

## ABOUT *I LOVE YOU BOOK*

Already short-listed for NSW Society of Women Authors' Biennial Award 2011

In bringing *I Love You Book* to life, Libby Hathorn was inspired by a trip to Papua New Guinea where she witnessed a presentation by some parents who had only just learned to read themselves. "It brought home to me the power of reading itself, as it opens you up to the world; and the potential of literacy to open minds and hearts, simply through books being placed in someone's hands." She then searched for a likely illustrator and together with her publisher at Interactive Publications chose Heath McKenzie because of his lively style.



Beginning with the line 'I love you book, I love your papery smell', the reader is taken on an olfactory, audio and very tactile journey, with the 'rustle-bustle' of its pages, its 'short-long words' and 'dots and commas performing every page'. Through Heath's lively illustrations, Hathorn continues the journey expounding the life of a book and the places it can take you, through fairy tales and beyond to a 'busy, dizzy place' and the world of imagination.

Although *I Love You Book* is a homage to the book itself, Hathorn is positive about the changing landscape of the paper world. She says the digital world is "a place of

headlong change and much excitement”. As reading habits change, readers (especially young readers) approach learning in different ways. But it’s never going to be a world where the book itself doesn’t afford its own pleasures.

*I Love You Book* also features homage to well-known children’s tales like *Where the Wild Things Are* and *Cinderella*; as well as the best methods for moving, ‘in and out of magic lands’, by reading ‘out loud’ and letting your skin shiver with a ‘ting-a-ling’.

Think about this. *I Love You Book* can be looked at, held, stroked and cuddled-up-close-and read-together, a certain weight and shape and texture in your hands.

Reviews:

<http://content.boomerangbooks.com.au/kids-book-capers-blog/i-love-you-book/2011/04>

<http://buzzwordsmagazine.blogspot.com/2011/04/i-love-you-book.html>

<http://bugreviews.wordpress.com/2011/03/16/i-love-you-book/>

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Libby Hathorn is an award-winning author of more than fifty books for children and young people. Her books have been translated into several languages and adapted for stage and screen and her work has won honours in Australia, United States, United Kingdom and Holland. She was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003. Libby’s latest stories include *Fire Song*, (ABC Books, 2009) which was highly commended in The Prime Minister’s Literary Awards 2010; *The ABC Book of Australian Poetry; a treasury for young people* (ABC Books 2010) and *Zahara’s Rose* (IP Kidz, 2009). She is working on a new young adult novel set in Australia and France, and with her State Library of NSW she is developing on a poem-a-day concept for 2012.

[www.libbyhathorn.com](http://www.libbyhathorn.com)

[www.libby-hathorn.blogspot.com](http://www.libby-hathorn.blogspot.com)

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



Heath McKenzie is a best-selling illustrator who has been involved in well over 200 projects since first being allowed to draw for a living! He particularly enjoyed drawing the images in *I Love You Book*, as what better way to celebrate his love for what he does than by drawing pictures about the very thing that allows him to do it! (Books... hmm, was that confusing?!)

<http://heathmck.com>

**NOTES FOR THE YOUNG READER AND TEACHERS,  
PARENTS AND FRIENDS  
ON *I LOVE YOU BOOK***

**These notes were specially written by Libby Hathorn**

**1. Favourite Book(s)**

Make a list of three books you like. Put down the title and the author and the illustrator (if there is one) of each book. Now say why you like that book best of all.

Book 1. Title: Author: Illustrator:

I like this book because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Book 2. Title: Author: Illustrator:

I like this book because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Book 3. Title: Author: Illustrator:

I like this book because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Make a Family Tree of Favourite Books.

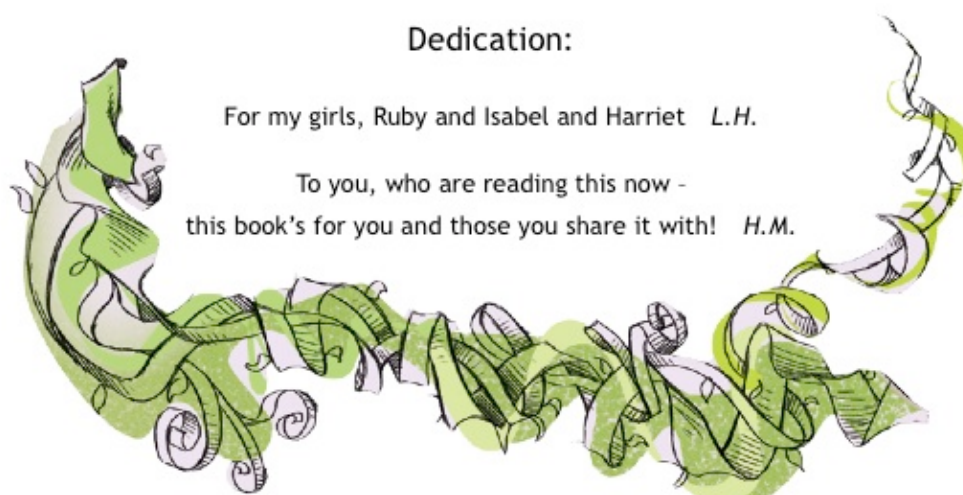
Draw a tree and hang your 'books' from the branches. Draw the covers of the books with their titles and authors shown. For your tree picture, you could use the double page with Heath's great drawing of a tree. That's the one that reads: 'Or the time you said, "Imagine!" and we climbed that tree so high.'



Ask parents and relatives about books and stories they loved when they were young. With the covers of these books drawn on small pieces of paper, you can then attach them to the branches. Put your book tree on show!

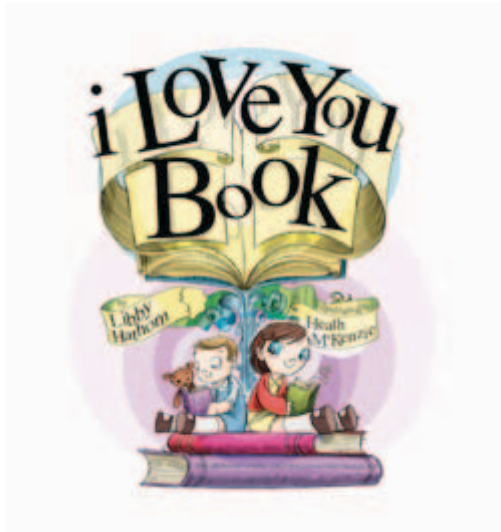
## 3. Write a Dedication

A dedication is the naming of someone for whom you wrote the book. The author Libby Hathorn has written a dedication to her grandchildren Ruby and Isabel. The artist Heath McKenzie has written a dedication to every reader who picks up *I Love You Book*.





Design a book cover for a book you'd like to write. It could be an adventure book, a family story, a fantasy or a book about something real (e.g. animals).



Put down a title for the book, for example, 'A very Mysterious Journey' or 'Dogs I'd Like to Own'. Now add your own name as the author and the name of someone who could be the illustrator for it.

On the back of your book jacket write your own dedication. You can dedicate your book to a family member or a friend.

You have the cover so now you could begin writing your own book!

## 4. Favourite Illustration

The artist Heath McKenzie has done lively drawings for this book. Choose the page you like best and write down why you specially like that illustration.





## 5. Fuzzy the Bear

The artist Heath McKenzie has put a little fuzzy bear on most of the pages. Count the number of times Heath has drawn Fuzzy. Now see if you can draw a picture of Fuzzy in one of the exciting lands he visits with the two children. And yes, you could write your own story about what happens there.

## **6. Famous Authors**

Do some research on a famous Australian author. Find out the names of his or her most famous books.

Find out where the author lived and why he or she might have written some of the books they did. You could do the same with a famous Australian poet and a famous Australian illustrator. Present it as a Powerpoint slide show.

## **7. Make a Poster**

Make an *I Love You Book* river poster to put up on the classroom wall. Put all the names of the book each child in the class likes, right along the river.

You might like to read some of the books other children have recommended. Some books might be put up more than once. See which is the favourite book for the class.

## **8. Read with a Friend**

Read and show *I Love You Book* to a younger child. Let the child study the drawings and tell you what they think might happen next!

## **9. Make a Bookmark**

Make a bookmark that has the names of books you like and their authors.

## **10. Present a Play**

In a group act out a part or all of the book, *I Love You Book* and put on the play for others.