

LETTER TO THE CHILDREN OF AUSTRALIA  
FROM THE NEW AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S LAUREATE

# URSULA DUBOSARSKY

**D**ear children and readers everywhere,

My name is Ursula Dubosarsky and I write books for children. And I am very excited to tell you that I am the new Australian Children's Laureate.

That means all through 2020-2021, my job is to do everything I can to encourage children to love reading. My trusty friend the Laureate Magpie, is going to help me. My slogan for the two years is "Read For Your Life."

Now we are living through a strange and special time in the life of the earth, because of the coronavirus. Nobody was expecting it. Libraries and bookshops, where there are shelves of books just waiting to be read, are closed. Children all over the world are having to stay at home and not go to school.

So how are you children going to find the books you need to keep on reading? You may have books at home, if you are lucky. You can borrow books from friends and family. You can watch people reading books aloud on the internet (even me!). You can buy books online or over the phone from bookshops, who will have them delivered to your home.

But did you know that although the buildings are closed, you can still borrow books - for free - from your local public library? You can join your local library online get your very own library card to borrow books with. The books will be digital or audio, but they are great to read and this way you will never run out of books!

We are all waiting until things are safe again. It is hard to wait, but how wonderful to think of all the stories that children like you, all over the world, will be reading in the meantime.

Until soon, your friend,

*Ursula* (and Magpie)

*Together, with hundreds, thousands of books,  
Millions of shining lights, like stars in the sky*

From *Midnight at the Library*

URSULA SAYS  
JOIN THE  
LIBRARY!