



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Lower and middle primary
(ages 5–8; years k to 3)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Personal & social capability; Intercultural Understanding; Ethical Behaviour & Understanding; Literacy; Critical & Creative Thinking; Information & communication technology capability
- **Cross-curriculum priorities:** Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To respond to a text
- To explore ideas about identity and dreams; to develop visual literacy; to develop ethical and intercultural understanding.
- To discover other countries and cultures.

THEMES

- Identity
- Dreams
- Family
- Hope
- Belonging
- Determination
- India
- Technology
- Intercultural awareness and understanding

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

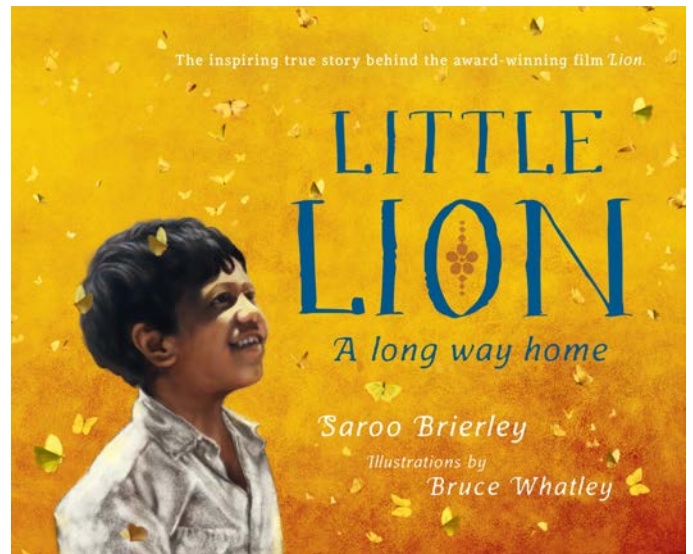
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Little Lion: A Long Way Home Saroo Brierley, with illustrations by Bruce Whatley

PLOT SUMMARY

A stunningly illustrated picture book of Saroo Brierley's extraordinary true story of survival dramatised in the award-winning film, *Lion*, starring Nicole Kidman and Dev Patel. Illustrated by multi-award-winning illustrator Bruce Whatley.

Saroo became lost on a train in India at the age of five. Not knowing the name of his family or hometown to find help, Saroo survived for weeks on the streets until he was taken to an orphanage and adopted by a family in Tasmania, Australia. Despite being happy in his new home, Saroo spent years searching on Google Earth until he found his old village via grainy satellite images.

A moving and inspirational true story of survival and triumph against incredible odds. Now a major film available to stream on Netflix in Australia and New Zealand.

This incredible story celebrates the importance of hope and never giving up.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Saroo Brierley was born in an Indian town called Khandwa. In 1986, aged only five, he lost all contact with his family when he was at a train station waiting for his brother who never returned. After living on the streets of Calcutta for three weeks by

himself, he was placed into a local orphanage from which an Australian family adopted Saroo. He then grew up with his newly adopted parents in Hobart, Tasmania where he spent the next twenty-five years.

After years trying to track down his old town through the labyrinth of railways lines on Google Earth and an image etched into his brain as a five year old, he finally found his town Khandwa on the map and travelled to India to try and find members of his family. In early 2012, after twenty-five years of separation, he finally reunited with his mother.

Saroo's virtual odyssey of his homeland and search for his home town and his mother made headlines across the world. The film *Lion*, based on his book *A Long Way Home*, was released in November 2016 and nominated for four Golden Globe and six Academy Awards, and won many other international awards.

saroobrierley.com

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



Bruce Whatley has written and/or illustrated more than 90 children's picture books. His internationally award-winning titles include the Diary of a Wombat series created with Jackie French and *One Tree* by Christopher Cheng, which was

shortlisted for the Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature in the 2020 NSW Premier's Literary Awards and was a CBCA Notable Book in 2020.

Bruce uses a variety of illustration mediums including gouache, pen and ink, pencil, oils, watercolour and more recently CGI software. Bruce and Rosie live on the south coast of New South Wales.

brucewhatley.com

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Saroo says: Imagine being totally lost as a tiny child. It amazes me now when I think about how I managed to survive and then thrive.

When I was on the streets, so hungry and alone, I wondered what would happen to me. Would I be okay? I was by myself every day, even though I was among thousands of people. I truly had to trust and rely on my instincts.

When I was taken to Liluah Home it was almost a relief because I didn't have to face the fear of the unknown. When I was given the option of accepting a new family, I had real hope for my future – I thought that maybe I would be loved and cared for again. The idea that complete strangers would want to look after me as their own son was a concept I could hardly believe. I am so glad I accepted the opportunity to become part of a family again, and to begin my new life.

I wrote this book to show how powerful you can be if you put your mind to it and use every resource and opportunity available. I went from a child without the benefit of education to a strong and healthy guy who wrote a book – WOW! I hope that my story will bring enlightenment to you on many levels.

I am truly thankful to my first mother who gave me the survival skills that saved my life on the streets of Kolkata and also to my new parents for giving me a new life in Tasmania.

We are all enjoying the excitement of the film and books sharing our story around the world.

Life is good.

RESPONDING TO THE TEXT

Questions and activities

- Before you read the book, what do you think the story will be about?
- Read the blurb on the back cover of the book and discuss what it tells you about the story.
- Read the book aloud together.
- How do you feel after reading the book? What do you think of the story? Do you know of any other true stories of being lost and found?
- Have you ever had an experience of being lost? What did you do? What should you do? Do you know your family name and your address? Who should you ask for help?



GEOGRAPHY

Questions and activities

- Find India on a map. Use a physical map or Google Earth, both of which Saroo used in his search. Find Saroo's home town of Ganesh Talai and the big city of Kolkata, where he ended up after his train journey as a child. Display both of these on a map of the world.
- Find Hobart, Tasmania, on a map. Display it on the map of the world that you used above.
- Discover 10 facts about India – the place, people, food, culture – and 10 facts about Hobart, Tasmania.
- Compare the two and discuss the similarities and differences between the two places.

INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING / IDENTITY

Questions and activities

- Describe Saroo's home in India.
- Describe Saroo's home in Tasmania.
- Think about the different experiences of children in different countries around the world. How is life different for other children? How is life the same?
- What do you think it would be like to go and live with another family in another country where you didn't speak the language?
- Have you ever had that experience? What things would make you feel at home?
- What things did the Brierleys do to make Saroo feel at home?
- What would be different?
- What things would make you feel welcome?
- Draw a picture of yourself and give it the heading: Who am I? Write down some of the things that make you special/unique. Write down your dreams for yourself. What do you want to be when you grow up?
- Share a story about a time you felt proud/achieved something, a story that reminds you of a family time, a story about a journey you have taken. Bring in objects or photos to support your storytelling. Make a class display of your stories, objects and photos.

VISUAL LITERACY

Questions and activities

BRIDGES

- Bridges play an important part in Saroo's search. Bridges can look so different from country to country.
- Perhaps find different examples and either make them or draw them.

MAPS

Saroo and his Australian mum drew a very basic map of Saroo's Indian home from memory marking key locations. Draw a map showing the route from home to school, noting bridges, rivers, large buildings, shops etc – anything of note.

ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR AND UNDERSTANDING

- Find out more about homeless children in India from the information and/or websites at the end of the book.
- Find out more about homeless children in Australia.
- Hold a class or school fundraiser for homeless children.

ILLUSTRATOR'S INSPIRATION AND PROCESS

Bruce says:

I illustrated *Little Lion* in Photoshop on my iMac desktop computer. Photoshop is an amazing program that photographers, illustrators and artists use to create images of all kinds.



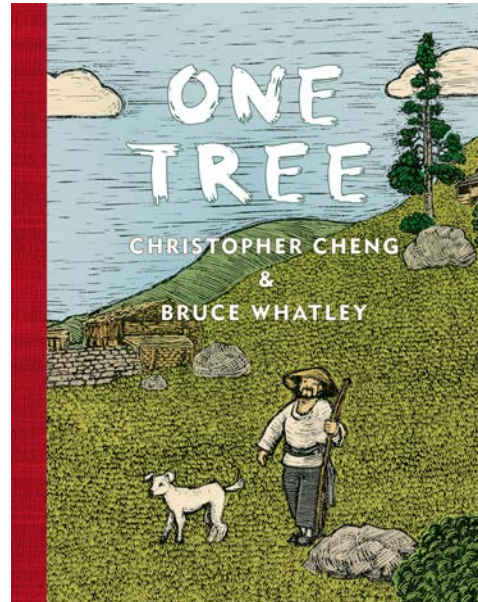
I concentrated on the painting elements where I could choose from hundreds of brushes and an infinite number of colours. There are digital brushes that are like pencils, pastels, felt tip pens, chalk, crayons, watercolours and thick oil paints. And special brushes that paint leaves and hair. The possibilities are endless.



I kept my brushes very simple and chose ones that behaved like crayons or soft pastels. When drawing with normal-coloured pencils you can press lightly to get a lighter colour or harder to get a more solid and darker colour. That way you can create tones and shadows and make things look three-dimensional. That's what I do with these brushes on my Mac using a stylus pen and a graphic tablet (my high-tech brush and paper). The harder I press the darker the mark. Most of the time I am pressing lightly going over the same area shading and blending the colours.

The subject of each illustration was very much determined by Saroo's amazing story. The images of him as a young boy and as a young man are as accurate as I could make them. As were the locations. I found researching these images very interesting as I knew very little about India.

FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



One Tree by Christopher Cheng & Bruce Whatley

Why this story? Read another moving picture book illustrated by Bruce Whatley (in a very different style) about family, belonging, love and hope.

A touching and uplifting story about love, change and the importance of the natural environment in all our lives.

One tall tree on the mountain once marked Grandfather's farm. Now there is a busy city and Grandfather lives with us in our apartment.

Once he told stories but now he stays silent. Until one day, in the city market, I find something precious . . . something that brings Grandfather's memories alive again.

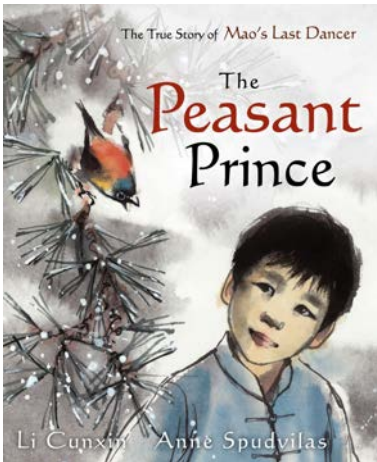
Shortlisted for the Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards, 2020. A CBCA Notable Book.





TEACHERS' RESOURCES

FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



The Peasant Prince by Li Cunxin & Anne Spudvilas

Why this story? Read another acclaimed picture book based on a true story of determination, love and hope.

'This is your one chance. You have your secret dreams. Follow them! Make them come true!'

A moving and inspirational story about a poor Chinese boy, who at the age of ten was chosen from millions of others to be trained as a ballet dancer.

Based on the true story of Li Cunxin, whose book *Mao's Last Dancer* was made into an award-winning film directed by Bruce Beresford, this story introduces the land of Li's childhood, his beloved father, and the small child who was once Li himself: growing up in hardship, yet with love and affection. The picture book shares with us the lives of Li's large family, the special stories in his life, the inspiring teachers, the experiences and moments he will never forget.



Running with the Horses by Alison Lester

Why this story? Read another beautifully illustrated, unforgettable story of courage, adventure and determination, based on real events.

Nina lives with her father above the palace stables at the Royal Academy of Dancing Horses. She loves watching the famous white stallions as they parade for the crowds, but her favourite horse is a mare called Zelda – an old cab horse Nina often pats on her way home from school.

When Nina's world changes dramatically, she and her father have to flee from the city. Their journey over the mountains with Zelda and the stallions seems impossible, with danger at every turn. It will require all of Nina's bravery, daring and faith in an extraordinary old horse.

From one of Australia's best-loved children's book creators and Australian Children's Laureate, 2012–13. Winner of the 2020 ABDA Design Award for Best Children's Book.



What Zola Did on Monday by Melina Marchetta

Why this story? Read the first book in this acclaimed series of chapter books celebrating diversity, community and all kinds of families. Fun, heart-warming and entertaining stories sure to engage newly independent young readers.

Zola loves living on Boomerang Street with her mum and her nonna. Every day of the week is an adventure. But Zola has a problem. No matter how much she tries, she can't keep out of trouble. Like on Monday, when she accidentally lets Gigi dig up Nonna's vegetable garden.

Seven stories in the series – one for every day of the week!

From the bestselling author of *Looking for Alibrandi* and *The Place on Dalhousie*.

ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR/AGE	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Little Lion: A Long Way Home	Saroo Brierley & Bruce Whatley	9780143784760	K-3; Ages 5 and up	\$24.99		
One Tree	Christopher Cheng & Bruce Whatley	9780143786733	K-3; ages 5 and up	\$24.99		
Lion: A Long Way Home young readers' edition	Saroo Brierley	9780143784760	Years 5 and up; ages 11+	\$16.99		
Running with the Horses young readers' edition	Alison Lester	9781760892760	K-3; ages 5 and up	\$16.99		
What Zola Did on Monday	Melina Marchetta	9781760895150	K-3; ages 5 and up	\$12.99		
What Zola Did on Tuesday	Melina Marchetta	9781760895167	K-3; ages 5 and up	\$12.99		
What Zola Did on Wednesday	Melina Marchetta	9781760895174	K-3; ages 5 and up	\$12.99		
What Zola Did on Thursday	Melina Marchetta	9781760895181	K-3; ages 5 and up	\$12.99		
TOTAL						

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