

As a teacher librarian in the Australian education system, it is my professional responsibility to ensure that our children grow up with the very best in Australian literature so they can learn to read and read to learn using the finest stories available ... stories which reflect the Australian landscape, the Australian people, the Australian culture, the Australian values and the Australian language. Stories written by Australians for Australians.

As a parent and grandparent, it is a personal passion that my offspring know, understand and value the richness of our literary heritage and the potential of those yet to write.

As an author, it is my livelihood that depends on my Australian publishers paying me the full royalties in my contract regularly and on time.

It would be an outrage if multi-national publishers and booksellers are allowed to feed their shareholders' greed at the expense of Australia's readers, which is the only outcome of this proposal. Books are bought because people love to read and they want their children to share the pleasure too - not because of a price tag.

If we want our children to be Americanised we can send them to the movies or let them watch television. So leave our books, our authors and their livelihoods alone.

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Together we learn from each other