

OUR STORY

When I was growing up on a dairy farm in Western Australia, we had limited money to spend but my mother really believed that her daughters could do anything and learning to read was one of the most important achievements to build a successful career. My mother loved the world of books and read to us every day from a range of wonderful material she would access from our small country town library. I am sure she had read almost every book in that library.

Thirty-five years ago, I was lucky enough to work on an assignment about a research project conducted by Olive Meares, who was modelling ideas on how to teach children aged 12+ to read. It documented how many young adults could not read, and how destroying this could be for self-esteem. It also noted the inadequate resources that were being used, as no other books were available.

I decided to try to make a difference – to give every child the opportunity to learn to read. Sunshine Books was born.

I began with small beginnings from an old house with a small team, many of them are with me today. We gathered some of the best children's books authors and illustrators. We ran workshops. We analysed books that had made a difference to reading success. We looked at why some books didn't work for children. We had a lot of fun exploring all aspects of publishing and what makes a book one that will help any child learn to read.

We invented our own font – the Sunshine type style. We learnt from many educators the value of illustrations that matched the print. We focused on concepts of print – return sweep, punctuation and matching one-to-one.

I went into classrooms and did my apprenticeship, learning how reading was taught to foundation level students as well as to the older students.

Sunshine readers launched with the Classics we have today. Many million copies have sold around the world. They still offer the same benefits – carefully graded, great stories, engaging illustrations and the magic of a story that has a beginning, middle and end, often with a twist.

Over three generations of students have grown up with Sunshine readers. We have continued to add new titles and quality non-fiction as well as providing the added value of online learning and activities.



Where Sunshine books are found in classrooms



At the beginning – Bruce Wallace, Art Director, Joy Cowley, world-famous author and Wendy Pye.



Super Reader



Cambodia



Samoa



China – Junior High School samples



Denmark



A gathering of illustrators, authors and the Sunshine team in 1987.

Now in 2019

Due to demand, we are bringing back some of the stories that have been favourites in the classroom for take-home resources. These have been given a face lift with up-to-date material and new design. They have been levelled for your book boxes. We have added some notes for parents and caregivers on the inside back of each book. The packs of 70 titles (Levels 3–13) are offered at a special price to make them available to meet budgets – \$199.00 for 70 titles.

Thank you for being part of the Sunshine family. We know that with the new generation of learners beginning school this year and the older students enjoying the higher grades, Sunshine will still be part of their learning.

Our motto of *Teaching the World to Read* has been our inspiration at Sunshine Books.



Dame Wendy Pye