

Aaron Blabey joined the Captain Starlights to entertain the children with his rhyming book.



READ ALOUD

SAME BOOK, SAME TIME!

Some fantastic events were organised for National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS), which was held on Wednesday 27 May during Library and Information Week. Each year the same book is read in the same place at the same time – 11am. The Brothers Quibble by Aaron Blabey was the book chosen this year, and many children enjoyed the mischievous tale of sibling rivalry. **HEATHER WELLARD** reports on the terrific local news stories from public libraries around Australia, and how the event captured the imagination of everyone involved and attracted a great deal of media attention.

This fabulous picture gallery features highlights of NSS, in which more than 525,000 people participated at more than 3000 locations, including public libraries, schools, childcare centres, bookshops and homes. Penguin Random House Australia is the official partner of NSS.

Children in Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital heard the author himself read his book. Aaron Blabey joined the Captain Starlights to entertain the children on the ward with his rhyming book.

Mount Isa City Library in Queensland went all out and gave their event a baby shower theme. It was in keeping with *The Brothers Quibble*, which tells the story of Spalding Quibble

and how he reacts to the arrival of his new baby brother, Bunny. The cut-out crowns were a favourite and the children were entertained by a puppet show.



In Cabramatta in south-west Sydney, the Whitlam Library invited the Fairfield City Mayor, Frank Carbone, and SBS Radio presenter Trinh Nguyen to read the book. Mayor Carbone read the book in English and Trinh read it in Vietnamese. There was free face-painting and more cut-out crowns for the children to enjoy. ALIA has partnered with SBS Radio to bring National Simultaneous Storytime to more Australians than ever before, creating audio book versions of *The Brothers Quibble* in 16 different languages, including Woiwurrung, an Indigenous language of the Wurundjeri People from the Kulin Nation of Central Victoria.



Members of National Rugby League teams were some of the celebrity readers for NSS. Team members of the Canterbury Bulldogs read the book to crowds of children who had assembled in a local park.

