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Australian celebs share outstanding children's picture books during *Play School's new series Story Time*

In celebration of Children's Book Week, 2017, production has started on *Play School's Story Time*, a delightful new *Play School* series featuring some of Australia's much loved celebrities as they snuggle up on the couch and read entertaining picture books written by Australian authors.

The 2017 Gold Logie winner Samuel Johnson, comedian Rove McManus, yellow Wiggle Emma Watkins, family favourite Grant Denyer, ABC's 7.30 host Leigh Sales and playwright and actor Nakkiah Lui will take a seat to read one of six picture books. They will be accompanied by *Play School* toys Big Ted, Little Ted, Jemima, Humpty and Joey.

During each episode the Magic Story Drawer will pop open to reveal a special clue leading to the book of the day. Following this discovery, the presenter will then make themselves comfy on the couch next to their favourite *Play School* toy and begin to read.

The six books, selected from The Children's Book Council of Australia's Notables Book List, include *Zelda's Big Adventure* by Marie Alafaci and illustrated by Shane McG, *Pig the Winner* by Aaron Blabey, *Snail and Turtle Rainy Days* by Stephen Michael King, *Ducks Away* by Mem Fox and Judy Horacek, *Goodnight, Mice!* by Frances Watts and Judy Watson, and *Where is Bear?* by Jonathan Bentley.

"*Play School's* 50th celebrity covers were an enormous hit with families so it was only fitting that we ask a few more of Australia's favourite celebrities to come on board for this special new series. Bringing children and grownups together with inspiring, entertaining, and educational Australian stories is at the forefront of ABC Children's objectives, and we're thrilled to offer this series in celebration of 2017's Children's Book Week," said Michael Carrington, Head of Children's at ABC Television.

Produced by ABC Children's, *Play School's Story Time* is a 6 x 5minute series which will air during the 2017 Children's Book Week. The series will screen daily on ABC KIDS and ABC KIDS iview from Sunday August 20 at 5.45pm. **#StoryTimeABCKIDS**

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