

# Whale and Starfish

Kirsty Beller



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PO Box 50, Sandgate, Queensland 4017 Australia

p. +61 7-5568 0288 f. +61 7-5568 0277 email: sales@kbs.com.au

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**Acknowledgement:** Dean Maynard cover and illustrations pp.1,3,5,7,9,11,13,15, 17,19,21,23.

At the start of time it was the Dreaming. This was the beginning of time. In the Dreaming, all the people were animals that lived in other lands. The best way to travel was by water.

SAMPLE



One day, some of the animals said that it was time to go. They wanted to live in another country. The animals were looking for better hunting grounds. They went in search of a canoe.

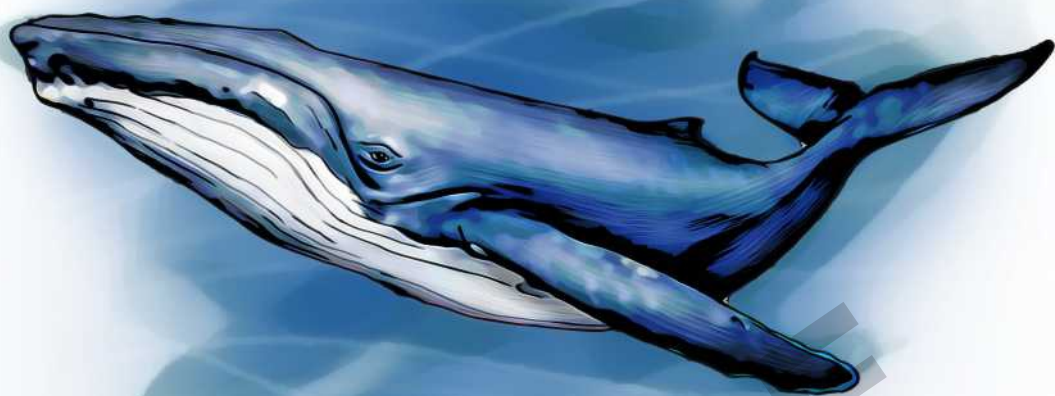
SAMPLE



Whale was much bigger than all the other animals. Whale also owned the only canoe big enough to carry them all. Whale was not very friendly and would not lend his canoe to ANYONE.

SAMPLE







Starfish was Whale's only friend.  
The animals went to Starfish to  
ask for help to sneak Whale's  
canoe away.

SAMPLE

## Word bank

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Dreaming

Port Kembla

beginning

harbour

travel

La Perouse

canoe

mullas

signal

strongest

squirts

appearance

Brolga

Koala

Kangaroo

Goanna

**Reading Recovery Level:** 20

**Word count:** 433

**Content:** Creation Story.

**ACARA F-10 references:**

**Learning Areas:** English; Science; Humanities and Social Sciences; The Arts; Languages.

**General Capabilities:** Literacy; Critical and Creative Thinking; Personal and Social Capability; Intercultural Understanding.

**Cross Curriculum Priorities:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures; Sustainability.

**Teacher Notes:**

*Whale and Starfish* is a Dharawal Creation Story which helps to explain the history and some of the traditional beliefs held by the Dharawal First Nations' People of the coastal areas around Sydney. This story has been told orally by many generations over thousands of years and is intrinsic to the Dharawal culture, both past and present.

**Discussion points for consideration:**

1. How did the Dharawal First Nations' Peoples pass these stories down over thousands of years?
2. Why was storytelling so important for our First Nations' Peoples?
3. What do you think these Dreaming stories mean for our First Nations' Peoples?

**Difficult words to be introduced and practised before reading this book:**

Dreaming, beginning, travel, canoe, mullas, signal, strongest, squirts, appearance, Brolga, Koala, Kangaroo, Goanna, Port Kembla, harbour, La Perouse.

**Acknowledgement of the First Nations' People:** We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

**Sensitivity Notice:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are **warned** that the following series may contain images - photographs and illustrations and text about deceased persons.

## Whale and Starfish

*Whale and Starfish* is a Dharawal Creation Story which helps to explain the history and some of the traditional beliefs held by the Dharawal First Nations' People of the coastal areas north and south of Sydney. This story has been told orally by many generations over thousands of years and is intrinsic to the Dharawal culture, both past and present.



### Author's Bio:

Kirsty Beller is part of the Dharawal People of La Perouse. Their totem is the whale. The Dharawal Peoples' area stretches from La Perouse and as far south as Nowra. Kirsty works with aboriginal students in education and teaches Koori Dance.

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