Transcript:

**Angela Crocombe:** “Young adults are really questioning the world around them and their place in it. They want strong independent characters who are in charge of their own destiny. It’s a great opportunity for them to learn empathy for other people’s worlds, other people’s situations and to realise that there’s a whole very complex world out there.

So some books that I think are really amazing for young adults are this one, *Wonder*, has been a real success. It’s about a young boy with facial deformities who goes to school for the very first time and how he copes and how the other kids cope with it. I think it’s a really amazing book and an amazing concept.

Cat Patrick is a really great writer. She deals with interesting issues with a really light touch in a really clever way and nothing too serious beyond kissing. This one is about clones and cloning and that whole technology.

Suzy Zail is an amazing Melbourne author, she writes stories about the Holocaust about young people in the Holocaust and this is based on the true story of a man who she heard speak at the Holocaust centre and survived in the concentration camp by looking after the horses of the officers. He really loved horses and that was his out. It’s a really beautiful story, really well written, very sympathetic.

I have a wonderful magic book for those that like that magical world, lots of great magic tricks in there as well.

Older readers are very drawn to the stories of John Green and younger readers as well and of course this is a beautiful book about two kids with cancer who fall in love, it’s beautiful, it’s sad, grab the tissues, you’ll want to read it as well. John Green is a great realistic, contemporary writer for kids. A lot of his other books are really popular and well handled.

Some classics that I absolutely adore are Philip Pullman’s Northern Lights. I think everyone should read this trilogy at some point in their lives. Just beautiful and again for younger readers it could be something that you read with your kid rather than leaving them to read on their own. There’s a few heavy concepts in there but it’s beautifully written and it’s gorgeous fantasy.

A little darker is Patrick Ness’ writing, a really intelligent writer but a fairly dystrophic world and some pretty dark things going on, but just brilliant. All of his books are brilliant, just brilliant, great concepts.

I couldn’t mention teen literature without mentioning *Divergent* and *The Hunger Games* they’ve both been huge phenomenons and they’re really well written. They are both really well done trilogies about dystopian worlds, they are very interesting, well written, well handled. Yes there is violence in them but I think it’s really well done and you shouldn’t be worried about your kids reading them.

And that’s probably enough to go on. Keep reading, enjoy the Vic Premiers’ Reading Challenge. Find that special book that opens the door to a magical world. Thank you.”