

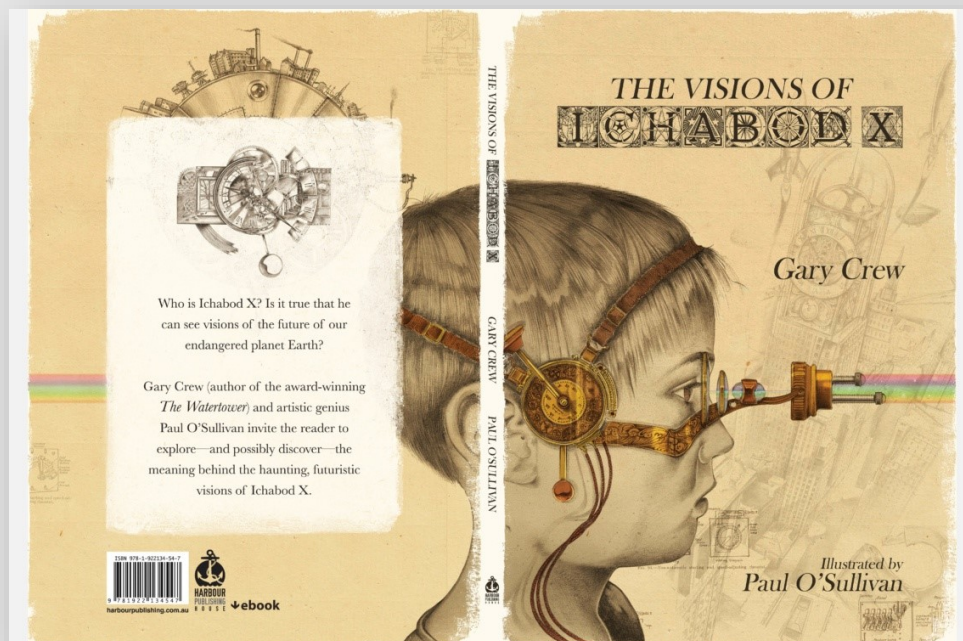
**Title:** The Visions of Ichabod X

**Author:** Gary Crew

**Illustrator:** Paul O'Sullivan

**Publisher:** Harbour House Publishing (Australia)

**Year:** 2015



## Research Background

The Visions of Ichabod X is illustrated in the steam punk mode, a unique stylistic in illustrated books for children. The book combines visionary post-apocalyptic warnings with heavy machinery imagery to raise awareness of the likelihood of future environmental catastrophe.

## Research Contribution

Commenting on the child's point of view of future environmental change, Stephens notes: 'Books with a focus on the natural world are written for young readers with a variety of purposes...therefore the positionality of children, whether as participant or characters and/or as implied audience, is a key concern of text.' (Stephens, J. 2006). Although global warming warns of future catastrophe, there few children's books which position a character such as Ichabod as prophetic visionary, warning youthful readers of environmental disaster.

## Research Significance

Ichabod X was shortlisted for the Australian Book Designers Association Best Designed Children's Fiction Book (2016). The review in Treasure Island (March 19, 2016) comments: 'Independent reading will entertain and intrigue, but reading with others, including an adult who can decipher the illustrations, answer queries, and lead a discussion, will open doors to a deeper appreciation of this complex and interesting book. For example, there is much imagery of oaks – ancient trees representing age and life, wisdom and strength. Once readers know this they are helped to discover the book's symbolism and imagery, and that will be very rewarding'.

## Works cited:

Stephens, J. 'From Eden to Suburbia: Perspectives on the Natural World in Children's Literature' in Papers, 16: 2 2006.