ASHLEIGH BARTON
CHILDREN'S AUTHOR

BIO

Ashleigh is a children's author based in Sydney, NSW. Before writing full time, she worked in some of Australia's biggest publishing houses, running marketing and publicity campaigns for globally renowned authors and illustrators. Ashleigh's work includes picture books, junior fiction and middle grade, and has been recognised on the CBCA Notables list in 2021 and 2023 and the Shortlist in 2022.

PUBLISHED WORK

PICTURE BOOKS

What Do You Call Your Grandpa?
What Do You Call Your Grandma?
What Do You Do to Celebrate?
How Do You Say I Love You?
How Do You Say Hello?
What Do You Call Your Dad?
Dinosaur In My Pocket
Hedgehog or Echidna? (2025)

JUNIOR FICTION

Freddie Spector, Fact Collector: Go for Gold
Freddie Spector, Fact Collector: Space Cadet

MIDDLE GRADE

Solomon Macaroni and the Cousin Catastrophe
Solomon Macaroni and the Vampire Vacation
How to Sail to Somewhere (2025)

AUTHOR TALKS

The Magic of Reading (And Writing)

A broad presentation that looks at how my childhood love of reading and writing turned me into an author, and the different things that inspire my stories.
This interactive presentation can be tailored to any age group and group size. Recommended length: 45-60 minutes.

Great Idea!

Where do story ideas come from? How do you know if an idea is a good one? Find out where inspiration can come from, how to generate ideas and what to do once you've come up with a great one.
This interactive presentation can be tailored to any age group and group size. Recommended length: 45-60 minutes.

Creating Characters

What makes a character memorable? Why are strong characters so important? Discover how to create characters that readers will love (or love to hate) and how to craft a compelling story around them.
This interactive presentation can be tailored to any age group and group size. Recommended length: 45-60 minutes.

Fact Vs Fiction

What's more interesting – true stories or made-up ones? Learn how both fiction and non-fiction can make for super interesting stories, as well as how stories can incorporate both fact and fiction, how true stories can inspire fiction, the importance of research and fact checking, and who or what makes a good source.
This interactive presentation can be tailored to any age group and group size. Recommended length: 45-60 minutes.

Behind the Scenes: How to Make a Picture Book

Ever wondered how a picture book is made? Take a step-by-step look at the process involved in making a picture book and the many people who play a part in getting picture books on shelves.
This interactive presentation can be tailored to any age group and group size. Recommended length: 45-60 minutes.

WRITING WORKSHOPS

CREATIVE WRITING TOOLKIT

A look at all the basic tools you'll need to create an engaging story. This workshop includes multiple exercises and covers generating ideas, creating memorable characters, descriptive language, literary devices, and the key elements every story needs.
This interactive workshop can be tailored to any age group and group size. Recommended length: 60-90 minutes.