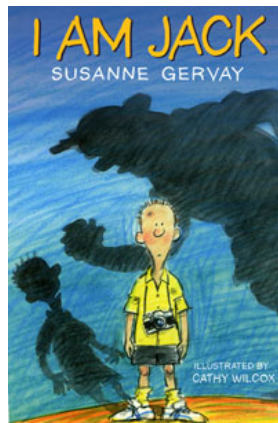


**The Art of Words & Illustrations in Children's Literature**  
**– Cathy Wilcox and Susanne Gervay**

The relationship between words and illustrations is a unique one, where the illustrations enhance meaning enriching the themes, characterization, drama of the text. Cathy Wilcox, illustrator and Susanne Gervay children's author have demonstrated this creative connection in a number of successful junior fictions published by HarperCollins.

Cathy Wilcox is a multi award winning political cartoonist, graduate of the Sydney College of Art, Sydney Morning Herald artist and illustrator of children's literature. Susanne Gervay is an award-winning writer, with a Master of Art in Writing (UTS) and Education (UNSW) and a children's author.

Wilcox and Gervay's latest collaboration is the recently published junior novel, *I Am Jack*. Wilcox's colour front cover illustration effectively captures the themes of bullying, victimization, power abuse and the dilemma of identity for Jack.



Front cover of 'I Am Jack'  
by Cathy Wilcox

*Extract:-*

*George Hamel and his pack wait for me these days at the school gates. They sing out Bum Head, Bum Head, laughing so much that some of those meatheads fall over themselves, Don't the teachers see them, hear them? Teachers are supposed to stop them. What am I supposed to do? Fight? Maybe I could take on George Hamel. I'd probably be killed.*

*I Am Jack* by Susanne Gervay published by HarperCollins 2000, pages 29-30

Cathy Wilcox's pencil line drawings throughout *I Am Jack* reveal the emotion, mood, scenes, relationships through simple, yet dramatic representations of the characters and themes of the book. Wilcox's illustration of Nanna and Puss sensitively, yet humorously captures the similarity between the cat and the grandmother.



Illustration by Cathy Wilcox  
Nanna and Puss page 83

*Puss has curled herself right next to Nanna. Puss is a people cat....  
Puss and Nanna look the same. Round and snuggled, with their  
whiskers drooping and their bodies moving in time with their breath.*

*I Am Jack* by Susanne Gervay published by HarperCollins 2000 page 83

Cathy Wilcox's original illustrations are open to the public for viewing in the permanent exhibition of the works of Australian Children's Illustrators & Writers at *The Hughenden*, 14 Queen Street Woollahra.

This permanent *Hughenden* exhibition is a reflection of the richness in variety and depth of Australian illustrators of children's books. Some of the works displayed include illustrations by five time winner of the Royal Zoological Whitley Award, Tricia Oktober. Others include much loved illustrator Penny Azar's front cover of her best selling *Madeline's New Boots* (Margaret Hamilton Books); multi award winning illustrator John Nicolson's finely detailed line drawings; the artist Ritva Voutila's subtle and European style work and the cutting edge art of Shan Tan's futuristic art.

International and national interest in the collection of children's book illustrations is growing at a remarkable rate in the United States and Europe. Recently this interest has been spreading to the work of Australian children's illustrators.

By Susanne Gervay  
[www.sgervay.com](http://www.sgervay.com)