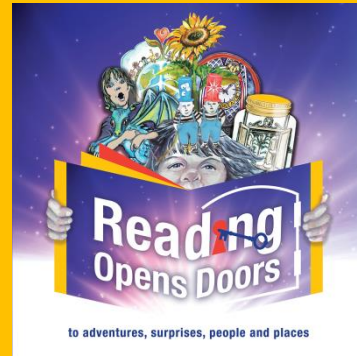


2022
CBCA BOOK WEEK
ACTIVITIES

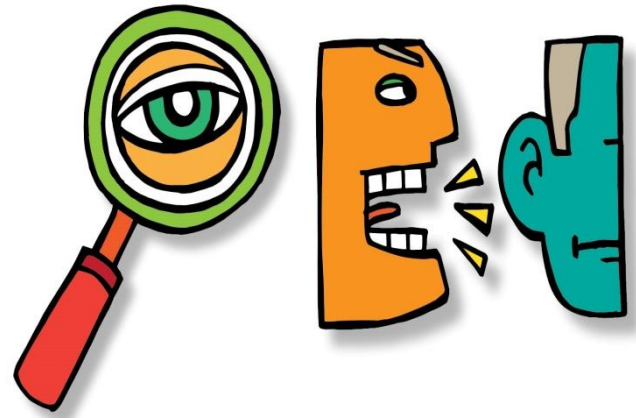
INSPIRED BY THEME:
DREAMING WITH EYES
OPEN ...

LISTENING TO FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE AS THE FIRST STORYTELLERS

ACTIVITY – SHARING AND CONNECTING THROUGH STORY



The challenges below invite you to explore the land, waterways and sea; to pause, observe, watch closely, notice subtle changes, listen carefully, have a curious mind, ask questions, deeply respect the environment, just as First Nations people have for many thousands of years. These activities have been designed to inspire you to connect with the wisdom and stories based on ancient knowledge and experience from First Nations people.

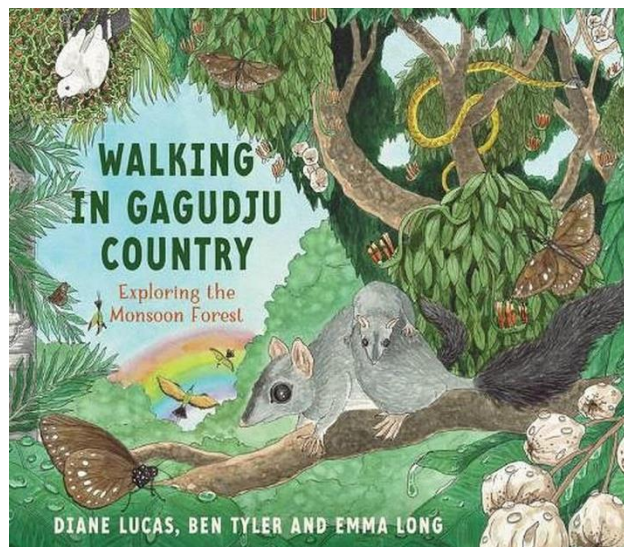


Challenges inspired by:

Walking in Gagudju Country Exploring the Monsoon Forest
written by Diane Lucas, Ben Tyler and illustrated by Emma Long
2022 CBCA Shortlisted title

Categories: The Eve Pownall Award and 2022 CBCA Award for New Illustrator

Review on Reading Opens Doors blog (scroll down to ninth book) [here](#)



www.readingopensdoors.com.au

Note: In the notes for readers at the beginning of the book it is stated that another word for ‘Gagudju’ is ‘Kakadu’ and that the monsoon forest in the story is the Kakadu National Park.

Activities

Exploring your local area

This story begins with the concepts that walking through country, specifically the shady monsoon forest, means being open to countless possibilities and to be prepared for anything.

- What tips would you suggest for adventurers wishing to explore your local area?
- Who could be contacted to share Indigenous knowledge and ancient stories about your local area?
- Provide a list of possible experiences and ones to be prepared for when exploring your local area (include Indigenous knowledge).

In this story, there are examples of clues in the forest (such as animal behaviours and flowers blooming) that can be used to inform people about how to look after this land. There are also examples about animals alerting visitors to danger and changes in weather. When exploring, what signs (consider what you can see, hear, smell and touch) have you observed that indicate:

- ways to look after the land, or
- that there is danger in an area, or
- information about weather.

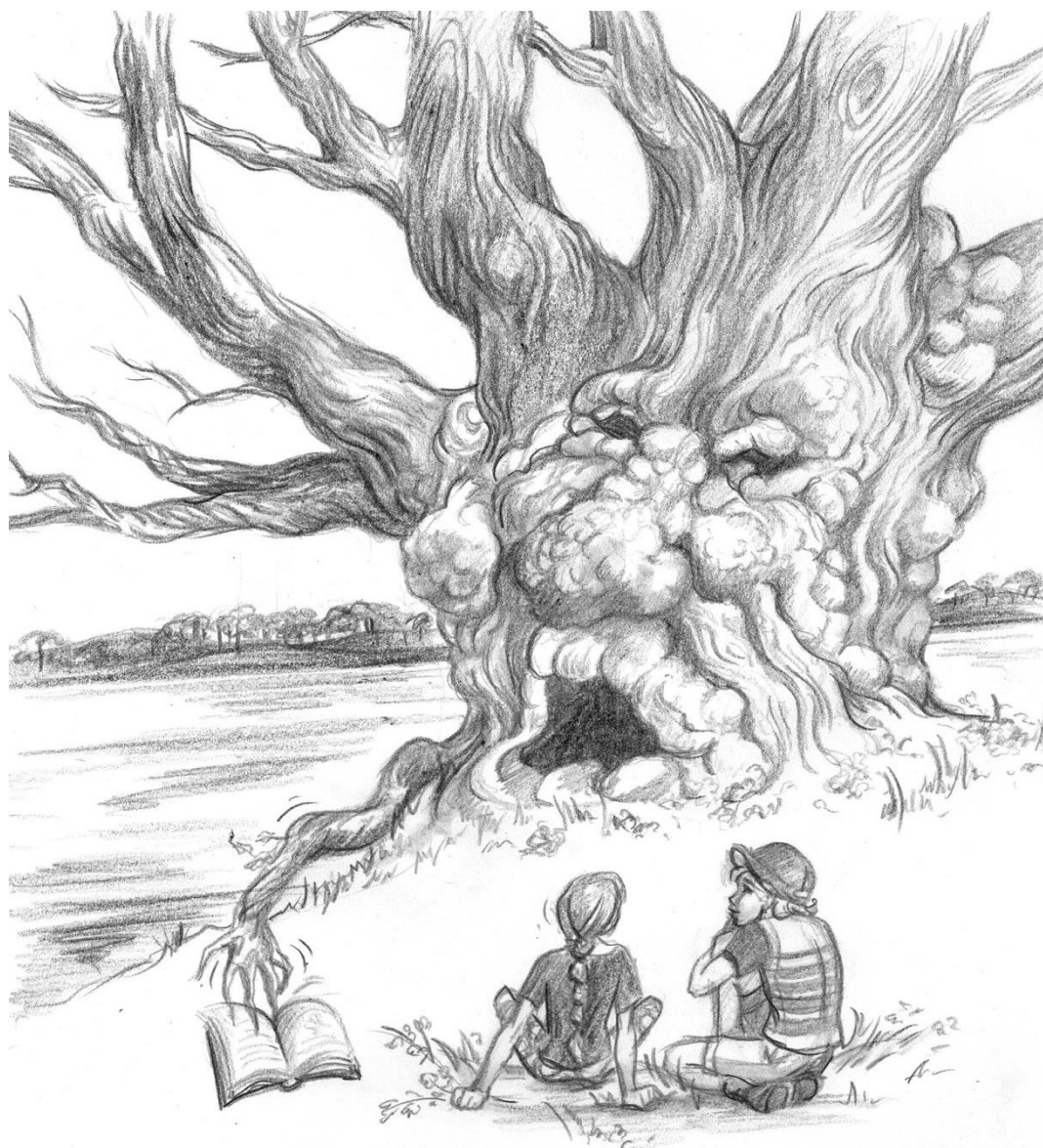
Bushwalking

Create a micro scene showing part of the environment, similar to what Emma Long did in her illustrations where she included magnified micro scenes that have been extracted from a picture to show remarkable detailing.

Your micro scene could be in the form of an artistic piece, a poem, a descriptive written piece, a photo with labels or information.

Carefully listen to the stories from the past and present by observing and looking for clues to read the landscape, for example, what story could be behind a tree that has fallen or a tree that has been burnt. Create a story, poem or song about your observation.

Observe a tree for at least ten minutes (in different positions - as close as you can, from afar and at different angles) and record your observations. See 'Tips to Help' (below) to consider when observing a tree. Then, imagine it could talk about its past, life now and hopes for the future. What would it say?





Thoughts to consider when observing a tree

Tips to consider when observing a tree close up:

Use your senses to explore the tree.

Look closely at the tree - consider the shape. Does it change from the base to the top? Describe any changes noted. What's on or in the tree? What textures and patterns can be observed? What colours make up the tree? Is there any evidence of animals living in or on the tree? What other observation can be seen.

Feel the tree (with adult supervision) - what textures can you feel (look at the base of the tree and include roots)? Can you feel the leaves? Is there any sap, moss, vines, seeds, berries or other features on the tree you can feel?

Listen – what sounds can be heard coming from the tree?

Smell - Are there any scents that can be detected and what is the source of these?

Step back so that the tree can be observed from afar in its entirety and observe the different parts of the tree (the crown, trunk and roots):

Consider the shape of the tree and the different parts that make up the tree.

Describe what you see. Is it straight, symmetrical and does it appear to be in good health? Why or why not?

What could have affected the shape and health of the tree?

What other details, such as colours, patterns and movement can be observed from afar.

