

# Susanne Gervay OAM

Shares story, inspires and connects to young people and adults

*'A moving and wonderful experience.' ... 'A very interesting and fantastically creative author' ...*

*'Interesting, engaging and funny.'* **Australian School Library Association Conference**

*'Susanne is an inspiring speaker ... she eloquently addressed Salisbury students and lectures*

*....Instigating invaluable discussion well beyond her talk.'*

**Professor Dr Ernie Bond, Chair Teacher Education Salisbury University Maryland USA.**

## AUSTRALIA'S ENGAGEMENT WITH ASIA: with 'Elephants Have Wings' – Harmony Day- K-6

(ACARA Cross curriculum priority F-10)

*'The riches of tradition, mythology and spirituality are woven into a wonderful tapestry, beautifully captured by Anna Pignataro's imagination in the outstanding pictures, intertwined with imagery of the Asia and India where the story first originated.'* - Barbara Braxton, Teacher Librarian, Dromkeen Librarian's Award



*'Elephants Have wings militates against many stereotypes around the discourse of children's literature. It proves once and for all that children's literature need not be childish. Great ideas and complex thoughts need not adopt complex mode of polarisation and a grave bearing. The book demonstrates with great power that we can teach our children profound truths and timeless values through a language they can easily access'* - D.R. Pattanaik Professor of English, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India

Linking to the National Curricula:

[Human Society and its Environment- Geography](#)

[A Diverse and Connected World Stage 3](#)

[Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia](#)

**For National Curriculum Key: F-12**

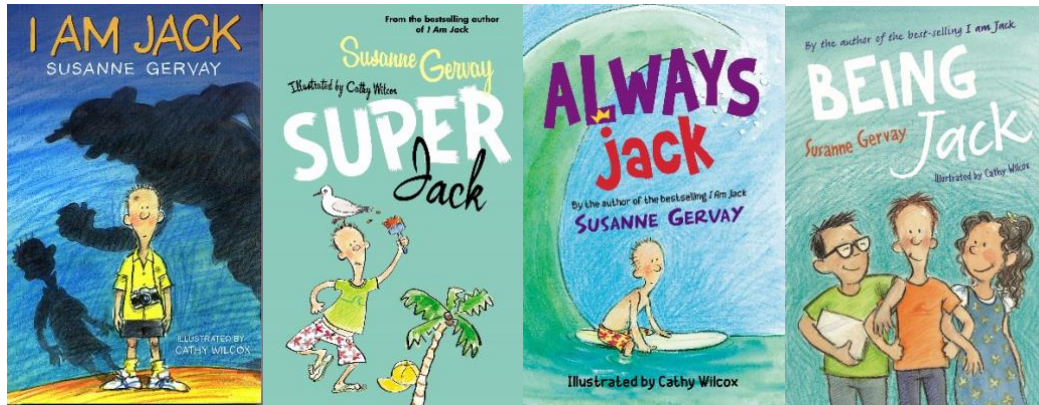
- \* Engagement with Asia, History & The Past: General Interest (Children's /YA, People & Places F-12)
- \* Personal & Social Issues: Inclusion, Harmony, Multicultural.
- \* Civics & Citizenship. Difference & Diversity.
- \* Prose & Visual Literacy.
- \* Critical & Creative Thinking, Intercultural Understanding.

# NO bullying. NO Excuses. NO Reason. NO Way!

## School Bullying to Cyber Bullying with 'I Am Jack'

Years 3-7

*'Susanne Gervay's I AM JACK is a significant resource for parents, students and teachers. School bullying can have a devastating effect on a child and the school community. It can happen to anyone. Through story journey I AM JACK emotionally engages the bullied, bully, other children, teachers, parents exploring ways to create a safer place.'*



### It can happen to anyone.

Bullying is insidious. It is not one great dramatic incident. It is a gradual process of victimization where the child becomes more and more isolated and afraid and the bully gets more and more aggressive, strengthened through group support and lack of adult action.

### BULLYING HURTS KIDS through:

- Depression
- Low self esteem
- Failure at schoolwork
- Children's experience of fear
- Isolation and loneliness
- The bullied learns to become a victim
- The bully learns the success of aggression
- The bystander feels the world is unsafe

A specialist in child growth & development committed to changing bullying culture, Susanne Gervay speaks about the 'I Am Jack' books to engender change. The 'I Am Jack' books are endorsed by Life Education, Room to Read, Alannah & Madeline Foundation, anti-school bullying programs and studied widely in schools.

*FOR NATIONAL CURRICULUM KEY: F-8, GENERAL INTEREST (CHILDREN'S, PEOPLE & PLACES F-8), PERSONAL & SOCIAL ISSUES: INCLUSION, HARMONY, MULTICULTURAL. CIVICS & CITIZENSHIP. DIFFERENCE & DIVERSITY. PROSE & VISUAL LITERACY. CRITICAL & CREATIVE THINKING, INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING, HEALTH & WELL BEING.*

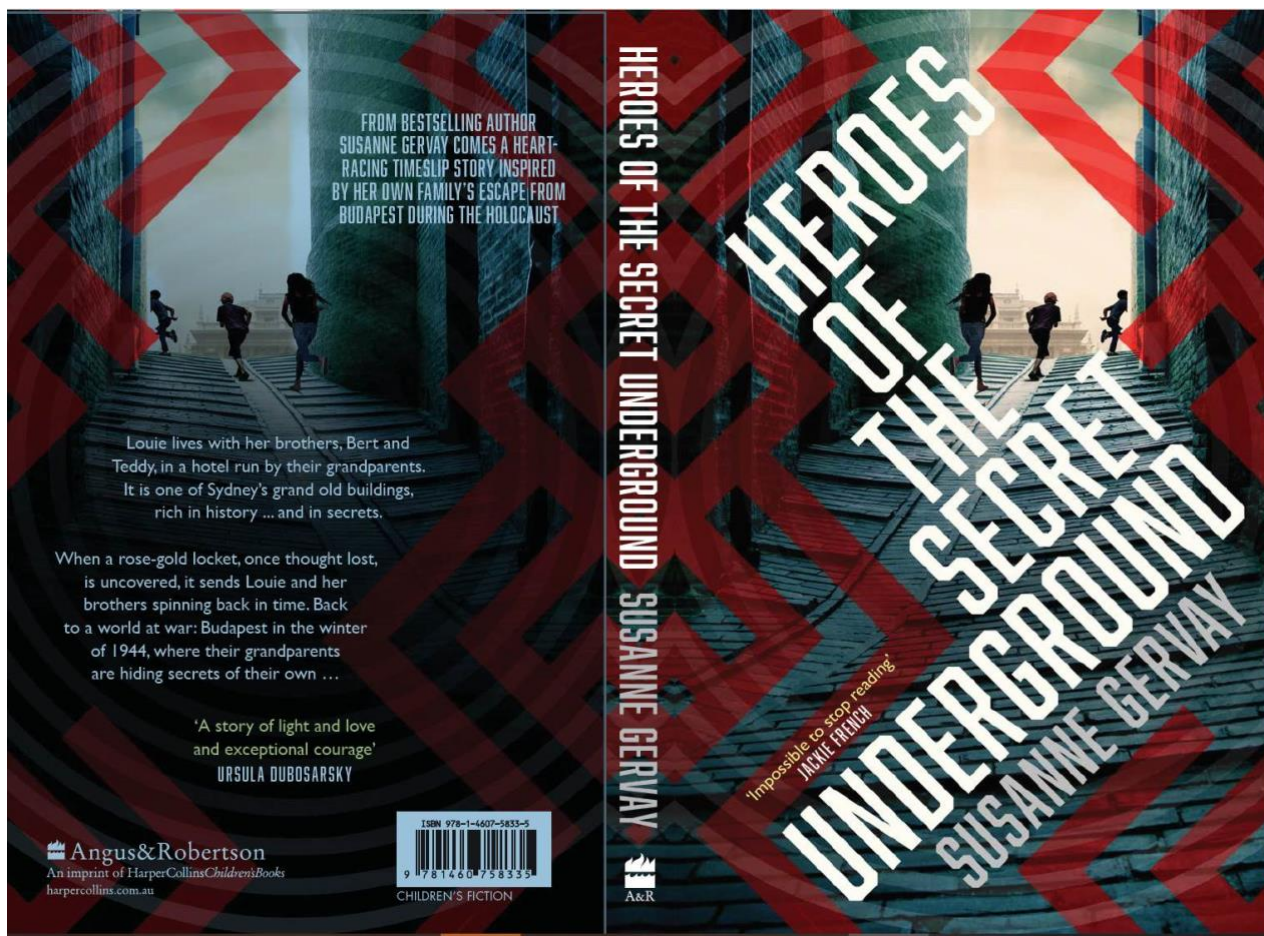
More information: <http://www.sgervay.com/about/say-no-to-bullying-i-am-jack/>

<http://www.sgervay.com/i-am-jack-series>

## Autobiography, History, Philosophy & Fantasy

### Heroes of the Secret Underground

Upper primary – Junior Secondary



'Leonard Cohen wrote, 'There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in.' His songs deeply inspired me, as I sought to find the crack and the light. So that young people know there is always light and hope for the future because they are heroes.' Susanne Gervay

'This book will enchant you with its mystery, excitement, adventure, and the extraordinary courage of its characters. It will be impossible to stop reading, and when you finish the book you'll find the insights and compassion stay with you always, as do those you have met within its pages. As Susanne weaves in stories from her family's secrets, she writes about the essence of humanity.'  
*Jackie French AM Australian Laureate 2014-2015 Senior Australian of the Year*

'This is a personal story that has huge meaning to all of us, beginning in a beautiful safe world which turns suddenly to chaos and terror. A child discovers for herself that there is history that can't be hidden - it cries out in the darkness of secrets. But it's also a story of light and love and exceptional courage.' Ursula Dubosarsky

#### Key Learning Outcomes

ACELA1500, ACELA1489, ACELT1603, ACELT1607, ACELT1608, ACELY1694, ACELY1700

#### Key Concepts

Bravery, Family history, World history, Racism, Identity, Acts of kindness, Justice

## Young Adult Books – years 8 – 12

Presentation on young adult literature – the inspiration, craft, research, relevance, application to across the curricula in areas such as drama, art, technology, music, PDPHE, ethics, disability, gender equity, multi-culturalism.

'That's Why I Wrote This Song'; 'The Cave'; 'Butterflies'; Shadows of Olive Trees



## Picture Book & Visual Literacy Presentation – K to 12

Presentations on picture books and the integration of narrative of text and illustrations, visual literacy, multi dimensional themes.

### Gracie and Josh – Inclusion & Disability – pre-school to year 2

- with song 'Incy Wincy Spider', drama, literary and visual interpretation of 'Gracie and Josh', exploring sibling relationships, inclusion.

### Ships in the Field Presentation – Immigration and Refugees – years 3-6

- literary and visual journey of refugees finding a new home, universal context, historical and current, ethics, translating autobiographical into fictional text and illustrations.

### The Boy in the Big Blue Glasses – Inclusion & Vision - K-2

- Sight Matters endorsed by Vision Australia, part of World Vision 2020. 1 in 5 children suffer from undetected vision problems. Self esteem, inclusion, recognising difference



Teacher Notes and Curricula links on Susanne's website – [www.sgervay.com](http://www.sgervay.com)

Social Media:- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/sgervay>

Twitter- <https://twitter.com/sgervay>

Instagram - [https://instagram.com/susanne\\_gervay/](https://instagram.com/susanne_gervay/)

Youtube - <https://www.youtube.com/user/sgervay>



## Susanne Gervay OAM

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

Susanne is an international and National speaker who has addressed audiences from New York to Delhi on the power of story to create discussion in diverse areas including disability, multiculturalism, bullying, inclusion, peace.

- Lifetime Social Justice Literature Award for Children's Literature by the International Literacy Association
- Order of Australia for children's literature
- Nominee Astrid Lindgren Memorial award
- Lady Cutler Award for Distinguished Services to Children's Literature
- Award of Excellence for Services to the Arts, University of Technology Sydney
- Outstanding Youth Literature on Disability, IBBY for YA novel 'Butterflies'
- Awards, short listings, notables for her books from many organisations including The Society of Women Writers, Children's Book Council Australia, The Australian Family Therapists' Award for Children's Literature, Children's Peace Literature Award.
- Her books are widely endorsed by organisations including, Variety the children's charity, The Blake Prize, The Cancer Council, Life Education, The Alannah & Madeline Foundation, The Children's Hospital (Westmead), Courage to Care, anti-bullying organisations in Australia and the US.
- The *I Am Jack* books have become rite-of-passage on school bullying and has been adapted into an acclaimed play by Monkey Baa Theatre, touring Australian and US theatres.
- Her books have been translated into a number of languages including Turkish, Bahasa, Korean and Indonesian
- Ambassador for the Premiers Reading Challenge NSW
- Patron of Monkey Baa Theatre
- Regional Advisor for Society of Children's Book Illustrators Australia East & New Zealand
- Former Chair of the board of the NSW Writers Centre
- Role Model for Books in Homes
- Writing Ambassador for Room to Read

**erry Gestier, Kambala Girls School, Rose Bay**

*"We loved having you with us. Emotion was so much a part of your sessions as you shared what led you to write your books. You helped us affirm why teacher librarians do what we do and we appreciate that enormously."*

**Jodie Pascale, Meriden Girls Grammar, Strathfield**

*"The girls had a ball, they were...affected by your presentation. They enjoyed it so much and it really struck a chord with them. Thank you."*

**Lisa Turner, Curl Curl North Public**

*"Brilliant performance. You speak as you write – from the heart. The children were incredibly engaged and all identified with the stories you were telling; either as a victim, bully or bystander."*

**Chris Palamara, Father John Thierry Primary, Balmain**

*"An amazing visit. Your message clearly touched our students. Thank you!"*