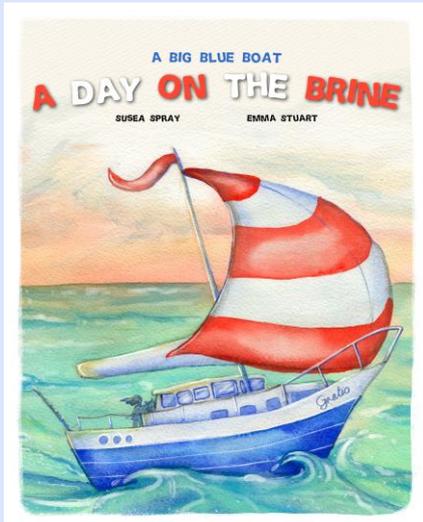
'A simple title for a book that delivers a lot of value in a picture book. The author employs rhyme, alliteration, onomatopoeia, descriptive adjectives, and sentence building to offer a host of learning opportunities.

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

A Big Blue Boat (1 to 1½ hours)

With two sessions to choose from, the first caters for F-2/3 and the F-6 combinations (in small schools).

Go on a sailing and writing adventure through the art of storytelling.

For F-2/3 and F-6 groups, the session includes:

- Using her massive map and photographic imagery, Susea introduces students to her writing and sailing adventure, where they learn about rare and extinct animals, ocean life, and different cultures. Nursery Rhymes and songs adapted to the A Big Blue Boat theme are incorporated and show how much fun can be had when playing with words.
- The reading which includes learning the actions for the story, has students of all ages - even the BIG 'kids' – singing along in no time.



- An age-related activity completes the session. Susea loves watching the innovations students create.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions and make comments throughout the session.

Most materials are provided by the author.

Recommended largest group: 50 (or 2 classes) - I often work with individual class groups.

Thank you so much for coming to us at our tiny little school. Our students were captivated by your stories and the great depth of your knowledge and your fun presentation. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Kyle (principal)

The Visit

A Day on the Brine (1 to 1½ 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.
- Introduction to AUSLAN signs
- 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

Most activity materials are provided by the author.

A Mother's Words: Thank you for coming to our school and giving children like my son inspiration. He came home and told me all about the visit and both my son and daughter read the books to us in the evening using amazing intonation. He was so chuffed to meet you and your books are now in our "special" cabinet next to awards and trophies. Martha

For years 3-6

There are two options to choose from:

Writing Experience Workshop (1-hour session with option to extend to 1 ½ hours – see costs below)

Students are introduced to the writing process via my sailing journey and get to share their own experiences. They are also introduced to the concept that realising a dream may take many paths. The session includes:

- Discussing experiences with reading and writing.
- Sharing the journey that led me to become an author.
- Sharing my writing processes. This includes showing students my works in progress, enlightening them to the process authors go through to bring a work to publication.
- They learn writing doesn't have to be perfect the first time through and 'playing with words' helps to make a better piece of work.
- Looking at books and discussing what works/doesn't work.
- After session writing activity provided for teachers

Word Choice Workshop (1-hour session with option to extend to 1 ½ hours to include a writing activity – see costs below)

Students are introduced to:

- Why word choice is important.
- The steps it takes to get word choice right.
- Getting words working right, doesn't always happen in a straight line.
- Students get to create their own simple rhythmic work using the foundation of an old favourite.

For both sessions:

- Students are encouraged to ask questions and participate throughout the session.
- All activity materials are provided by the author. Students also take home a bookmark, and an additional activity centred around boats is provided.



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For Parents and Staff Members

I offer pre-schools the opportunity to provide for parents and staff members a complimentary 1-hour session where I introduce them to the journey that led to the writing of the A Big Blue Boat books.

The books will be available for purchase and signing after the session.

This can be held before or after school hours.

For Schools

Prior to the visit, the information on how to order from Susea's website will be provided for your school to share with parents and staff who wish to order their copies.

The author will deliver the signed purchased books in bulk on arrival.

This will save parents \$12+ in postage.

Book Prices:

A Big Blue Boat Hard Cover: \$24.99

A Big Blue Boat Soft Cover: \$15.00

A Day on the Brine Hard Cover: \$21.99

Activity Book: \$15.00

Captain's Cave preorder: \$19.60 (special launch price – available for pre-order)

Frog's Tale: \$24.99 (release date, July 1st 2026. Available for pre-order)

Session Duration

1 hour – 1½ hours

Note:

I have vocal issues which I need to monitor and request 1 hour between sessions. For larger schools, I come over several days at no additional cost. The days don't need to be consecutive. This provides my vocal cords the care they require to ensure my author visits are successful.

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Price:

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 to 1½ 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 under 30 students**
 - **\$7.25 per child for 30+ students**

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

NOTE: Prices are subject to change

Payment

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

A credit card facility is available.

Books Available for purchase from:

Spray Publications Direct at: 0419818174 or susea.spray@gmail.com or <https://suseaspray.com/product-category/books/>

Peter Pal

ALS Library Services

James Bennett

West Books

Book Stop, Victor Harbor

The Book Cow – Kingston, Canberra

Collins Bookstore, Warrnambool

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Words from Teachers

Susea's visit to Yarrawonga College was a highlight for all the Prep to Year 2 students. Every student was thoroughly engaged in the sessions, joining in with the actions when Susea read 'A Big Blue Boat' and asking many thoughtful questions when she explained her sailing journey. It was such an integrated hour, which covered aspects of History, Geography, Art as well as English. Susea also provided a multitude of follow up activities in all curriculum areas.

Susea was extremely well planned and organised, so the sessions ran very smoothly. Susea quickly developed a rapport with the students, she made her expectations clear, and she provided constant positive reinforcement ensuring her sessions were enjoyed by all students.

The teachers all raved about her sessions so much that we have invited Susea to come back to our school to work with the Year 3s and 4s.

Thank you Susea and Bob for providing such a rich experience for our students.

Rebecca, Curriculum and Pedagogy Leading Teacher P-6, Yarrawonga College P-12

Susea is a great author who writes interesting and engaging stories. She was able to capture the imagination and attention of my 5/6 class for entire 45minutes. Susea has an incredible ability to not only write but tell her stories as if you were along for the journey with her. We are very grateful to have Susea come to our school and share her career as an author with us. It has inspired our students to become better writers and further their potential.

Taj, teacher: Strathmerton Primary School

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending a 'story time' presentation at The Book Cow Kingston by author, Susea Spray, about her beautiful picture book, *A Big Blue Boat*.

Susea used to be a teacher and it shows. Her presentation was engaging from the start. She spoke to each child like they were the only one there and varied her information and her questions to suit the audience. There was a really effective blend of presentation styles –lecture-style (where Susea talked about the different parts of a boat), questions to the audience, personal anecdotes, singing, interactive components and a story reading. Susea also incorporated large visuals, including enlarged pictures from the book so everyone could see.

What impressed me the most was Susea's ability to tailor her presentation to the interests of the audience and to keep them fully engaged for a full 40 minutes – even the youngest listeners. There was something for everyone in Susea's presentation – from the youngest children (pre-primary) through to Year 6, and adults.

I have attended many book launches, workshops and readings by children's authors over the years, and have to say that Susea Spray's presentation ranks right up the top. If I was still teaching, I would be more than happy to have Susea present to all grade levels, from Preschool and Kindergarten through to Year 6.

Kellie Nissen: Editor, author coach, ex-teacher, www.justrightwords.com.au

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Words from Students

'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 feels like you are on the sea.'

Year 2 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

I love the way it sounds when we read it. Our voices go up and down like the waves.

Year 5

Girl

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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)	

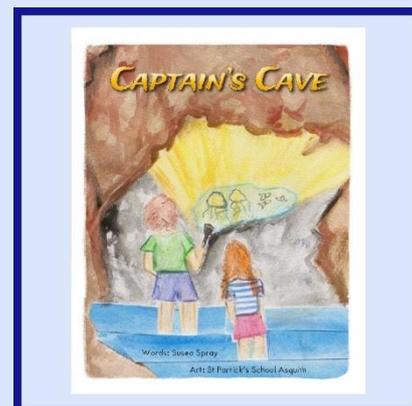


Coming March 27th 2026

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.

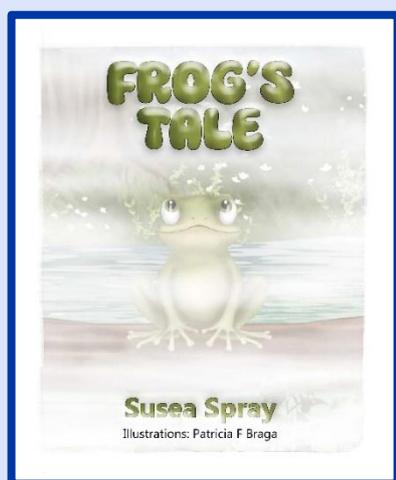
Ideal for ages 3–7.

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

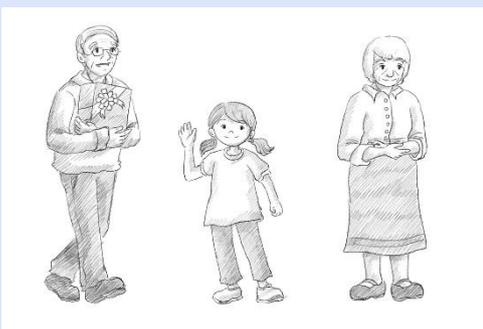
Based upon the Christmas Bob and I spent on a small island opposite Carnarvon in Shark Bay, Captain and her friends must deal with mozzies, gulls and sandflies. Illustrations now underway by Tasmanian illustrator, Jessica Stennings.

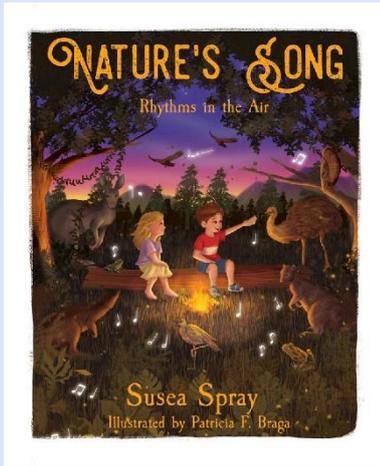


And

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.

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



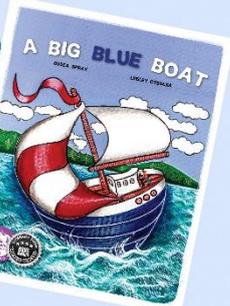
Wahoo
wahoo
(two like
in fact)

Habitus
Wahoo are found in the
Indian, Atlantic and
Pacific Oceans

Postage not included

Package 2

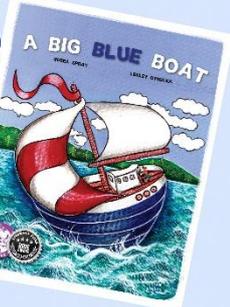
1 x A Big Blue Boat soft cover
1 x A Big Blue Boat Activity Book

\$30 + postage

Package 1

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

\$36.99 + postage

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+ Activity Book

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NOW \$54.18

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+ Poetry & Songs






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+Exploring

A Big Blue Boat



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+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



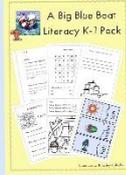
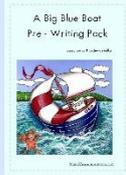
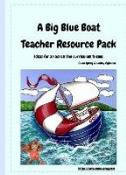
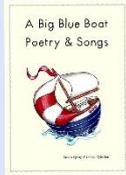
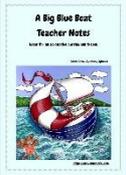
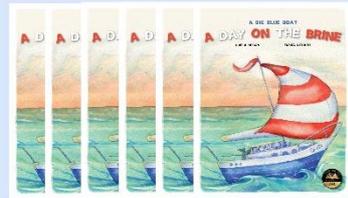
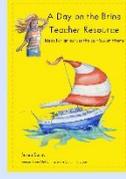
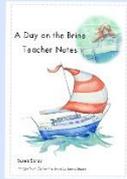
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