

## Writing to Make A Better World

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***“You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view... Until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it.” Atticus Finch.  
— Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird***

*Susanne is one of Australia's most respected authors, writing about issues affecting women and children. Sunday Telegraph.*

*Author Susanne Gervay provides an insight into the complex and exciting times of growing up and family relationships. The Sun-Herald*

Emotionally engaging in story, can be a pathway to making a better world.

Susanne Gervay's books range from picture books to young adult books and are endorsed by associations including The Cancer Council, Life Education Australia, The Alannah & Madeline Foundation, keeping children safe from violence; The Children's Hospital Westmead (Sydney), Room to Read, IBBY, Variety, the children's charity and schools and educational organisations across Australia.

### Pictures Books

***Ships in the Field – refugees, Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 15.***

***‘Ships in the Field is a moving exploration of the migrant experience.’ Canberra Times***



*Richard Fielder interviews Susanne Gervay – ABC National Radio, Australia & SE Asia.*

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2010/11/15/3066754.htm>

*Inside ‘Ships in the Field’ interview with Susanne Gervay.*

<http://www.writingbar.com/2012/03/interviews-with-writers/videos/video-interview-with-susanne-gervay-author-of-ships-in-the-field/>

***Gracie and Josh – special needs children, families facing challenges.***

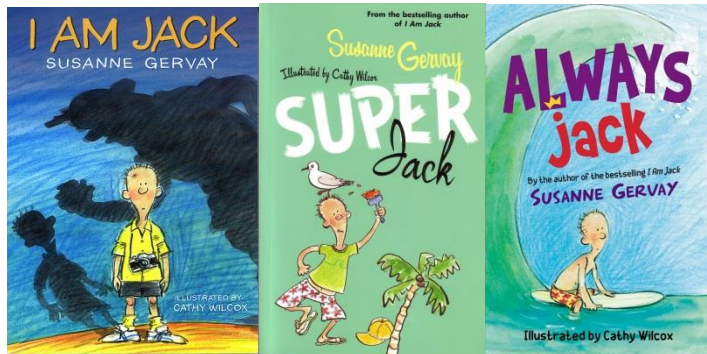
***‘Gracie and Josh is about sticking together – through good and bad. It is about unconditional love and support, about resilience and about never giving up. It is a book that will make you turn to your family members and hug them. It is a book that you won’t easily forget.’ BUZZ WORDS***

## Children's Books – the JACK books

***I Am Jack – anti school bullying***

***Super Jack – blending families, aging grandparents***

***Always Jack – cancer, refugees***



### ***‘Tackling the touch issues with a light touch***

In *I Am Jack*, Jack battled bullies at his school and won. In *Super Jack*, Jack faced the trials of a newly blended family. Now, in *Always Jack*, our hero faces a challenge bigger than he’s ever faced before ... Gervay’s storytelling encapsulates the realism of a young boy’s life, yet still deal with big issues such as cancer, death, divorce, grandparents, sibling rivalry, friendships, refugees and the Vietnam War.

How does Gervay deal with so many issues in relatively short children’s books? The answer is that she treads lightly. Jack is Gervay’s vehicle for spreading words of wisdom but at no time does she preach. Eternally, Jack and his story remain wholly believable. Readers will not only empathise with Jack but love his sensitive introspection and his wisecracks designed to alternately entertain and annoy his family.

Part survival manual, part therapy, part autobiography, part fiction .... Jack will make you laugh and make you cry. Guaranteed ... Jack’s story will stay with readers always.’ Sun Herald

**Adapted into an acclaimed play by Monkey Baa Theatre – [www.monkeybaa.com.au](http://www.monkeybaa.com.au) – touring Australian theatres, USA tour in 2014. Currently in preproduction for a feature**

### **Responses to JACK:**

Kevin:- “When I knew I AM JACK was true, I imagined myself in Jack’s shoes. I felt sorrowful and sad as Jack had to put up with bullying for a long time. It would have been a burden forever if I was Jack.”

Lisa (mother):- My son was a victim of a false gay rumour at a school camp ... by a very gifted boy with his peer group which spread through his year. Why? My son was different-poor social skills but has a good sense of humour. They studied "I am Jack" this term. My son's teacher told me that Patrick finished the book before the class did. Participated in the class discussion which he is normally very shy in doing all because he identified with Jack.

Lowana: I am writing about a current book I have bought and read, I AM JACK. I get bullied at school almost every day and it makes me sick. I just didn't feel like going to school. I pretended to be sick and stay home for the day. I've talked to the School Councillor, I've tried to tell my mum, I've thought of getting back at the bullies, but all these things don't seem to work. But I AM JACK

inspired me to tell everyone that I am being bullied. It makes me feel great and today I treated my mother with respect (I wasn't doing that ....)

Rita, a teacher emails: 'The cemetery scene really resonated with Maisam as both his parents died in Afghanistan. He is comforted by the thought that they are watching over him and that he can talk to them at anytime, just like Nanna and Jack do with Grandad.'

George McCormick, Youth Development Officer, Walgett Shire Council:- 'with approximately 90% of indigenous young people delighted ... and in Lightning Ridge with 58 different nationalities the young people were totally engaged ... in social issues.'

### Young Adult Novels

#### **Butterflies – disability and inclusion**

Butterflies is a story 'where disability is part of the fabric of life, but not life itself. The main character Katherine would be burnt but never be a one-dimensional stereotype. Katherine would be complex like all human beings with a real family, a background and a personality that reaches from the page into the lives of readers. Katherine's life would show that disability does not separate burn survivors from the community, but unites them in the common bond of humanity. Butterflies would be good literature and a powerful tool in understanding disability. Disability Studies Quarterly

Winter 2004, Volume 24, No. 1; [www.dsqsds.org](http://www.dsqsds.org); the Society for Disability Studies

#### **The Cave – anti bullying and positive choices for male youth**

This is an epic story beautifully written with clear spare prose and the ability to go right to the heart of young males in modern society. Carole Kayrooz PhD, MAPS, Pro Chancellor, University of Canberra

#### **That's Why I Wrote This Song– search for identity**

This story will move readers the length and breadth of the turbulent waves of adolescent emotion and incessant pressures. Department of Education, Queensland.

### Titles

*Ships in the Field* by Susanne Gervay illustrated by Anna Pignataro Ford Street Publishing  
[www.fordstreetpublishing.com](http://www.fordstreetpublishing.com) ISBN 9 781921 665233

*Gracie and Josh* by Susanne Gervay illustrated by Serena Geddes, Ford Street Publishing  
[www.fordstreetpublishing.com](http://www.fordstreetpublishing.com) ISBN9 781921 665844

\*I Am Jack; Super Jack; Always Jack, Published by Kane Miller Books USA [www.kanemiller.com](http://www.kanemiller.com)

\*Butterflies, Published by Kane Miller Books USA [www.kanemiller.com](http://www.kanemiller.com)

\*The Cave

\*That's Why I Wrote This Song by Susanne Gervay with lyrics & music by Tory Gervay

**\*Published by HarperCollins Australia [www.harpercollins.com.au](http://www.harpercollins.com.au)**

Conversations with Richard Fidler - [www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2010/11/15/3066754.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2010/11/15/3066754.htm)

youtube: [www.youtube.com/user/sgervay](http://www.youtube.com/user/sgervay); Website - Susanne Gervay: [www.sgervay.com](http://www.sgervay.com)