



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Lower and middle primary
(ages 6–8; years 1 to 3)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, personal and social capability, critical and creative thinking

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Develop independent reading
- Help foster understanding and empathy
- Encourage discussions around family and belonging, family dynamics

THEMES

- Family
- Home/belonging
- Environment/local history

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

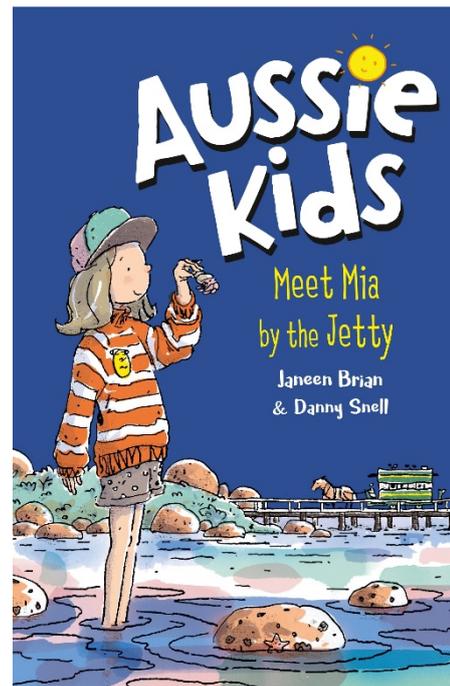
PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9781760893668 (paperback);
9781760147402 (ebook)

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Aussie Kids: Meet Mia by the Jetty

Janeen Brian and Danny Snell

PLOT SUMMARY

Hi! I'm Mia

Jim is coming to stay with us soon.

I want to show him the jetty, beach and island.

But I don't want my bossy sister Alice to take over.

So I have a plan . . .

Aussie Kids is an exciting new series for emerging readers 6-8 years.

From a NSW Zoo to a Victorian lighthouse, or an outback sheep farm in WA to a beach in QLD, this junior fiction series celebrates stories about children living in unique places in every state and territory in Australia.

8 characters, 8 stories, 8 authors and illustrators from all 8 states and territories!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Mia from South Australia.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Janeen Brian is an award-winning author of picture books, fiction, non-fiction, short fiction and poetry for young readers. Several of her books have been CBCA Notable or Honour Books, including *I'm a Dirty Dinosaur* (winner of the Speech Pathology Australia 2014 Children's Book of the Year Award) and *I'm a Hungry Dinosaur*. A former Primary School teacher, Janeen lives in South Australia.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Danny Snell lives in Adelaide where he has worked as an illustrator for over 20 years. In that time he has illustrated over a dozen children's picture books. Working in a variety of media and with a focus on simple compositions, he brings a gentle whimsy to his book characters and settings.

Danny has won a number of awards for his books including CBCA Notables, and the CBCA Eve Pownall Award for Information Books in 2014.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

Questions

1. Look at the front cover of the book. Where do you think this story is set? What do you think it is going to be about?
2. Look at the picture of Mia on the cover. How do you think she is feeling?
3. Turn to the back cover and look at the map. Can you find where you live on the map? Is it a long way from Mia's home?
4. From the picture of Mia on the cover, can you guess what type of place she might live in? Have you ever lived near the ocean or a large body of water? What do you think it would be like to live there?

WRITING STYLE/STRUCTURE

Questions

1. This book is broken up into chapters – how many are there?
2. Stories have a beginning, middle and an end. A problem or worry is usually introduced for the main character at the start of the story. What is Mia's problem at the start of the story? Can you find the moment when this problem is resolved?
3. The most exciting part of a story is usually the climax and happens towards the end of the story.

What do you think is the climax of the story in *Meet Mia by the Jetty*? Why have you chosen that moment? How has the author made that scene exciting or special? How has the illustrator helped to make it special?

Activities

- Read the first two pages of the book. Mia tells the reader what her home is like in these introductory pages. Write the introduction to a story and describe where you live. Don't forget to include what surrounds your house (Eg the bush, other houses, apartment buildings?) Also include things you can hear and see. (Things like planes, traffic, bush noise.)
- Look at the illustrations in the book. How do you think they add to the story? Do they give you extra information that isn't in the text? Pick a moment in the story that hasn't been illustrated and create your own illustration for that moment.
- Look at the names of the different chapters. Why do you think the author has chosen these chapter headings? Can you think of other chapter headings that could work? Write new chapter headings for the book and share them in a group. Explain why you have chosen your headings. What illustrations would you put with your new headings?
- Create a word cloud to represent the story *Meet Mia by the Jetty*. Share your word cloud with a classmate. Which words did you both have in your word cloud? Which words were different?

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Family

Questions

1. Mia and Alice are siblings. Do you have any siblings? What are the age differences between you? Are you the oldest child in your family? Are you the youngest? Do you think it is better to be one or the other? Why? What are the advantages of each?
1. Siblings don't *always* get along. There are a few examples of Alice being a bit annoyed with Mia in the story, but can you also find one where she is nice to her?

Activities

- Look at the illustrations on pages 43 and 46-47. How does the illustrator communicate how the sisters are feeling in that moment? Act out one of these scenes with a classmate focussing on how they are feeling.



Home/belonging

Questions

1. Pick out some aspects of the story that make Mia a special part of her community?
2. At the start of the story, we get a description of Mia's home. When you look at the illustration, do you think that it accurately depicts where she lives? Is there anything in the illustration that you think shouldn't be there? Are there things that aren't in the illustration that you think should have been added?

Activities

- Write a list of things that make Mia's home special. Eg the beach, the jetty, the penguins. Then write a list of all the things that make *your* home special. Are any things the same? Are many things different?

Environment/local history

Activities

- Mia and her family live near the beach, but her town also has historical elements like the horse carriage on the jetty. Can you think of anything historically significant in your neighbourhood or community? Ask your parents and neighbours if they know any good stories about where you live. Write a story about where you live, including something special about your community.
- At the end of the book there is a Fun Facts page about Fairy Penguins. Whales are also mentioned in the story. Write your own Fun Facts page about whales and illustrate it.
- Pretend you are a tour guide. Write up a plan of where you would take people around your home and neighbourhood. Include places that have special significance to you, your family and your community.
- Design and make your own tour guide badge.

KEY QUOTES

1. *'From my bed I can hear the waves and smell the salty sea.'* (p. 2) What can you hear from your bedroom? Can you hear particular sounds that are unique to where you live?
2. *'They come back to their burrows at sunset,' I said.'* (p. 36) The author tells us a lot about Fairy Penguins in the story. Can you list other facts about them that we learn from the text? Is there somewhere else in the book that we can get information about Fairy Penguins?

3. *'I looked down and blinked hard. There was a rushing sound in my ears and my heart thumped like a loud drum.'* (p. 47) Mia isn't feeling very good in this moment. Why does she feel this way? Have you ever felt like this? Do you think Alice meant to make Mia feel bad?

ILLUSTRATIONS

Danny Snell has created the illustrations for *Meet Mia by the Jetty*.

- Do you think the illustrations add an extra layer of meaning to the story?
- Would you like the story as much if it didn't have illustrations?
- Look at the illustration on page 31. What do you notice about the perspective in this drawing compared to others in the book?
- Which is your favourite illustration? Why do you like it so much? How does it make you feel?
- Why do you think the colour blue was used for this book? Do you think it would work as well if red had been used? Or green? Why or why not?

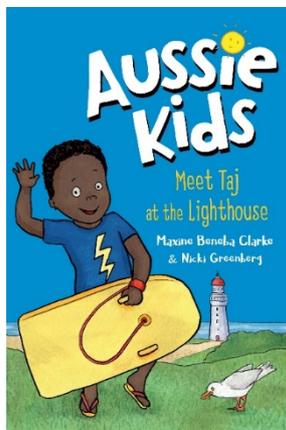
FUN FACTS PAGE

At the back of the book there is a section called 'Fun Facts about Fairy Penguins'.

- Where do Fairy Penguins live? Research more about Fairy Penguins with your class. What do they like to eat? Do they sleep during the day or at night-time?
- The Fun Facts say that there are 17 different kinds of penguin. Choose a different type of penguin and write your own Fun Fact page about them. Eg. Emperor Penguins, Little Penguins or King Penguins.
- Mia is holding a crab on the front cover. Create a Fun Facts page about crabs.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



Aussie Kids: Meet Taj at the Lighthouse by Maxine Beneba Clarke and Nicki Greenberg

Hi! I'm Taj.

This is my favourite T-shirt.

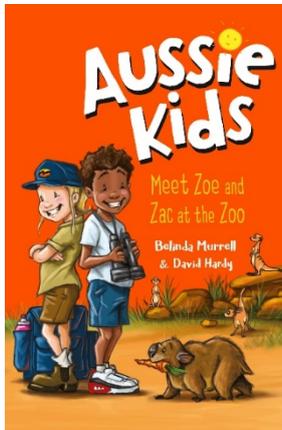
I brought it to Australia from my old home.

My family came here after a long journey.

It was hard at first, but now I love my new home!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Taj from Victoria.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



Aussie Kids: Meet Zoe and Zac at the Zoo by Belinda Murrell and David Hardy

Hi! I'm Zoe and this is Zac.

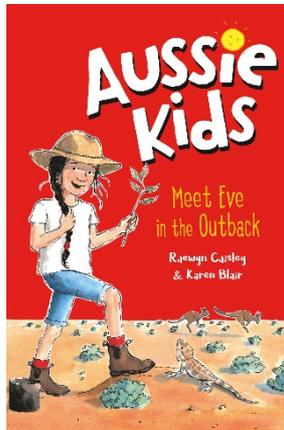
We're so lucky we live at the zoo!

As a birthday treat, we're helping out with the animals.

We can't wait!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Zoe and Zac from New South Wales.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



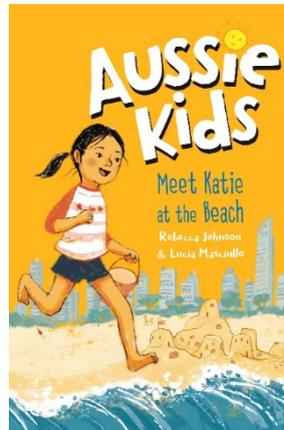
Aussie Kids: Meet Eve in the Outback by Raewyn Caisley and Karen Blair

Hi! I'm Eve.

I live at a roadhouse in the Nullarbor. We don't get many visitors. But today my cousin Will is coming. We'll have so much fun!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Eve from Western Australia.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



Aussie Kids: Meet Katie at the Beach by Rebecca Johnson and Lucia Masciullo

Hi! I'm Katie.

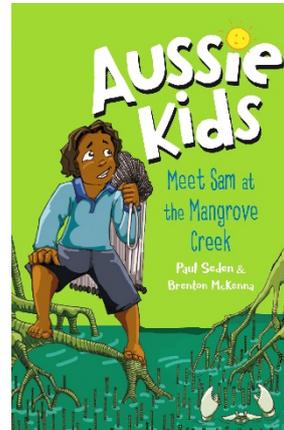
I have a wobbly tooth that won't come out!

But it's not going to spoil my trip to the beach.

We're going to eat mangoes and play beach cricket!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Katie from Queensland.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



Aussie Kids: Meet Sam at the Mangrove Creek by Paul Seden and Brenton McKenna

Hi! I'm Sam.

I have a new throw net.

My cuz, Peter and I can't wait to try it out.

We want to catch a BIG barra!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Sam from the Northern Territory.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Aussie Kids: Meet Mia by the Jetty	Janeen Brian and Danny Snell	9781760893668	1-3	\$12.99		
Aussie Kids: Meet Taj at the Lighthouse	Maxine Beneba Clarke and Nicki Greenberg	9781760894528	1-3	\$12.99		
Aussie Kids: Meet Zoe and Zac at the Zoo	Belinda Murrell and David Hardy	9781760893651	1-3	\$12.99		
Aussie Kids: Meet Eve in the Outback	Raewyn Caisley and Karen Blair	9781760894108	1-3	\$12.99		
Aussie Kids: Meet Katie at the Beach	Rebecca Johnson and Lucia Masciullo	9781760893675	1-3	\$12.99		
Aussie Kids: Meet Sam at the Mangrove Creek	Paul Seden and Brenton Mckenna	9781760894122	1-3	\$12.99		
TOTAL						

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