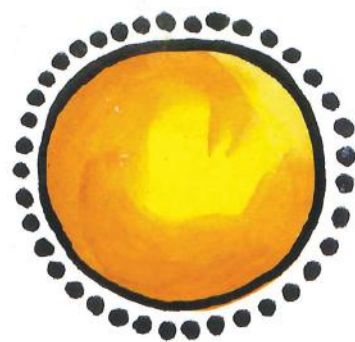


Using Australian Indigenous resources in the classroom



Magabala
Books



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Teacher Notes for other Magabala titles are available on our website at:
<https://www.magabala.com/resources>



Figure 1: Conceptual framework for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures priority.

Source: <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/crosscurriculumpriorities/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-histories-and-cultures/overview>



Teaching Indigenous Content with Magabala Books

The Australian Curriculum identifies Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures as a priority area and ensures that it is addressed across learning areas and year levels. Teaching Indigenous content can sometimes be challenging, primarily because of its complexity and the issues it can raise. However, the teacher resources on the Reading Australia and Magabala Books' websites (below) provide comprehensive and practical guidelines for teachers wanting to use Indigenous books and are developed by teachers and teacher librarians.

Magabala books are a wonderful resource for teachers, providing texts with an authentic Indigenous voice and strong links to the Curriculum.

Free Teacher Resources

Free teacher resources can be found at:

- Reading Australia: <https://readingaustralia.com.au/?s=magabala>
- Magabala Books website: <https://www.magabala.com/resources>

With the support of the Copyright Agency, Magabala Books has partnered with Reading Australia, Australian Literacy Educators' Association and the Australian Association for the Teaching of English to develop comprehensive teacher resources for the Reading Australia website.

More resources for Magabala Books' titles will be uploaded to the site for primary and secondary levels in late 2017 and 2018.

Some general guidelines

The following suggestions aim to assist teachers in using Magabala books to incorporate Indigenous content and perspectives into their classrooms. Along with the teacher resources for each title, these practical hints will help maximise the rich learning opportunities provided by the books.

- Huge diversity exists within and between Indigenous communities. While Magabala books offer insights into a variety of Indigenous people, practices and places, it is important that students understand that each text explores a specific context. To highlight Indigenous diversity it may be useful to explore the themes raised in any given text within your local context. This could involve, for example, asking a local Indigenous representative into your class, visiting a nearby site of significance, or researching the Indigenous group/s from your area and their language/s.
- Magabala books provide great opportunities to develop students' intercultural understanding, which has been identified as a general capability in the Australian Curriculum. Empathy tasks can be particularly useful in this regard. This could involve asking students to respond creatively to texts by taking on the role of characters or individuals in books. Highlighting the similarities between students and characters, rather than the differences, can also be an effective way of developing intercultural understanding.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are living, changing and ongoing. Be mindful, particularly when using texts about the past, not to describe cultural practices or beliefs as happening only in the past.
- When discussing a book as a class, it is preferable to avoid generalisations about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The statement 'Aboriginal people use boomerangs to hunt animals', for example, is misleading, as boomerangs are only culturally significant in some areas. It is preferable to qualify statements (e.g. 'The Yawuru people ...'). For similar reasons, avoid asking students, including Indigenous students, to contribute to discussions on behalf of a cultural or racial group. Students should instead be encouraged to offer personal perspectives.



- Themes covered in some Magabala books, such as the Stolen Generation, discrimination and violence, may be distressing for students. These books can be powerful tools for addressing difficult issues, but care should be taken. Students may not wish to be active participants in class discussions and providing opportunities for individual reflection can be useful. It is also important to challenge stereotypical or discriminatory statements made by students. The best way to do this is to ask them to explain what they are basing their statements on, so any assumptions or misinformation can be quickly corrected.

For more information:

- Reading Australia: <https://readingaustralia.com.au/?s=magabala>
- Crackerjack: <http://www.crackerjackededucation.com.au/>
- Scootle: <http://www.scootle.edu.au> access the Embedding Indigenous Perspectives Across the Curriculum website
- The Australian Curriculum: <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/crosscurriculumpriorities/Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-histories-and-cultures>

Purchasing Magabala books

Our books may be purchased in the following ways:

- Via email order to sales@magabala.com. Schools are eligible for a 20% education discount for orders placed via email
- Directly from our website: www.magabala.com
- From our distributor, NewSouth Books: <https://www.newsouthbooks.com.au/>
- From all good bookshops and educational suppliers

About Magabala Books – Australia’s leading Indigenous publisher






Magabala Books is unique in its role as the only independent, Indigenous owned dedicated publisher of books by Indigenous authors, illustrators and storytellers in Australia. Each year, Magabala Books publishes more books by Indigenous creators than any other publisher in Australia.

Our vision is to inspire and empower Australian Indigenous people to share their stories. Our mission is to celebrate the talent and diversity of Australian Indigenous voices through the publication of quality literature.

In the mid-1980s, Kimberley Aboriginal elders established Magabala Books to protect the rights of Indigenous storytellers and ensure stories were shared with future generations.

We publish children’s picture books, junior and young adult fiction, adult fiction, memoir, non-fiction and poetry.

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Subscribe to our newsletter on our website at www.magabala.com or send us an email at shop@magabala.com

1 Bagot Street (PO Box 668) Broome WA 6725 ☎ (08) 9192 1991 📠 (08) 9193 5254



Teacher resources on Reading Australia website

In 2017 and 2018 teacher resources for 24 Magabala Books titles will be uploaded to the Reading Australia website.

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BUY THE BOOK

Author

Melanie Prewett

Publisher

Magabala Books

Date of Publication 2012

ISBN 9781921248450

Category

Children's Books

f SHARE

TWEET

in SHARE

Two Mates

TEACHER RESOURCE

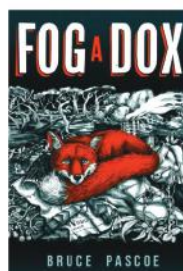
Publisher's synopsis

The true story of the special mateship between two boys who have grown up together in Broome in Australia's north west. Jack is Indigenous and Raf is a non-Indigenous boy who has Spina bifida. The boys share their daily life as they search for hermit crabs, go hunting for barni, fish for salmon, explore the markets, eat satays and dress up as superheroes. The fact that Raf is in a wheelchair is only revealed at the end of the story. Includes information about Spina bifida.

Awards

Winner – 2013, Speech Pathology Australia's Best Book for Language and Literacy (Indigenous children category)

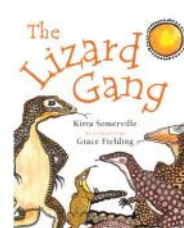
Other Recommended Titles



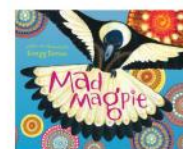
Fog a Dox



Once There Was A Boy



The Lizard Gang



Mad Magpie

Melanie Prewett

Melanie Prewett is a mother of two children who set out to create a story showing that physical disability is no barrier to true friendship. Melanie started off her working life in an employment agency and this took her to Fitzroy Crossing and Derby in the Kimberley. Now Melanie works in Broome for the Education Department of WA assisting young people to connect with training and employment opportunities.



Other titles include:

Scaly-tailed Possum and Echidna (Unit suitable for AC Foundation / NSW Early Stage 1)

A traditional Dreamtime story that features the scaly-tailed possum only found in a remote part of the Kimberley region of Australia's north west and the echidna, one of Australia's most unusual mammals. Illustrated with paintings on silk, the story also tells of the Wandjina, the Creator and Great Spirit of the Wunambal people of the Kimberley.



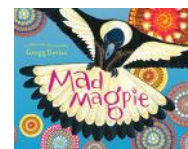
Lizard Gang (Unit suitable for AC Foundation/ NSW Early Stage 1)

Meet Zed, Boo, Eliza and Zoro – a spirited gang of monitor lizards who are constantly trying to outdo each other. They live deep in the Australian bush and are forced to learn the real meaning of teamwork when they have to band together to escape a raging flood.



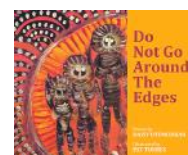
Mad Magpie (Unit suitable for AC Year 2 / NSW Stage 1)

Inspired by wise sayings and the knowledge of his Elders, Mad Magpie tells the story of Guluu, an angry magpie who is being teased by a gang of butcher birds. The more he is teased, the angrier he becomes. When Guluu seeks advice, his Elders tell him to stay calm like the river, ignore the butcher birds and to be strong on the inside. He stands proudly at the riverbank and remembers how he used to sing when he was having a bad day. Guluu sings so loud he cannot hear the birds laughing at him and they eventually give up and fly away. From that time on, the animals learnt to use music to create a happy mood and they worked together to stop bullying.



Do Not Go Around the Edges (Unit suitable for AC Year 3/4)

Daisy's life story runs along the bottom of the pages: how she was born on a mission, schooled, introduced to Christianity, started writing and what she does now. The poems and illustrations on each page often relate to her life story. Useful as a reader for adult literacy or as an introduction to biography or poetry.



Stolen Girl (Unit suitable for AC Year 4 / NSW Stage 2)

Fictionalised account of the Stolen Generation that tells of an Aboriginal girl taken from her family by the government and sent to a children's home. She sings and dreams of her mother and the life they once shared but each morning is woken by the bell to the harsh reality of the children's home. Finally, one day she unlocks the door and takes her first step toward home.



Girl from the Great Sandy Desert (Unit suitable for AC Year 5 / NSW Stage 3)

The Girl from the Great Sandy Desert is the remarkable account of the life of Mana, a young Walmajarri girl and her family in the desert country of north-west Australia. A collection of accessible stories that elucidate the rich cultural lives of pre-contact Aboriginal Australians, this book is a valuable resource for educators and young readers, and is accompanied by beautiful black and white illustrations.



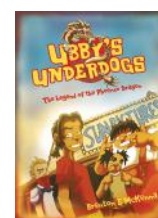
Fog a Dox (Unit suitable for AC Year 6 / NSW Stage 3)

Albert Cutts is a tree feller. Fog is a fox cub raised by a dingo. He's called a dox because people are suspicious of foxes. Albert is a bushman and lives a remote life surrounded by animals and birds. All goes well until Albert has an accident. This is a story of courage, acceptance and respect. With a gentle storytelling style and finely crafted dialogue, Indigenous cultural knowledge and awareness are seamlessly integrated into the narrative.



Ubby's Underdogs: the Legend of the Phoenix Dragon (Unit suitable for AC Year 7 / NSW Stage 4)

Set in the 1940s when the pearling town of Broome is recovering from World War II, The Legend of the Phoenix Dragon is an epic tale that follows the heroics of Ubby, a street-wise Aboriginal girl and the leader of a rag-tag gang known as the 'Underdogs'. When Ubby recruits Sai Fong, a Chinese girl off the boat from Shanghai, they are thrown into a series of bizarre adventures full of myths and legends, and secrets never before exposed. McKenna's first volume of the *Ubby's Underdogs* trilogy leaves you gasping for air and hungry for more.



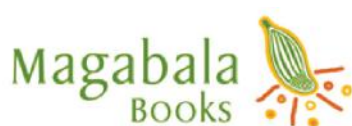
Teacher Notes on Magabala Books' website

There are Teacher Notes for 55 Magabala Books titles suitable for primary and secondary levels on the Magabala Books website at <https://www.magabala.com/resources>.

Resources are uploaded for every new title suitable for an educational context.

Examples include:

- Mrs White and the Red Desert
- Fair Skin Blackfella
- Our World
- Grace Beside Me
- Becoming Kirrali Lewis



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Teaching Resources

For suggestions on working with Indigenous content, download [Teaching Indigenous content with Magabala Books](#).

Teacher Notes

Please click on the title links below for downloadable Teacher Notes. Comprehensive teacher resources for selected Magabala Books' titles can also be found on the [Reading Australia](#) website. These resources were commissioned with funding support from the [Copyright Agency Limited](#).

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