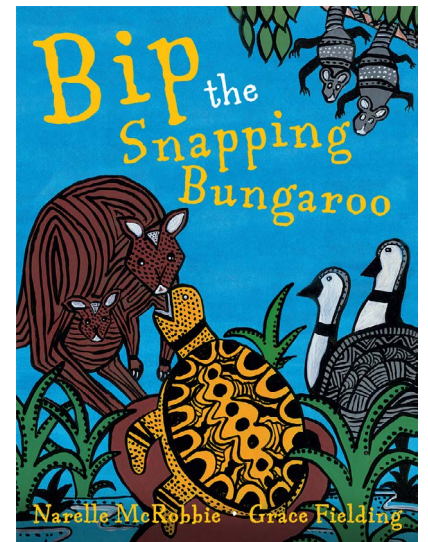


Magabala Books • Teacher Notes

Bip the Snapping Bungaroo

Written by Narelle McRobbie

Illustrated by Grace Fielding



Teacher Notes prepared by Christina Wheeler

OVERVIEW

Bip the Snapping Bungaroo is set to captivate a new generation of young readers. The word 'bungaroo' is the name commonly used by the Nadjan and Djirubal people of Far North Queensland for turtle.

Bip is renowned for his very loud SNAP! When he wakes up one day to find his Snap is missing, the adventures begin to unravel the mystery of where it has gone. This special Australian story highlights the importance of friendship, communication and teamwork.

- Beautiful artwork featuring our most loved Australian creatures, painted in a contemporary dot style
- Addresses the importance of friendship, communication and cooperation
- Illustrations by Grace Fielding, who won the CBCA Crichton Award for these illustrations in 1991

THEMES

- Friendship
- Humility
- Understanding

AUDIENCE AND WRITING STYLE

Bip the Snapping Bungaroo tells the tale of a snapping turtle who has lost his snap! Set in the Australian bush, this story is one of friendship, identity and understanding. It is suitable for early childhood and middle primary audiences, and includes references to Australian flora and fauna. The rich illustrations contribute beautifully to the narrative that explores the importance of generosity and problem-solving skills.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Narelle McRobbie is of Pacific Island and Aboriginal descent, and was brought up on the Atherton Tableland in Far North Queensland. She is descended from the Nadjan people through her mother and the Yidinji people through her father. Narelle's love of writing stories has been inspired by her passion to keep Aboriginal languages alive. *Bip the Snapping Bungaroo* was first published in 1990 and reprinted several times. Narelle's second book, *Who's that Jumbun in the Log?*, the story of a witchetty grub, was also illustrated by Grace Fielding.

Grace Fielding was raised at the Wandering Mission near Perth. She is well-known for her unique art style that combines traditional dot art with contemporary images. Grace's interest in art and sketching developed after she moved to Broome in the late 1980s. She has illustrated several children's books and won the CBCA Crichton Award for Illustration in 1991 for the first edition of *Bip the Snapping Bungaroo*, and the Children's Award at the WA Premier's Book Awards.

LINKS TO THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

This book and the classroom activities provided are primarily relevant to the following areas of the Australian Curriculum:

Learning area	Year level
English	Years F-4
Science	Year 1; 4

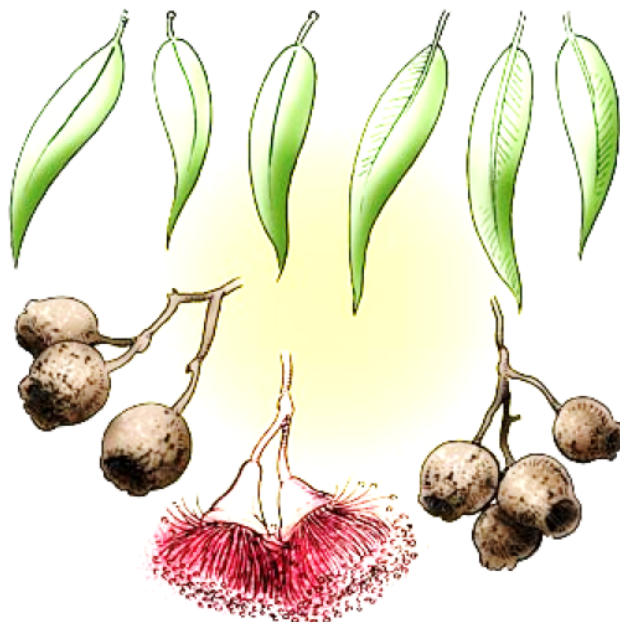
The appendix highlights relevant content descriptions, cross-curriculum priorities and general capabilities that relate to the text and classroom ideas provided.



CLASSROOM IDEAS

English

- Using the images on the front cover, which character do you think is *Bip the Snapping Bungaroo*? What clues help you to determine this? What is a bungaroo?
- The first page opening tells us that 'Bip lived by a beautiful billabong beneath the shade of some gumtrees,' that was the home to many Australian animals such as kangaroos, echidnas, koalas, emus and other animals. As you read the text, use the illustrations to help determine what some of the 'other animals' are.
- When reading the text aloud to students, ask them to join in each time they see the word 'snap'. Increase your volume as the word gets bigger.
- Locate the habitat of snapping turtles on a map of Australia. (See the notes at the end of *Bip the Snapping Bungaroo* that gives more information about the word 'bungaroo'.)
- How does Bip's snapping help him to identify himself? Why is Bip so proud of his snapping? What is unique about you? What are you most proud of about yourself? Share with a friend.
- Discuss examples of problem solving that are evident in *Bip the Snapping Bungaroo*. Why is it important that Mother Kangaroo thinks ahead before embarking on her journey? How do the animals help Bip with his predicament?
- What role does the billabong play in the lives of the characters in *Bip the Snapping Bungaroo*? Use the illustrations to help better understand the many components of a billabong's ecosystem.
- Imagining you are Bip sleeping in your shell, re-enact the scene in which he awakens, stretches his legs and slides into the billabong.
- In the role of Bip, write a journal entry about losing your snap and then finding it again.
- Choose one of Grace Fielding's illustrations to recreate. How does she use lines and shapes to create such vivid and beautiful depictions of the flora and fauna in *Bip the Snapping Bungaroo*?
- Using the gumnuts and leaves below, make your own messages for Bip. Swap with a friend and see if they can decipher your message.



- Mother Kangaroo leaves Bip a message. In the role of one of the other characters, write a note to Bip explaining what happened when he was asleep.
- How do the other animals in *Bip the Snapping Bungaroo* help Bip when he loses his snap? What does this tell us about the relationship that Bip has with the other animals?
- What admirable qualities does Bip have? Use examples from the text to support your ideas.



- How is Bip a good friend to Mother Kangaroo and her joey?
- In what ways does *Bip the Snapping Bungaroo* teach us about friendship?
- How do the illustrations help tell the story of *Bip the Snapping Bungaroo*? Which is your favourite illustration? Why? Recreate one of the page's illustrations in a style similar to Grace Fielding's.
- In small groups, retell *Bip the Snapping Bungaroo* in a dramatic performance.
- Write and illustrate your own story that explores the themes of generosity, identity and understanding.
- Allow students to view the following YouTube clip in which *Bip the Snapping Bungaroo* is read aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2rsDxTegpM>. (Images of snapping turtles are included at the end of the reading.)
- Retell the story of *Bip the Snapping Bungaroo* in your own words.

Science

- Research and present an information report about turtles.
- Design a diagram that shows the life cycles of turtles. Use library books and information on the following clip to help: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAbAwgWyinQ>.
- Create a Prezi or PowerPoint that shares information about a billabong's ecosystem.
- Choose one of the other Australian animals in *Bip the Snapping Bungaroo* on which to conduct research.



APPENDIX - LINKS TO THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

Year	Curriculum Area
F	English Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise that texts are created by authors who tell stories and share experiences that may be similar or different to students' own experiences (ACELT1575) Share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts (ACELT1783) Retell familiar literary texts through performance, use of illustrations and images (ACELT1580)
	1 English Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss features of plot, character and setting in different types of literature and explore some features of characters in different texts (ACELT1584)
	Science Biological Sciences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living things have a variety of external features (ACSSU017)
2	English Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss how depictions of characters in print, sound and images reflect the contexts in which they were created (ACELT1587)
3	English Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw connections between personal experiences and the worlds of texts, and share responses with others (ACELT1596) Create imaginative texts based on characters, settings and events from students' own and other cultures using visual features, for example perspective, distance and angle (ACELT1601)
4	English Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create literary texts that explore students' own experiences and imagining (ACELT1607)
	Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living things have life cycles (ACSSU072) Living things depend on each other and the environment to survive (ACSSU073)
Cross-Curriculum Priorities Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Culture	

