

# TEACHERS' NOTES



**Written and illustrated by**

Sarah Allen

**Suitable for**

Ages 3+

**Themes**

Marsupials of Australia

Routines

Comparing and contrasting



## Contents of this pack

- Overview of *Jumping Joeys*
- Key themes
- Questions before we begin reading
- Discussion points in key curriculum areas
- Final reflections
- Activities

## Description

Journey through the night with some of Australia's most fascinating furry friends.

Meet waddling wombats, bounding bilbies, peculiar possums and daring devils in this delightful introduction to our cute and quirky marsupials.

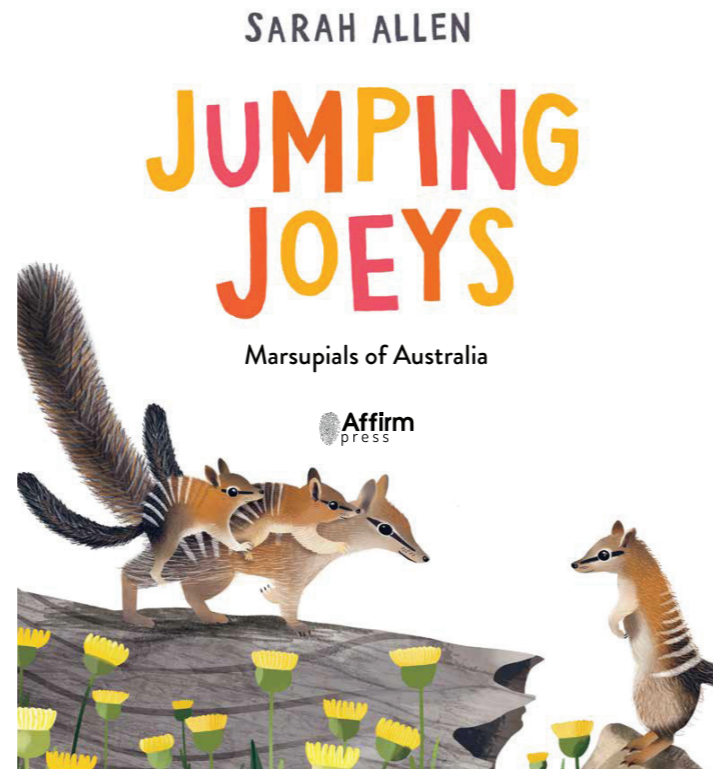
## About the author-illustrator

Sarah Allen is an illustrator and designer based in Victoria, Australia. The natural world is her biggest inspiration. Through her art, she hopes to share her love of this beautiful planet, with a special focus on Australian flora and fauna.

This is Sarah's second book with Affirm Press, following the CBCA-shortlisted *Busy Beaks* (pictured).

## Find this book at our website:

<https://affirmpress.com.au/publishing/jumping-joeys/>



## Key themes

- Marsupials in Australia
- Routines
- Comparing and contrasting

## Questions to ask before we begin reading

- Have a look at the front cover; what do you think this book will be about?
- How many animals are on the cover?
- Do you know what these animals have in common?
- Do you know the names of any?
- Where do you think these animals live?



## Questions to ask while we are reading

### Comprehension

- What time of day is it at the beginning of this book? How does the sky change in the book? What time do you think it is at the end?
- Some of the marsupials in this book are nocturnal. What do you think nocturnal means?
- Can you find other animals that are awake at night with the nocturnal marsupials?
- Which marsupials are awake during the day? What do these marsupials do at night?
- Lots of the marsupials are looking for food. Can you spot some of the things that the marsupials are eating?
- Some marsupials eat other animals. This makes them predators and the animals they eat, their prey. But some marsupials are herbivores or omnivores. What does 'herbivore' and 'omnivore' mean? Can you spot a herbivore marsupial in this book? Flip to the glossary to find out what the marsupials eat and have a discussion about which marsupials are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.
- Do some of the marsupials in this book live underground? Find examples to show whether this is or isn't true.
- There are two types of kangaroo in this book. Have a look at the Red Kangaroos and the





LumHoltz's Tree Kangaroos and describe some of their differences.

- Which other marsupial looks like a Red Kangaroo?
- Have a look at the Furry Field Guide at the end of this book. Can you find some facts about these marsupials that aren't shown in the book? Call some out to the class!



## Literacy

- **Verbs:** This book shows us that marsupials do lots of different things, like climb and jump. 'Climb' and 'jump' are verbs. Can you find other verbs in this book?
- **Rhyme:** Rhyme is important in this book. Can you find some rhyming words?
- **Alliteration:** Some of the sentences use words that have the same first sounds, like 'bilbies bound'. Can you find other examples of this? *See page 6 for a related activity.*
- **Vocabulary:** there are some words that may be new to you in this book! As a class, go through each page and call out new words. Can you guess what they mean?
- **Language:** The scientific names of the marsupials are written on each page. These words are in a different language: Latin! Why do you think marsupials (and other animals) have scientific names? Who might use these names in their work?
- **Pronunciation:** Which are the trickiest Latin words to say out loud? Have a discussion around pronouncing scientific names. Do any of the scientific names sound like the general marsupial name?
- **Syllables:** Go through the book and clap the syllables for each marsupial. Which has the most syllables? Which has the least?

## Numeracy

- Baby marsupials are called joeys. How many joeys can you spot in this book?
- Near the beginning of the book, we see a wombat and a joey together. Wombats are mostly solitary, which means they spend most of their time alone. How long do you think a mother wombat spends with her joey? Flick to the glossary page for the answer!
- There are many marsupials in this book, how many can you count altogether?
- How many of each type of marsupial are there? Teachers, keep a tally on the board!

- We see termites on the numbat's page! How many termites do you think a numbat can eat in one day? Flick to the glossary to find the answer!
- How many times does the moon appear? How many times does the sun appear?
- How many non-marsupials (such as owls) appear in this book?

## Knowledge and understanding of the world

- Marsupials can live very different lives from each other! From this book, can you:
  - name the different places (habitats) that marsupials live in?
  - name the different foods that marsupials can eat? (Check the glossary for this one!)
- Which of the marsupials look similar?
- Depending on where you live in Australia, you might have seen some or many of these marsupials. Do you know which marsupials live near you? Which marsupials live far away from you?
- What makes a marsupial a marsupial?
- Do any of the marsupials look like other animals (non-marsupials)? How so?
- Why do you think pouches are a good place for the joeys to be? When do you think a joey leaves its mother's pouch for good?
- Have a look at the gliders. What makes them able to glide between trees?
- Can you name some Australian animals that are not marsupials?

## Final reflections

- Which marsupials do you like best in this book? Why?
- What have you learned from reading *Jumping Joeys*?
- Would you read this book again?





### Literacy activity: Learn about alliteration!

Alliteration occurs when two or more words start with the same sound. Using the words below, ask the students to compile creative phrases that use alliteration.

- |            |         |           |
|------------|---------|-----------|
| wonderful  | possum  | questions |
| quirky     | joey    | gloats    |
| joyful     | bettong | delights  |
| gluttonous | quokka  | wanders   |
| daring     | wallaby | bounces   |
| playful    | devil   | pounces   |
| bold       | glider  | jumps     |



### Comprehension activity: Compare and contrast!

Ask students to choose a marsupial from *Jumping Joeys*. Give everyone a sticky note so that they can write their marsupial's name on it. The students should find someone in the class with a different nametag. In pairs, they should talk about what makes them similar and different. This will require them to look at *Jumping Joeys* and use the text, illustrations and glossary for clues. They can use the worksheet below to capture their conversation! After ten minutes, the pairs can be asked to share their experience with the class.

Marsupial name:

Marsupial name:

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I like to eat

I like to eat

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I live

I live

-----

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I am awake during the

I am awake during the

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