Transcript:

**Angela Crocombe:** “Hi, my name is Angela Crocombe and I’m the children’s book buyer at Readings in St Kilda, where I am right now. I have the enviable job of choosing all the books for the kids’ part of the book shop which is a huge section.

It’s a great job, I love it, and I’ve been doing it for a few years now. I pretty much always worked in books and I think books are amazing, they open us up to new worlds and things we’ve never even thought of before. They’re great for imagination and I love encouraging kids to read books.

It’s never too early to start reading books to kids, literally from the day they are born the research says that you should start reading to them and it will help improve their ability to read once they go to school.

Some of my favourite picture books at the moment include this fantastic one [Angela holds up *My Nanna is a Ninja* book by Damon Young], *My Nanna is a Ninja*, by Melbourne author Damon Young. It’s very funny, it’s silly, kids can relate to it and they really love it when you read it to them.

This one is really beautiful [Angela holds up *Ruby Red Shoes Goes to Paris* book by Kate Knapp), *Ruby Red Shoes Goes to Paris*, it’s a lovely little picturesque travel guide to Paris through the eyes of a white hare. She’s gorgeous.

Alison Lester is always a dream author [Angela holds up *Kissed by the Moon* book by Alison Lester], her books are amazing. This is her latest book and this is very much from newborns through to 2 or 3 year olds, it’s a really beautiful picture book. But she has plenty of other ones, *Magic Beach* is great for slightly older readers and then there’s *Sophie Scott Goes South* and all sorts of other wonderful ones, she’s just a gem.

I also love Julia Donaldson [Angela holds up *Stick Man* book by Julia Donaldson] – she has many many books, of course everyone knows *The Gruffalo* and *Room on the Broom* but there’s also this one, *Stick Man*. This has some nice snow in it that’s lots of fun for kids. There’s also *Tabby McTat*, all sort of amazing books, *Squid and the Whale.* Her rhyming is incredible and very reminiscent of Dr Seuss. She’s just really clever, clever author.

One more author I’ll mention is Mo Willems [Angela holds up *I’m a Frog!* book by Mo Willems], he is just so funny and so clever. [Angela opens *I’m a Frog!* and flicks through pages] These books are great to read to your children when they’re very little but they also serve as early readers. There’s not much text on the page [Angela indicates to a page in *I’m a Frog!*], it’s very simple so that when they start reading themselves they can read this to you. When my daughter started reading she would read one character and I would read the other. We had great fun, lots of laughs doing it.

Thanks so much for joining me on this virtual tour of my bookshop and some of my favourite books. Keep reading, enjoy the Vic Premiers’ Reading Challenge. Challenge yourself by finding new books to enjoy, go to your local bookshop, ask for advice, there’s always a kids specialist there who can help you out and make some recommendations. Go to your library, talk to your librarians, find that special book that opens the door to a magical world. Thank you.”