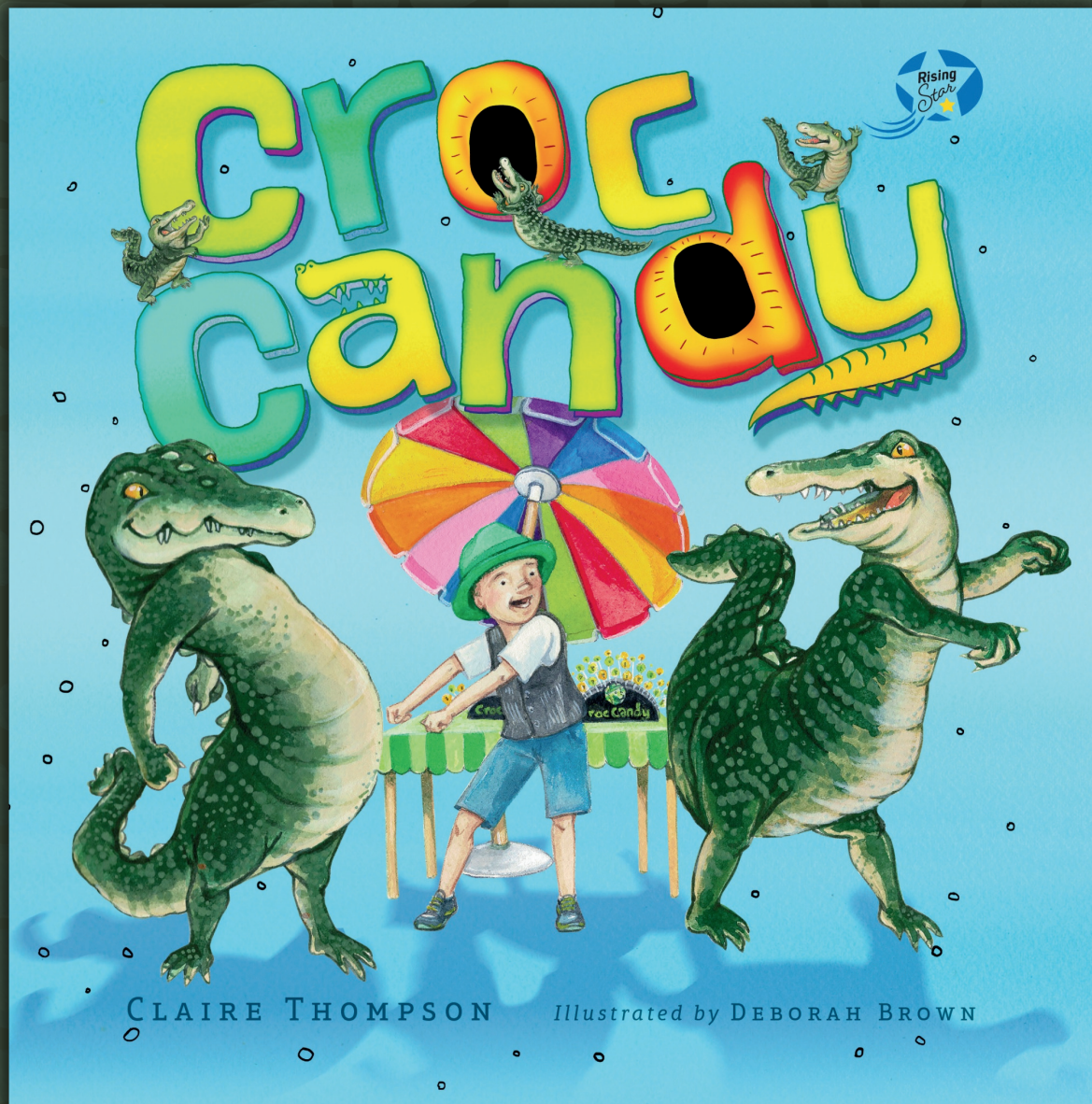


# CROC CANDY

TEACHING NOTES





# ABOUT ANGUS COPELIN-WALTERS



## About Angus

Angus started his business, Croc Candy, when he was just 7 years old. He has a big heart and loves helping others. Now, Angus is an ambassador for a worldwide charity called Made by Dyslexia. He says that Sir Richard Branson and Made by Dyslexia Founder, Kate Griggs helped him discover his superpower.

# BEFORE READING

As a class look closely at the cover and title and discuss what you can learn about a book from it's cover.

- What type of story do you think this will be?
- Fiction or nonfiction? Why?

Discuss conventions of nonfiction (table of contents, glossary, page numbers, title, photographs/pictures, diagrams and labels) and fiction (setting, plot development, conflict, descriptive language, themes, point of view, characters, characterisation).

- Where do you think this story might be set? Why?

Draw students attention to the endorsement from Sir Richard Branson on the front cover.

- Does anyone know who Richard Branson is?
- What role may he have had in this book?

In his endorsement, Richard Branson refers to Angus's Dyslexia as a sort of superpower. What does he mean?

- Refer back to students answers after reading the book to see what they have learn and whether they would answer differently.

Read the writing on the back cover.

- What is the purpose of a back cover blurb?
- Is this an effective blurb, and why?



# DYSLEXIA

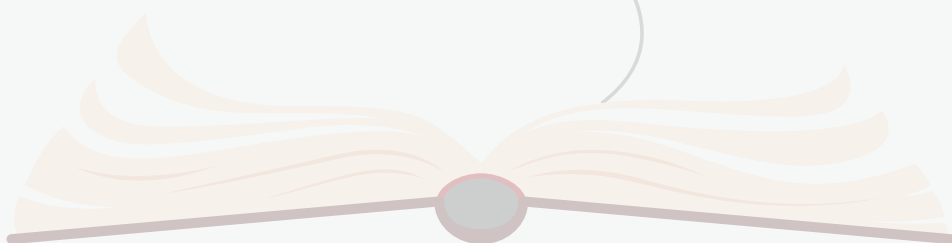
People with Dyslexia have trouble processing letter and sounds, so it is difficult for them to break words into separate speech sounds and to connect speech sounds to different letters. Dyslexia is genetic and is passed on through families. There is no cure because dyslexia is an educational rather than a medical issue.

School can be tough for children with dyslexia but children with dyslexia are often relieved to learn that there is a name to explain why they have trouble reading. They need to know they can count on the support of their parents and educators. To help them build their self-image, first let them know the nature of their reading difficulties. Then let them know the facts – including the benefits – about dyslexia, ensuring you are positive while speaking and working with them.

It's important to remind them of the things they do well and to support those things rather than focusing on what they can't do or where their struggles will be. Help them to identify an interest in a hobby – an area in which they can have positive experiences. It doesn't matter what it is but rather that it is in a field in which they can feel victorious, develop confidence, and not feel as if they are the one studying and struggling to catch up.

Ask:

- Why does Angus struggle at school?
- When Angus suggests he might need special glass what does he mean? (Glasses do not fix dyslexia, however, coloured overlays or tinted lenses can be beneficial for individuals with dyslexia by reducing visual stress, enhancing contrast, reducing glare, and improving reading fluency).



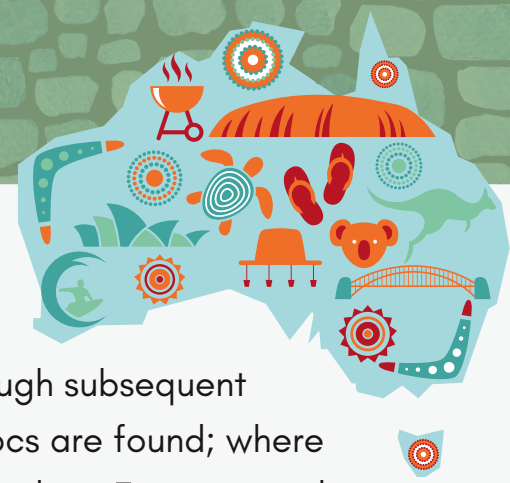


Discuss dyslexia with students, pointing out that we all struggle with different things in life and that from struggle we often find our own superpower. Ask students to work in groups to research well-known people from all walks of life who are/were dyslexic and achieved great things, E.G. Mohammad Ali, Walt Disney, Leonardo Da Vinci, Pablo Picasso, Albert Einstein, Steve Jobs, Richard Branson, George Lucas, Bill Gates, Lewis Carroll, Hans Christian Anderson, Agatha Christie, Galileo, Alexander Graham Bell, Steven Hawkins, Louis Pasteur, The Wright Brothers.

Have each group create a poster on the subject of their choice to contribute to a class mural.

Celebrate Dyslexia Awareness Month in October each year!





# DURING READING

- Provide each child with a map of Australia and through subsequent readings of this book, ask them to record: where crocs are found; where this story is set; where Angus lives; weather in the Northern Territory; and interesting rock formations in the Northern Territory.
- Ask students to prepare and present to the class a weather report for a day in the life of Angus.
- Angus refers to where he lives as having 'lots of rocks and crocs'. Ask: What types of rock are likely to be found where Angus lives? What types of croc would live there?

## ROCKS

- Australia has some of the oldest geological features in the world with the oldest known rocks dating from more than 3000 million years ago and rare zircon crystals dating back 4400 million years, located in much younger rocks.
- The minerals is one of the Northern Territory's largest industries. The Northern Territory contains a diverse range of mineral commodities, and is a major producer of manganese, bauxite, zinc-lead-silver and gold, and critical minerals. In 2022-23, mineral production in the Northern Territory was \$4.38 billion, with most production coming from eight major mines.

Uluru is a massive sandstone rock covering an area of 3.3 square kilometres, and is 9.4 around it's base. It rises 345 metres above the plains and is the surface expression of a much larger volume of rock. Uluru was laid down in an inland sea during the Cambrian Period about 500 million years ago.

Kata Tjuta is made up of 28 rounded domes with the tallest, Mt. Olga, at 545.4 metres above the surrounding plain, making it almost 200 metres higher than nearby Uluru. The domes are made of sedimentary rock conglomerate which resulted from erosion of mountains pushed up during Cambrian earth movements, and consists of sandstone, granite and ironstone bound together by muddy and sandy sediments.





**Karlwe Karlwe**, or the **Devil's Marbles**, near Wauchope in the Northern Territory, is a collection of large, rounded granite boulders, many of which are precariously balanced on top of another. The granite here formed from molten rock which solidified beneath a layer of sandstone and developed vertical and horizontal fractures. Over time, the sandstone eroded away exposing the granite, which then weathered into soft sand and clay. Gradual removal of the soft sand and clay has exposed the rounded boulders, allowing them to be perched on top of one another. According to Aboriginal Dreaming, the rocks are sacred and are the fossilised eggs of the Rainbow Serpent.

## CROCODILES

There are more crocodiles in the Northern Territory than anywhere else in the world. The Top End is home to two kinds of crocodile: freshwater crocs, which are considered relatively harmless, and saltwater crocs, the far fiercer rock stars of the reptile world.

**The Freshwater Crocodile** is endemic to northern mainland Australia and can be found in the states of Western Australia, Queensland, and in the Northern Territory. They are the smaller of the two crocodile species found in Australia (the largest reach lengths of around 3 metres). In addition to its smaller size and slender build, the freshwater crocodile can be distinguished from the saltwater crocodile by its significantly narrower snout and smaller teeth. While not considered deadly, if threatened a freshwater crocodile can deliver a nasty bite. And they have 68 to 72 teeth!

**The Australian Saltwater Crocodile** is the largest living reptile on the planet, and one of the most aggressive and dangerous crocodiles. These incredible animals have been here, unchanged, for over 65 million years.



They have webbed feet and muscular tails that are flat on both sides. This allows them to move through water at high speed. On land, however, they are slow and clumsy. Their eyes and nostrils are on top of their heads. This allows them to remain hidden beneath the surface of the water, but still able to see, hear, smell and breathe. They have between 40 and 60 large teeth, designed to rip flesh off their prey, and they have the greatest bite pressure of any animal on Earth. One tooth can be up to 13 centimetres long!

Chart what students already know about crocodiles. Add additional facts located during subsequent research or as you progress through the text. Ask:

- What type of animal is a crocodile?
- What types of crocodile live in Australia?
- Where do crocodiles live?
- Why do crocodiles like to lie in the sun?
- What do crocodiles eat?
- Why do we need to be so careful around crocodiles?
- Why is it important to obey signs saying 'Beware of crocodiles: don't swim here'?
- Angus' mum says he is very brave to love crocs. Why?
- Are the crocs depicted in this book like the crocodiles you would find in the wild? How are they different? Why might the illustrator have depicted them in this way?
- Should we fear crocs? Why?



Celebrate World Crocodile Day on June 17 each year!

Encourage students to research the two types of crocodile found in Australia and to prepare fact files looking at their habitats, diets, behaviours and life cycles.

- Discuss the ethical concerns around crocodile tourism, crocodile zoos and breeding crocodiles in captivity.
- Ask students to research the work being done at The Australian Reptile Park in Somersby, NSW.





# AFTER READING

## ENTREPRENEURS

Angus had a social conscience (empathy for the homeless), then he experimented and invented a unique idea to support it.

- Have students research the following remarkable and inspirational kids who changed the world through drive and determination, who stood up, shook things up and never gave up!

**Angus Copelin-Walters**, the young entrepreneur behind Croc Candy and inspiration for this book, who started a business to bring joy through candy while raising awareness about Dyslexia.

**Abbie Jane**, a 12 year-old from Broken Hill who started giving away free rainbow beads to support LGBTQIA+ communities and started a global movement.

**Izzy Bee**, a real-life eco-warrior on tropical Magnetic Island in Queensland, who started saving sick and injured koalas at the age of ten.

**Arlian Ecker, a.k.a. Plastic Free Boy**, a young ocean superhero in Byron Bay, fighting against plastic pollution by empowering kids.

**Lucas Lane**, a 12-year-old gender-inclusive entrepreneur from Perth who started his gender-neutral nail polish company, Glossy Boys, to create nail polish for everyone.

**Quincy Symonds** from Tweed Heads who was born with a rare condition called adrenal insufficiency and became an international surfing star and inspiration at the age of six.

**Emily Prior** from Western Australia, an actor, filmmaker, and disability activist with Cerebral Palsy who challenges the film industry to include people with disabilities.

**Aelita Andre** from Melbourne, the world's youngest professional artist, hosted her first exhibition of abstract art in New York City at the age of four.

**Jack Chapman**, a 14-year-old from Victoria, used science, technology and engineering to build a mechanical robot hand that could detonate landmines and save human lives.

**Freya Downie** discovered a passion for desserts at age six, whipping up a signature caramel sauce on her family's dairy farm in Tasmania.

**Kenzie Andrews**, from the Gold Coast, started dancing at three years of age. By nine, she had won national competitions, dancing on stages from New York City to Paris.

**Tamia Blackwell**, a young Narungga girl, created a way to teach maths to remote First Nations children using STEM and traditional dance.

**Anthony Foong**, from Sydney, who at 12 years of age designed a life-saving watch that can identify anaphylactic shock and cardiac arrest.

**Jade Hameister**, from Melbourne, who became the youngest person to ski from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole, unassisted – the first Australian female to do so as well.

**Callum McPhie**, a heavy metal guitarist from Canberra who impressed Ozzy Osbourne with his talent and released a debut album at age eleven.

Organise for children to work in groups to create posters of these inspirational children to add to their class mural.

Challenge students to work in pairs or individually to formulate a way to raise money for a cause that is important to them.

Ask:

- What is your whizz bang, croc snapper of an idea and how would you describe it? Advertise it?
- Draw attention to Angus's online website, the big signs he makes in this story, and the way in which he gathered attention and interest through a high-profile mentor.





# MENTORS

Emotional support can be vital to a child's development. A knowledgeable mentor can help bridge the gap between a desire for something and the ability to achieve it. Mentors can help build self-confidence and the courage to strive for future goals.

Ask:

- What is a mentor?
- Who mentored Angus?
- How did they mentor him and how important were they for Angus?
- Who could mentor you for your project?

Discuss the importance of listening to other people in order to improve an original idea (e.g. Tony suggesting the green ant candy).

Ask:

- How important is it to 'keep going'?

It takes bravery to do what Angus did, to face and surmount the odds, to believe in oneself.

Ask:

- What is bravery? Share that it means to summon the mental and moral strength to face danger, fear or difficulty.

Angus's mum tells him he needs to believe in himself.

Ask:

- What does she mean?
- Share the following strategies to believe in oneself:
  - Interrupt negative thoughts
  - Dream bigger and set goals
  - Expect and prepare for fears and doubts
  - Visualise yourself reaching your goals
  - Learn from your mistakes





## SPONSORS

In the ever-evolving landscape of modern marketing, the concept of sponsorship has transcended traditional boundaries, becoming a powerful and versatile strategy for brands and rights holders. From the electrifying energy of event sponsorships to the loyalty fueled world of sports, and from the culturally enriching sphere of arts and entertainment to the socially impactful arena of cause-related partnerships, each type of sponsorship unlocks unique possibilities and opportunities. Sponsors play a crucial role in various events and activities by providing financial support, resources, or services in exchange for exposure and branding opportunities.

Ask: How are sponsors different to mentors?

Discuss the difference between Richard Branson, Tony and Angus's parents in influencing Angus, keeping him grounded, and supporting him to keep going when things got tough.

Were they sponsors or mentors? Why?

Have students research the following different types of sponsorship and how they might employ them in their projects of choice.

**Event sponsorships** provide brands with a platform to align themselves with specific occasions or gatherings. From conferences and trade shows to music festivals and community events, the possibilities are vast. Event sponsorships work because they provide the ability to immerse a brand in a tangible and memorable experience, capturing the attention of a concentrated and engaged audience. They leave a lasting impression that extends beyond traditional advertising.

**Sports sponsorships** offer brands a unique platform to connect with passionate fan bases. From jersey logos to stadium naming rights, digital signage and vendor relationships, the visibility offered by sports sponsorships places brands directly in the spotlight during some of the celebrated and most-watched moments in history. Fans often develop strong emotional connections with their favourite teams or athletes, and brands align themselves strategically become part of this narrative, becoming an integral part of the sports culture and winning the hearts of a dedicated audience.



**Media Partnerships** extend beyond straightforward advertising. Whether through sponsored segments, branded content, co-created campaigns, or strategic placement within programming, media partnerships provide brands with a powerful avenue to tap into the expansive audience base of media outlets. Traditional media partnerships might involve collaborations with television networks, radio stations, or print publications, but the digital era has expanded the horizon to include online media, podcasts, social media influencers and more. This type of sponsorship offers a multifaceted approach to storytelling and leverages the credibility and influence of media platforms to convey brand messages, fostering a sense of trust and rapport among consumers.

**Arts and entertainment sponsorships** allow brands to align themselves with the world of creativity and culture. From supporting theatre productions and art exhibitions to sponsoring film festivals and music events, brands not only gain visibility but also contribute to the enrichment of communities and societies. As consumers increasingly seek brands that reflect their interests and values, arts and entertainment sponsorships provide a powerful means of establishing authentic connections.

**Cause-related sponsorships** fuse commerce and compassion, allowing brands to align themselves with social or environmental causes. Whether it's supporting a local charity initiative, championing environmental sustainability, or contributing to social justice movements, cause-related sponsorships enable brands to make a positive impact. Their success lies in the authenticity of the brand's commitment to the cause. As consumers are increasingly aligning their purchasing decisions with values, cause-related sponsorships are imperative for brands seeking to build a positive brand image.

**Influencer Sponsorships**, such as with athletes, celebrities, and other content creators are when brands collaborate with individuals who has amassed significant followings on social media. They leverage the creator's influence to reach specific target audiences. The creator in turn provides a direct line to engaged online communities. The power of influencer sponsorships lies in the authenticity and relatability of content creators. In the busy marketplace full of clutter, influencer and content creator sponsorships provide a refreshing and effective way for brands to connect with specific fan bases and audiences.

# BUSH TUCKER AND BUSH MEDICINE

Tony tells Angus that green ants are good for coughs and colds. Australian native plants and insects offer so many things that the average Australian is completely unaware of. Whether it's learning about our native bush tucker, using plants for a variety of purposes, or creating a garden space, students will benefit from the resources available at:

- [www.deadlyed.com.au/blogs/news/bush-tucker-gardens-an-essential-learning-resource](http://www.deadlyed.com.au/blogs/news/bush-tucker-gardens-an-essential-learning-resource)
- [www.schoolsreconciliationchallenge.org.au/activities/bush-tucker](http://www.schoolsreconciliationchallenge.org.au/activities/bush-tucker)
- Karratha Primary School unveils yarning circle and bush tucker garden - ABC News
- Bush tucker garden promotes native ingredients such as finger limes, Davidson's plums, pig face - ABC News

Have students research the following and their Indigenous medicinal uses:

- **Native hop or sticky hopbush (*Dodonaea Viscosa*)**
  - This plant's thick, leathery leaves can be boiled and applied to relieve earache.
- **Nettle (*Urtica Diocia*)**
  - This prickly plant was used to treat paralysis and rheumatism by smacking the ill with it's leaves. The tiny hairs that cover the leaf cause an extreme stinging sensation.
- **Beach Bean (*Canavalia Rosea*)**
  - The roots of this purple flowering species can be rubbed on the skin to relieve various aches and pains.
- **Pemphis or Digging Stick Tree (*Pemphis Acidula*)**
  - First Nations peoples were known to apply the tip of a burnt Pemphis twig to the site of a toothache to relieve pain.



- **Lemon Grasses (*Cymbopogon* sp.)**

- Fevers were treated by washing the skin with the plant after it was boiled and left to cool; diarrhea was cured by drinking it raw but liquefied; and sore ears were comforted by direct contact with the plant.

- **Mud, Sand and Termite Dirt**

- Australia's Indigenous People's were known to directly apply specific types of soil onto their fresh wounds. Mud, or, more accurately, sediment, was carefully selected from a cool waterhole to relieve and act as a physical barrier to fight infection on open wounds.

- **Clay**

- Some types of clay deactivate toxins within the stomach. By eating small amounts of clay some animals can tolerate poisonous plants and access an otherwise forbidden diet. Incredibly, ancient Australian Indigenous Peoples also cottoned on to this and use it to cure gastrointestinal toxins produced by infection.

Organise for First Nations peoples to come to your classroom to share their stories of bush tucker and bush medicine.





# THE ILLUSTRATIONS

Drawing is full of techniques that improve how we create art. Perspective is one of these techniques. It creates the illusion of depth to make a work appear more realistic.

There are two types of perspective:

**Linear perspective** is a method of representing space in which the scale of an object becomes smaller as the distance from the viewer increases. Objects that are farther away from us appear smaller than those that are near. The position at which they meet at a horizontal line is called the vanishing point.

While linear perspective is based on mathematics and straight lines, **atmospheric perspective** relies on conveying depth through value changes, colours, and visual clarity. One of the best ways to illustrate atmospheric perspective is with landscape photography. Imagine you're viewing a mountain range far in the distance. The formations closest to you will look the most colourful and have the greatest detail. As the mountains appear further away, they have a dull, bluish cast covering them.

Ask:

- Do you like the illustrations for this book?
- What techniques has the illustrator used to enhance the story?

Challenge students to locate the different techniques used in this book and to use the same techniques in their own drawings.



# CROC CANDY

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Illustrated by: Deborah Brown

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