

As a writer, I am acutely aware of the cost of books in Australia. I am also dismayed by how difficult it is for local authors to get published and to have their books marketed and placed in local bookshops. My greatest concern, however, is the way that the Australian culture is being undermined, particularly by America. The accents of young Australians have become Americanised, we have taken American customs, including Hallowe'en, and more and more young people have aspirations to look and sound like Americans. This is all because of the deluge of American culture through TV and films.

To have American style books with their language and spelling would act like a foundation stone to this already rampant cultural imperialism and allowing books from other countries is only going to make this whole thing inevitable, rather than something that might be a bit of a worry.

I don't know about you, but every time I hear some American kid in a TV ad telling me that "Mommy says this" or puts a "diaper" on her dolly, or plays some "spelling" game designed to teach children their "colors", I feel just a little bit less Australian. I don't mean this submission to be an exercise in jingoism, just a note from someone who wants her grandchildren to speak Strine.

Amanda le Bas de Plumetot