



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

THEMES

- Family and Friends
- Kindness
- Mangroves/Environment

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

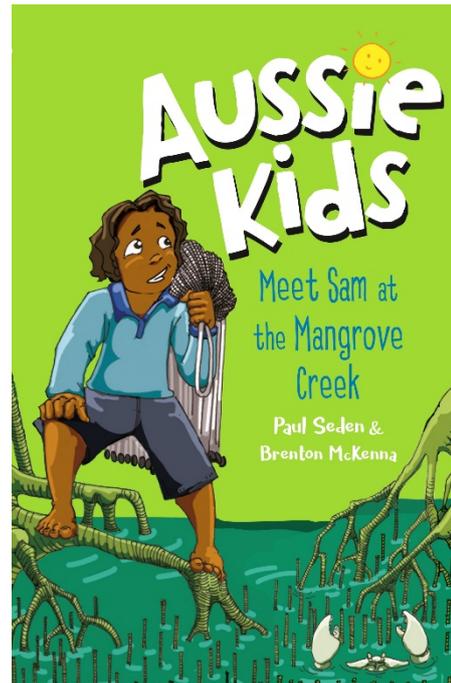
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Aussie Kids: Meet Sam at the Mangrove Creek

Paul Seden and Brenton McKenna

PLOT SUMMARY

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!

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 Sam from the Northern Territory.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paul Seden is an author and illustrator of picture books for young readers. *Kick with My Left Foot* was a Notable Book in the 2015 CBCA Book of the Year Awards and short-listed for the Speech Pathology Book of the Year Awards – Indigenous Children category. *Crabbing with Dad* was short-listed in the 2019 KOALA Children’s Choices Award and also for the ABIA Children’s Book of the Year in 2017. Paul loves illustrated text and lives in the Top End of the Northern Territory.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Brenton McKenna is an Indigenous author/illustrator born and raised in Broome. When he was a child, there were only two grown-up professions he wanted to do when he got older. The lack of zombies ruled out ‘zombie wrangler’ so he became the next best thing, a graphic novelist!

As a youngster, Brenton struggled with reading and writing, but after picking up a comic book everything changed and he began drawing and creating his own graphic novels. Brenton hails from a long line of storytellers and draws his inspiration from his ‘ideas pool’ of daily happenings, folklore, mythologies and ghost stories, combat studies and pure curiosity.

In 2008, Brenton was awarded a highly sought after mentorship with the Australian Society of Authors. He is recognised as Australia’s first Indigenous graphic novelist with his own acclaimed series *Ubbys Underdogs*.

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 Sam on the cover. What can you tell about him by looking at this picture?
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 Sam’s home? How long do you think it would take to travel from your home to Sam’s home?
4. From the picture of Sam on the cover, can you guess what type of place he might live in? What does Sam have in his hand?

WRITING STYLE/STRUCTURE

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 problem does Sam and his friend face in 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 Sam at the Mangrove Creek*? Why have you chosen that moment? How has the author made that scene exciting or special? How has the illustrator helped to make it stand out?
4. Look at the decorative illustrations in the chapter headings. Do you think they give the reader a hint of what is to come in the story?
5. Look at the names of the different chapters. Why do you think the author has chosen these chapter headings? Do you think the headings add to the suspense and excitement of the story? Which heading do you think is the most descriptive?

Activities

- Create a word cloud to represent the story of Sam and Peter’s fishing trip. Share your word cloud with a classmate. Which words did you both have in your word cloud? Which were different?
- Choose one of the chapter heading illustrations. Create a new chapter title and illustration for the chapter you have chosen.
- Look at the illustrations in the book. How do you think the illustrations add to the story? Do they give you extra information that isn’t in the text? Pick a moment in the story and create your own illustration for that moment.
- The author has used sound a lot in the story. Find two examples of sound being described in the story. (Don’t forget to look in the text *and* in the illustrations.) Do you think this adds to the boys’ adventure?

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Family and Friends

Questions

1. Sam and Peter are friends and have adventures together. Do you have a good friend? What type of activities do you do together?



2. Can you find two examples in the story of Sam and Peter joking with each other? Can you also find examples of them being annoyed with each other?

Activities

- Write a poem about one of your friends. Share the poem with your classmates.
- Make a list of the things that are the same about you and your friend. List some things that are different. Remember to include likes and dislikes, physical differences and food tastes. Share this list with your friend. Does your friend agree with what you've written?

Kindness

Questions

1. Sam and Peter are very frustrated when they can't get the throw net to work properly. (p30) Why do you think the old man helps them?
2. Sam and Peter give their catch to the old man. Why do you think they do this? How can you tell from the story that the old man might need the fish?
3. Can you think of examples of kindness you've seen in your community? Discuss them as a class.

Activities

- Write a list of people who have been kind to you today. Write another list of people you have been kind to. Why do you think it is important to be kind and to listen to other people?
- Write a word cloud of all the different ways you can be kind to someone.

Mangroves/Environment

Questions

1. Sam and Peter live close to the beach. Do you think they like living there? Find some examples in the story of the boys enjoying their environment.
2. *Mangroves protect the coastline from erosion and storms.* (p50) How do you think this happens? Can you think of any other examples of erosion, perhaps where you live, or somewhere you have been?

Activities

- Using the information in the story and in the Fun Facts section (p50-51) draw a map of a mangrove. Add in different animals that live there, the ocean and the creek.
- Choose another book in the Aussie Kids series and compare Sam's home with the kid's home in the

title you have chosen. How are their homes different? Do different animals live there? What are the differences? What are the similarities?

KEY QUOTES

1. *'It's bad luck to have bananas on a fishing trip.'* (p. 22) Do you know what bad luck is? What do you think this means? Do you think the bananas ended up bringing the boys bad luck? Why do you think this?
2. *'It's ten to eight! High tide is at nine o'clock,' Sam said to himself.* (p. 9) What is a high tide? Research what this means and discuss with your class why it would be better to go fishing at high tide rather than low tide.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Brenton McKenna has created the illustrations for *Meet Sam at the Mangrove Creek*.

- What do you think about the style of Brenton's art? Do you think it suits the story? Why?
- Look at the way Brenton has only used the colour green in the pictures. Do you think this is effective? Would it have worked as well if the colour was different? eg purple or orange?
- Turn to the illustration on pages 12-13. How does the illustrator create the sensation of movement? Draw a picture using the same effect. Perhaps choose a different setting and a different form of transport for your picture.
- Brenton is also a creator of graphic novels. Do you think this shows in his illustration style?

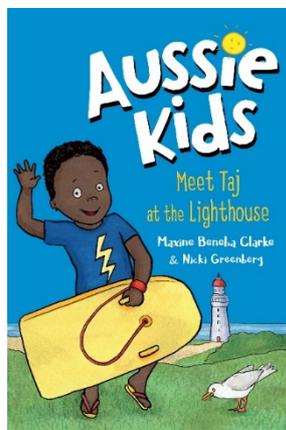
FUN FACTS PAGE

At the back of the book there is a section called 'Fun Facts about Mangroves' (pp50-51).

- As a class, talk about what other animals could live in a mangrove environment?
- The Fun Facts section says that there are almost 1000 different kinds of crabs in Australia. (p51) After researching crabs, choose two different types and write your own Fun Fact page about them. Eg. Blue Swimmer Crab, Decorator Crab or Soldier Crab.
- Have you been in a mangrove? What did you notice about them? How are they different from a normal beach? (If you haven't been to a mangrove before, research some pictures of mangrove and use that as a reference. Or use the pictures in the story *Meet Sam at the Mangrove Creek*.)



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.

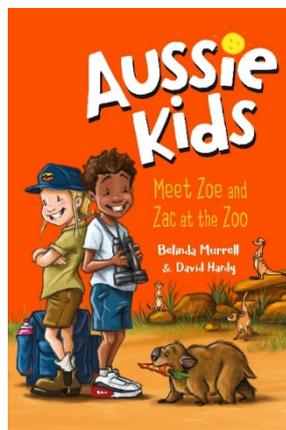
I brought it to Australia from my old home.

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.

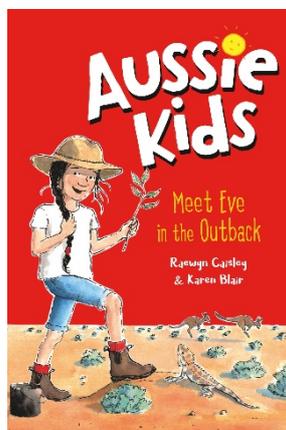
We're so lucky we live at the zoo!

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.](#)



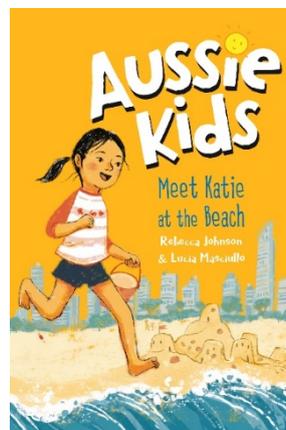
Aussie Kids: Meet Eve in the Outback by Raewyn Caisley and Karen Blair

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.

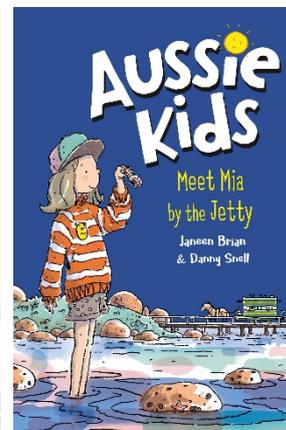
I have a wobbly tooth that won't come out!

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 Mia by the Jetty by Janeen Brian and Danny Snell

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 . . .

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

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Aussie Kids: Meet Sam at the Mangrove Creek	Paul Seden and Brenton Mckenna	9781760894122	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 Mia by the Jetty	Janeen Brian and Danny Snell	9781760893668	1-3	\$12.99		
TOTAL						

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