



## The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke: Text Classics

*C.J. Dennis*

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*The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke*, a comic verse novel, was first published in book form in 1915 and sold more than sixty thousand copies in nine editions within a year. By the mid-1970s nearly three hundred thousand copies had been sold internationally.

One of the most famous works of Australian literature, it tells the story of Bill, a larrikin, who meets a young woman named Doreen. The book chronicles their courtship and marriage, and Bill's transformation from a thuggish gang member to a contented husband and father.

This edition has a new introduction by the actor Jack Thompson, renowned for his readings of C. J. Dennis's work.

*The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke* is a perennial Australian favourite. Its 1919 screen adaptation is considered Australia's greatest silent film and one of our best movies of all time.

**C. J. Dennis**, was born in South Australia in 1876. A journalist, among other occupations, he was much loved for his humorous poems, especially *The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke*. He died in Melbourne in 1938. Alongside A. B. 'Banjo' Paterson and Henry Lawson, both of whom he collaborated with, he ranks among Australia's most popular poets.

**Jack Thompson** AM has appeared in such films as *Wake in Fright*, *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*, *Breaker Morant* (for which he won awards from the Cannes Film Festival and the AFI), *The Man from Snowy River* and *Australia*. His audio recordings of poems from *The Songs of the Sentimental Bloke* are available on iTunes and as CDs from [finepoets.com](http://finepoets.com).

[textclassics.com.au](http://textclassics.com.au)

'Exquisite humour...I "dips me lid" - and stand aside.' Henry Lawson

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