



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Early childhood to middle primary
5+

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- English: Literacy, critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability
- Sustainability: The Environment
- Maths: Measurement and maps, Distances
- Science: Astronomy, Biological Sciences; Geography, Geology, Living things
- Art: Visual Artworks and Design
- Music

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To discuss healing, loss, grief and family
- To discuss new vocabulary and respond to texts
- To share feelings and thoughts about the animals, environment, geography and geology of Australia.
- To learn more about our relationships with the landscape and bodies of water around us.
- To use the text as a springboard for cross curricular teaching.

THEMES

- Family
- Loss and healing
- Travel and holidays
- Nationalism
- Environmentalism/conservation and biological sciences
- Maps

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

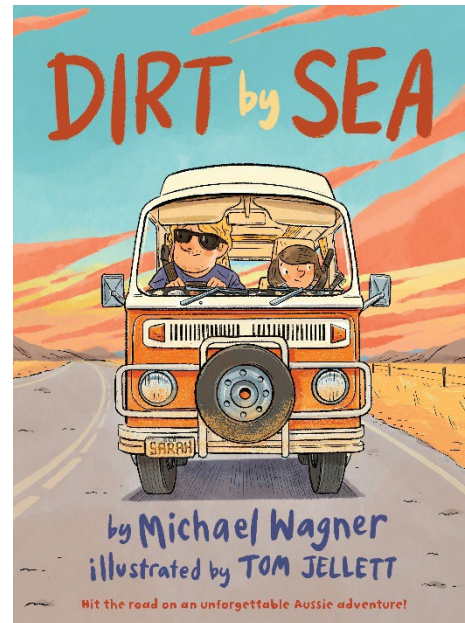
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Dirt by Sea

Michael Wagner
Illustrated by Tom Jellett

PLOT SUMMARY

A love-song to Australia in graphic novel/picture book form, featuring 40 pages of extraordinary comic-style illustrations. Explore our wonderful coastline and the joy of a family road trip with Dad and Daisy.

Daisy lives in inland Australia with her dad and her grandparents. It's home, and she loves the red dirt land around her. But when her dad realises that she's never seen the beach and thinks the Australian anthem is about a country 'dirt by sea', he sets off to show her the ocean in a father-daughter trip along the Australian coast, following the path he took on his first holiday with Daisy's mum Sarah. Sarah passed away when Daisy was small, and the journey is a memorial and a moving tribute to the different ways the two have processed that loss - as Daisy and her dad connect and learn so much along the way.

A moving family story and a true celebration of what we love most about the Australian landscape and family holidays (and classic Kombi vans).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Michael Wagner and Tom Jellett are two of Australia's favourite children's book creators. Their much-loved picture books *Why I Love Footy* and *Why I Love Summer* celebrate the joys of two iconic Australian pastimes.

Michael is an author, publisher and speaker and also runs the publishing venture Billy Goat Books. Tom has been an editorial illustrator for newspapers and magazines, but now creates picture books and junior fiction.

Despite being raised in Victoria, Michael has tried not to dwell too much on how stunning his state's coastline is. Tom hails from South Australia and New South Wales and has done absolutely nothing to disguise how beautiful those beaches are.

Michael and Tom are yet to go on a road trip together but agree that if they did, it would definitely be in a vintage Kombi.

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Michael says:

This book brings together a couple of things that are very dear to my heart. The first is the Australian coastline. After growing up in a migrant family that went to the beach exactly once in my childhood, I was a late convert to beach life. Maybe discovering it as an adult from an 'outsider's' perspective has given me a different kind of appreciation for what our beaches offer, from healthy fun and playful activity to stunning vistas, a sense of community and the sheer awe of the ocean.

The second thing I wanted to celebrate is the father-daughter relationship. Having raised a wonderful daughter of my own, I look back and realise I had no clue how precious and rewarding raising a daughter was going to be. It's been one of life's most wonderful revelations.

Tom says:

I love a road trip. The longer the better!

Being the first to spot an emu on the Hay Plain, the mixed lollies, the welcoming luxuries of a small town motel room, the small conversations about big things or big conversations about small things, the bad singing of good songs or the good singing of bad songs, and watching huge approaching storms and lightning crack across the vast sky . . . There are a lot of things I love

about road trips that have made it into this book, and some that haven't.

After a long day's driving, there's nothing like pulling into a new town for the first time and then trying to find a caravan park or a motel (preferably with a breakfast hatch and toast in bags). Then come the important decisions, like whether to do the chicken schnitzel at the pub or try the Chinese at the bowling club or just have fish and chips at the beach.

I certainly haven't done a road trip as big as this one though, and just between you and me I have a feeling that a similar trip may take more than 40 pages to do!

KEY STUDY TOPICS

For younger readers

- Find all the animals in the book. Can you write a list of their names?
- What do you call your parents or guardians? Have those words changed as you've got older? Do your older or younger siblings call them something different to you? Draw a picture of your family and label the pictures with what you call them.
- Can you sing the national anthem? With your teacher's help, try to learn the lyrics and the tune.
- People love to take photos of themselves with quokkas. Draw a picture of you with a quokka!
- Do you love the beach or swimming? Tell your class about your favourite time at the beach or the pool.
- For show and tell, bring in your favourite holiday picture. Tell the class why it is your favourite.
- Does your family have a name for their car? Do you know anyone who has named their car? What would you call your family car and why? If you don't own a car, what would you call a Kombi if you had one?
- Is there anyone in your family that you miss? Split into pairs and tell your friend all the very best things about them.
- When you come home from time away what are you looking forward to? Draw the best things about home.



- Can you trace Daisy's holiday on the map and say aloud the names of the states she and Dad travel through?

English

- It's not just Daisy – lots of people mishear the lyrics of songs. It even has a word – a 'mondegreen'. Have you ever misheard a song lyric? Look at this list of mondegreens and listen to some of the songs with your teacher: <https://examples.yourdictionary.com/mysterious-mondegreens-examples-unique-phenomenon>
- The movie Daisy watches at the outdoor cinema is called *Storm Boy* – it's based on a classic Australian book by Colin Thiele and is set in the Coorong in South Australia. It's about a lonely boy who forms a close bond with a pelican called Mr Perceval. Can you think of any favourite books that have been turned into films? Write a review of the film or the book?
- Make a movie poster or a film trailer for the film of *Dirt by Sea* or write the voiceover for a trailer introducing the film.
- Look at the cover and the back of the book. What do you expect the book will be about? Do you have any questions? Are those questions answered?
- Find three words in the book that are new to you. Try to work out what they mean from the context (the way they are used and the words and pictures that surround them).
- Many Australians have a particular way of talking – Dad says he's going to the 'toot'. What do you think he means? Can you discover some famous Australian ways of saying things and put them in a sentence?
- Do you know any 'graphic novels' or 'comics'? What are the key things that make a book a 'graphic novel' or 'comic'? Think of a time you have gone on a holiday in the car and draw a line of 'cells' showing things you did with quote bubbles.
- **A personal (expressive) text is writing that shares your personal experience.** Can you write a 'diary entry' about the first time you saw the ocean or went to the beach? (You can include drawings if you like or photos.) OR have you ever felt 'full of love' like Daisy? Write a 'diary entry' about that occasion.
- Daisy does some classic 'road trip' things like playing played driving games like 'Ispy' and singing along to songs. Write a 'text message', 'post card' or 'letter' from you to a friend or family member about keeping yourself entertained on a long drive (remember that text messages and postcards are much shorter than a letter might be and in a different format).
- Write an 'autobiographic story' about a time you have played beach soccer or beach cricket or made sandcastles.
- What's the most exciting thing that's ever happened to you on holiday? Write a facebook or instagram 'post' about it and how it made you feel (you can include a link, hashtags or images). OR Have you ever felt afraid and then brave like Daisy does jumping off the jetty? Write a facebook or instagram 'post' about it and how it.
- **An imaginative (narrative) text is writing that comes from your imagination.** What is your favourite scene in the book? Retell the scene from the perspective of another character in the scene or from Daisy's point of view. (Don't forget that a story needs a start, a middle and an end.) You can write it as a picture book if you like and include drawings. OR Retell the Byron Bay part of the story from Akiro's point of view. OR Write the Bondi Beach part of the story from the 'famous' person's point of view.
- Have you met someone famous?
- What is the most beautiful place in the book (in your opinion)? Write a poem or lyrics about the place. OR think about Daisy and Dad's favourite foods in the book. What is your least favourite food? What is your most favourite food? Write a poem or lyrics about them. You might choose to use rhyme (like Dad tries to when Daisy asks him to write the next line of her song), repetition of words or phrases,

Texts types



alliteration, onomatopoeia, or similes and metaphors.

- **An informative (expository) text is writing that provides information.** Interview your friends - what is their favourite place ever and why? OR Seagulls always seem to show up when there's fish and chips. Write a humorous interview finding out why and how they plan to steal your chippies.
- Write list of things that Dad and Daisy would need to pack for their very long road trip.
- **A procedural text is writing that provides instructions.** Write list of instructions about how to play Ispy (or another travel game you and your family enjoy).
- **A persuasive text is writing that convinces someone of an idea or opinion.** Daisy wants to come back to the amusement park the next day after a whole day on the rides. Write all the reasons she might have used to convince Dad. OR Dad wants to go in the shark cage. Write all the reasons Daisy might give to stop him.
- No one believes that you will be famous one day! Write and deliver a speech explaining to the class why you definitely will be and how.
- Make a poster helping people to understand why they have to swim between the flags and convincing them to do it. OR Research the history of the Kombi van and make a poster explaining why they are the best cars ever!

Music

- Can you play the uke? Do you know anyone who can play the uke? You can learn the basic chords for the anthem here and find a chord chart at the same site:
<https://ukulelechordssongs.blogspot.com/2015/06/traditional-australian-national-anthem.html>
- Write the first line of a song (to any tune you like) and ask your friend to write the next line.
- Listen to the lyrics of the Australian Anthem here:
<https://www.pmc.gov.au/government/australian-national-anthem>
Why do you think that the lyrics of the second line were changed from 'young and free' to

'one and free'? Are there any parts of the anthem you would change?

- If you were writing a new anthem, list three wonderful things about Australia that you would want to include. Share with the class and see if you can sing your new lyrics along to the tune of the anthem.
- Find all the buskers in the book. Have you seen a busker performing? Write a paragraph describing the best busker you have ever seen.

Science

Biology

- Australia has some of the world's deadliest spiders, but although the huntsman is big and scary it's not one of them (it will give you a nasty bite though so don't pick one up). Create a poster of Australia's spiders. Include at least one labelled diagram.
- Not all sharks are scary. Compare and contrast whale sharks and another types of shark using two labelled diagrams.
- Snakes of Australia are mostly shy and usually only bite when they're scared, but what happens when one does bite and what should you do? Create a poster telling people what you should and shouldn't do if you encounter a snake. Include a list of instructions explaining the first aid response if someone is bitten.
- Sadly, there is no way that Daisy saw a Tasmanian Tiger. The last Tasmania Tiger died in a zoo in 1936 because white settlers hunted it in huge numbers. Research this amazing animal and create a poster explaining made it unique:
<https://australian.museum/learn/australia-over-time/extinct-animals/the-thylacine/>
- Research why the Tasmanian Tiger is extinct. Write a story from the point of view of the last Tasmanian Tiger:
<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/extinction-of-thylacine>
- Split into pairs and discuss why you think that looking after the environment so wild animals can survive is important. Do you know what



the words 'extinct' and 'endangered' and 'threatened' mean? Write the definitions down. Can you think of ways that we are putting Australian animals at risk of extinction?

- A fossil is any preserved remains, impression, or trace of any once-living thing from a past geological age. The footprints that Daisy sees in Broome are 'fossils'. Australia had some amazing dinosaurs. Research them and create a poster with interesting information on your favourite, including at least one drawing and one timeline.
<https://australian.museum/learn/dinosaurs/australian-dinosaurs/>
- Find all the Australian animals in the book. Draw a picture of your favourite Australian native animal. Label the major features that help them survive in their environment. Do they hide in their environment in any way?
- Camels and rats and dogs are non-native animals. When they are loose in the wild they are called 'feral animals' or 'pests'. Do some research and write a 'compare and contrast' explaining why non-native animals are problematic - using rats versus quokkas OR camels versus kangaroos as examples.
- 'Algae' is a simple plant that usually lives in water. Dad doesn't really understand how they make the lake pink. Read this and see if you can explain it to him:
<https://science.howstuffworks.com/life/cellular-microscopic/australia-pink-lakes.htm>
- Do you know what the word 'bioluminescence' means? It looks like magic but it isn't! Take a look at the image below and talk to your teacher about how it works. See if you could explain it to Dad and Daisy.
<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/goodliving/posts/2018/04/sea-sparkle>

Astronomy

- Do you know what 'constellations' are? They are groups of stars that form a pattern or a picture. One of the most famous constellations in the Australian sky is the Southern Cross:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H->

5bOlgBIXs

Ask a parent or guardian to take you out tonight to see if you can find it in the sky, like Daisy and Dad. Ask them if they know any other constellations.

- The Southern Cross so famous that it's in our anthem and on our flag, but did you know that it can also be used to tell us where south is? Watch the video here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRICbrl9dgw>
- First Nations Peoples in Australia saw different shapes in the sky to Europeans. Look at the pictures in this article and listen to the story of the emu in the sky.
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-05/aboriginal-astronomy-basis-of-dreamtime-stories-stargazing/8413492>
Ask a parent or guardian to take you out tonight to see if you can find it in the sky. Can you draw the story in comic-book form?
- In some parts of the country you won't be able to see the stars – that's not because they are not there. 'Light pollution' means that there's too much light at night in big cities for us to see the stars.

Break into pairs and interview your partner about a time they have been able to see a constellation.

Geography

- See if you can find Australia on a globe. Can you draw the shape of Australia on a piece of paper and label the states and territories? Once you have done that, plan a journey to visit all the places in the book. Use the map on the endpapers to help.
- Using a different piece of paper, draw the places you have been and where you live.
- Daisy is right – 'everything' is over the horizon because the earth is round. But the horizon is flat and people used to think the Earth was flat! What these ten reasons that we know the earth is round and write a persuasive text convincing someone who thinks it's flat!
<https://www.britannica.com/video/185544/reasons-Earth>
- Have you seen the sunset or the sunrise? The sun seems to 'rise' in the East and 'sink' in the West. Do some research and write an informative text explaining why the sky looks



red and pink at those time.

<https://theconversation.com/curious-kids-how-does-the-sun-make-such-pretty-colours-at-sunsets-and-sunrises-151278>

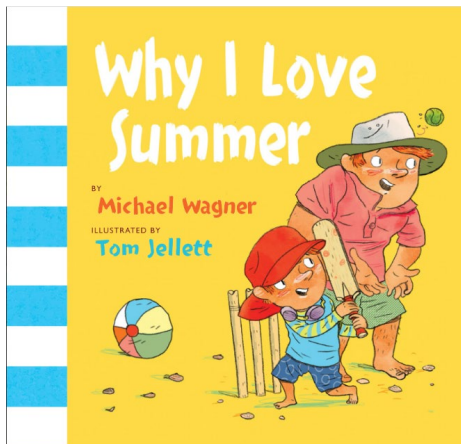
- The Twelve Apostles are large rocks that over the years have been 'eroded', which means 'broken down by the wind and the waves'. Eventually that rocks can become sand, but sand isn't only rock. It can be shell or coral, even fish poo! Find two different types of sand and place them under a microscope or look at these images and draw what you see. What do you think the sand is made of and why?
<https://www.wired.com/2014/03/sand-grains-close-unbelievably-cool/> Science of wet season

Maths and measurement

- Dad asks Daisy to figure out the time of arrival when given speed and travel distance. Speed equals distance divided by time. How long will it take for Dad and Daisy to get to Eucla?



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

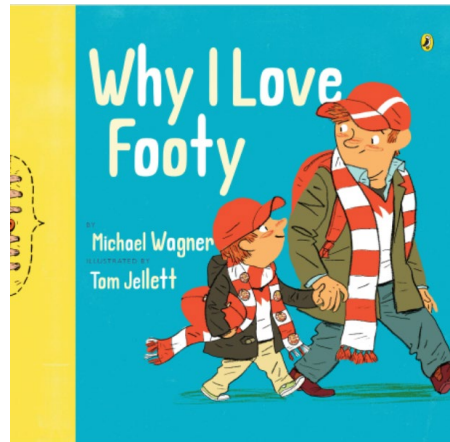


Why I Love Summer
by Michael Wagner and Tom Jellett

There are four seasons in a year, and they're all awesome, but only one of them gets to be summer!

Sunny days, weekends at the pool, games in the backyard, daylight until late, and long, lovely holidays . . . that's summer, the best season EVER.

The perfect follow up to the much-loved *Why I Love Footy* An and an ode to a uniquely Australian experience and the joy of family and friends.



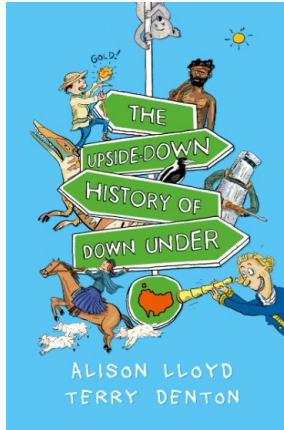
Why I Love Footy
by Michael Wagner and Tom Jellett

There are a bazillion reasons to love footy! These are just my biggest ones...

A perfect picture book for families and footy fans of all colours. There's the big tackles and amazing marks. There's wearing the scarf and singing the song. But whether your team wins or loses, from the opening bounce to the final siren, the very best thing about footy is that we do it TOGETHER.

Notables list, Picture Book of the Year category, CBCA 2016.

FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



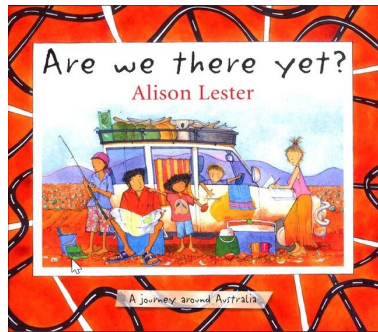
The Upside-down History of Down Under
by Alison Lloyd and Terry Denton

The un-put-down-able history of Australia – unexpected, heroic and sometimes tragic. But never ever boring. Funny, heroic and tragic – the story of our country from prehistory to federation.



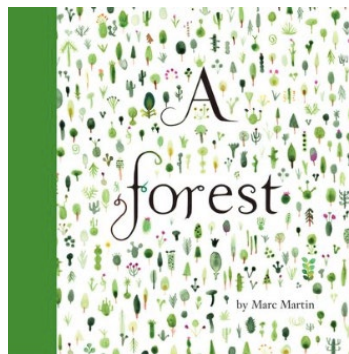
Lots
by Marc Martin

A book about everything* for everyone. A guided journey around the world and discover the many things that make each place unique. A stunning graphic picture book with quirky facts about different places around the world.



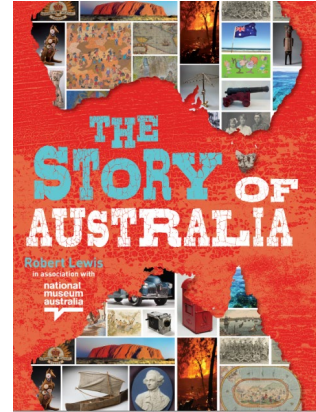
Are We There Yet?
by Alison Lester

Join Grace and her family on their adventurous and funny expedition around Australia. A warm, heartfelt story based on an actual journey undertaken by the much-loved, award-winning author and illustrator, Alison Lester.



A Forest
by Marc Martin

There once was a forest . . . So begins this timeless and touching graphic story of renewal from one of Australia's most talented picture-book creators



The Story of Australia
Robert Lewis

An accessible, essential history resource for every student, produced in partnership with the National Museum of Australia. Drawing on the museum's rich collection of objects, photographs and artefacts, this detailed illustrated history of Australia journeys from the formation of the continent to the growth of a modern, thriving nation.



A River
by Marc Martin

There is a river outside my window. Where will it take me? So begins an imaginary journey from the city to the sea. From factories to farmlands, freeways to forest, each new landscape is explored through stunning illustrations and poetic text.



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
<i>Dirt by Sea</i>	Michael Wagner and Tom Jellett	9781760894061	\$24.99		
<i>Why I Love Footy</i>	Michael Wagner and Tom Jellett	9780143506003	\$14.99		
<i>Why I Love Summer</i>	Michael Wagner and Tom Jellett	9780143783749	\$19.99		
<i>The Upside-down History of Down Under</i>	Alison Lloyd and Terry Denton	9780143788669	\$24.99		
<i>Are We There Yet?</i>	Alison Lester	9780670880676	\$24.99		
<i>The Story of Australia</i>	Robert Lewis	9780857983145	\$34.99		
<i>Lots</i>	Marc Martin	9780670078943	\$24.99		
<i>A River</i>	Marc Martin	9780143783626	\$14.99		
<i>A Forest</i>	Marc Martin	9780143506034	\$14.99		
TOTAL					

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