



## What Gecko Press can offer to people during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Gecko Press has many resources available on our website at the links below, and these are continually being updated. You can also search by title for extracts from books and Q&As with particular authors and illustrators.

[Activity sheets](#) for drawing and writing activities based on Gecko Press books.

[Teaching notes](#).

[Gecko Press YouTube channel](#) for read-alouds, author/illustrator interviews and trailers.

At our [Curiously Good Book Club](#), we have discussion and information about children's books, including blog posts, book lists, and author/illustrator interviews. Sign up to our [monthly newsletter](#) to receive this by email.

Our ebooks are available through all the usual channels – all of our novels and chapter books are available as ebooks and many picture books too.

Follow Gecko Press on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [TikTok](#) where we share news and links, and where we'll be promoting an array of virtual events, resources and discussions. Please tag us when you find or share good content.

Follow authors and illustrators on social media, where many are sharing readings, activities and interviews. It's never been a better time to follow your favourite authors – and to try some new ones.

### Storytime, Reading and Virtual Book Promotion Guidelines

*The guidelines below from our partners at Walker Books Australia should be used for Gecko Press books.*

#### I'm a teacher/librarian/educator, what can I do?

Gecko Press along with Walker Books Australia want to encourage reading and classroom read-aloud experiences, and to support schools and public libraries dealing with the escalating COVID-19 outbreak, and are permitting teachers, librarians and

booksellers to create and share story time and read-aloud videos, in accordance with the following guidelines:

**For teachers and other educators** providing distance learning to students in a virtual classroom setting:

- **Story time or classroom read-aloud videos may be created and posted to closed educational platforms** to replicate the read-aloud book experience including illustration display (for picture books) that would otherwise be available in the classroom.
- *Sharing:* If a teacher or educator plans to share a story time video on a closed educational platform or YouTube, please note the timing requirement and that if uploading a video to a YouTube channel and posting a link to that video inside a closed educational platform, the video must be designated as “Unlisted” (not “Public”) when uploading.
- *Timing:* story time and classroom read-aloud videos may be hosted on the educational platform and/or YouTube (as an “Unlisted” file) *until the end of the current school year*, after which they should be removed from the educational platform and/or from YouTube, unless this permission is extended for the next school term.

**For booksellers and librarians** who wish to provide a story time reading or other read-aloud experience to those who would otherwise visit the library or bookshop in person:

- **Story time or read-aloud live events** in which a Gecko Press title is read out loud and the book is displayed (for picture books) may be streamed live, **in real time**, on social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook Live, Twitter, and Instagram. Please use technology that does not allow the video content you are creating to be downloaded by the public. It may be necessary to adjust the default settings to prevent users from downloading your broadcast.
- All libraries may deliver their story time or read-aloud live events online, through a digital platform, such as Facebook Video, Youtube, Instagram, etc. They may either be live streamed or recordings may be made available online, provided they are non-downloadable to the public. If practicable, the live stream or recordings should be made available only to library patrons who have signed in to access their library’s website.
- This policy is temporary and will remain in force whilst COVID-19 remains as a WHO-declared pandemic only, following which, libraries agree to destroy all recordings, and take down any online recordings, including locating and deleting the recorded live video in your account (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) as these platforms automatically archive live events by default.

- All libraries agree to provide bibliographic details of the featured book with any published recording of a story time or read-aloud live event, including the title, author, illustrator and publisher.
- Please acknowledge the book's title, author, illustrator, translator and the publisher at the start of your reading.
- When you're streaming or posting, please tag authors, illustrators and publishers where practical so that they can connect with your audience too.
- Please ensure you set videos as 'made for kids' as this will meet YouTube requirements for compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) and/or other laws. This can be done at a channel and specific video setting level.

### Reporting requirements

We kindly request that all teachers/educators, librarians and booksellers notify us via email to **office@geckopress.com** when you post or stream a story time or read-aloud video or live event, providing the following information and heading your email Storytime Reading Temporary Licence:

- Name and address of the school, library or book shop
- Title, author and ISBN of the book that is read
- Contact information for the individual responsible for the reading
- The educational or social media platform on which the video or live event is posted or held and a link to that video or live event
- Whether this reading will be live or on a closed platform

### I'm an author/illustrator, what can I do?

- **Read your books/extracts of your book to camera and share these on social channels.** As a publisher, we encourage authors to do this if they're comfortable, and will boost and share these on the Gecko Press channels as we can. Tag us or message us to let us know they're available. *Please make sure these are shared on social media for a limited period rather than sharing permanently.*

Options for sharing include:

*Instagram Live* – Instructions on how to use Instagram Live videos are [here](#). We suggest that you promote your planned time to do a reading on Instagram live across your channels in advance, and then ensure the video is available to view after the live moment too, to encourage as many viewers have access as possible, for the limited time the video is available. It would be worth considering changing your link in your Instagram bio to direct those on your

page to buy links for the book you're reading from. We'd encourage using a selection of retailers – see more below on supporting bookshops!

*Facebook Live* – More info on Facebook live [here](#). Similarly, promote this in advance and include buy links on your page. Make sure if you're planning on running a Facebook Live that you set up a public page as an author rather than attempting to broadcast from a personal page.

- **Collaborate with bookshops doing virtual reading and online story times.** Follow your favourite shops on social media to see what they are doing and whether you can contribute, internationally as well as locally. For example, Waterstones UK have asked for films from authors and illustrators for their online story time: read-alouds of excerpts or live illustrations, under 5 minutes, landscape format. Example [here](#). Contact us if you would like to offer something to Waterstones.
- **Virtual guest bookselling** Contact your local bookshop to support their social media for a period of time and offer your recommendations to their customers.

### **I'm a parent, what can I do?**

We encourage you to take a look at the multitude of existing resources available – while we understand the desire to support home learning, and entertain those who are at home self-isolating, we cannot grant permissions for every individual to share readings of entire stories for free on their personal channels. We are also encouraging authors to share their own stories online and for book shops to replicate live events for members of the public.

It goes without saying that we encourage you, if you are able, to support book retailers by ordering authors' books – physical or digital. And please do share Gecko Press links and newsletters with anyone you know who loves children's books and want to stay in touch.

**[For more information or to request permission email office@geckopress.com](mailto:office@geckopress.com)**

Best wishes to all from

Julia, Rachel, Shona, Sarah and Emma, Gecko Press

Last updated: 31/08/2021