



PETAA

PRIMARY ENGLISH TEACHING
ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA
CONTINUAL PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

NEW TITLE
INFORMATION
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Standing on a book Stories from classrooms around Australia

From the forward by Sue Whiting

What a wonderful thing — the human imagination. It is where stories originate, in the imagination of the writer, and where they conclude, in the imagination of the reader. I love the thrill of a new story idea seeding itself in my imagination. It is a tantalising moment of infinite possibilities. And as the initial idea sprouts, characters emerge, and before long my imagination is screening a vivid story–movie in my mind.

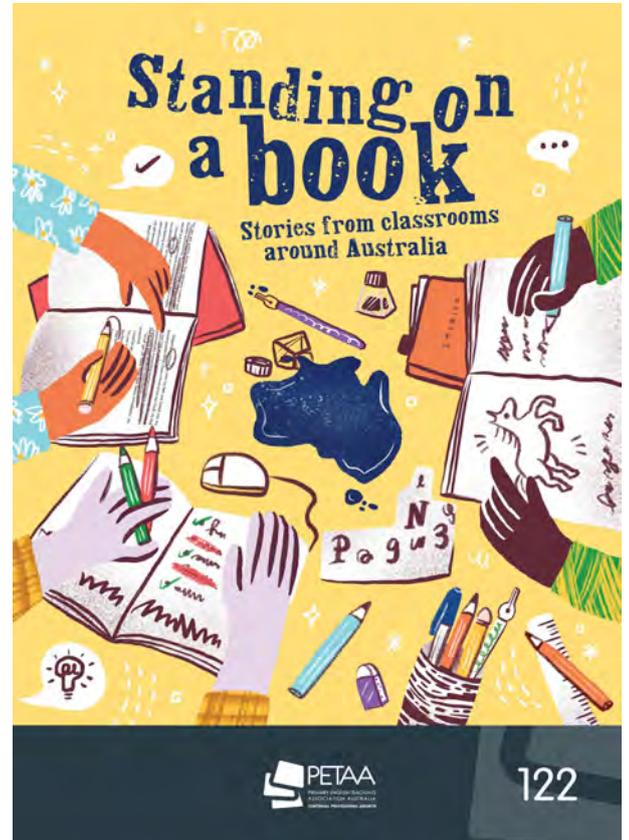
The challenge for writers though — both professional and student — is getting those imagined stories to make the great leap to the page. This is no easy feat; writing is indeed a complex craft. And in order for students to develop this craft and, in doing so, find their own voices, students need regular opportunities to write freely and with purpose and ownership, and to be supported by quality scaffolding in the classroom.

Standing on a book: Stories from classrooms around Australia is a celebration of forty-three young voices, showcasing an abundance of compelling stories, varied experiences and unique perspectives.

Divided into three parts — loosely themed around identity and belonging, fun and fantasy, place and environment — these stories provide a window into the hopes and dreams, worries and fears of Australian youth. The stories have been drawn from writers with diverse interests, experiences and backgrounds, and from across the country: from the remote Kimberley, to rural and farming districts, to sprawling western Sydney. Together, as a collection, they create a rare story collage of youth perspectives.

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The collection is intended to be used as a professional learning tool, to inform teaching practice, aid in lesson planning and support literacy programs. Some stories contain challenging material and may not be suitable for use in all classrooms, but with careful selection, excerpts from the collected stories could provide powerful mentor texts, with their relatable content and voice making the exploration of the writer's craft especially meaningful.



Some stories were drawn from an earlier anthology published by PETAA, titled *Brain storms*. Others were the result of workshops and residencies conducted by WestWords, Western Sydney's Literature Development Organisation. Yet more were contributed by individual teachers.

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