



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Preschool
(ages 0–3 years)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and creative thinking

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To develop listening and reading skills
- To learn about different colours and Australian animals
- To think about learning new things
- To enjoy rhythm and rhyme

THEMES

- Colours
- Australian animals and plants
- Friendship

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

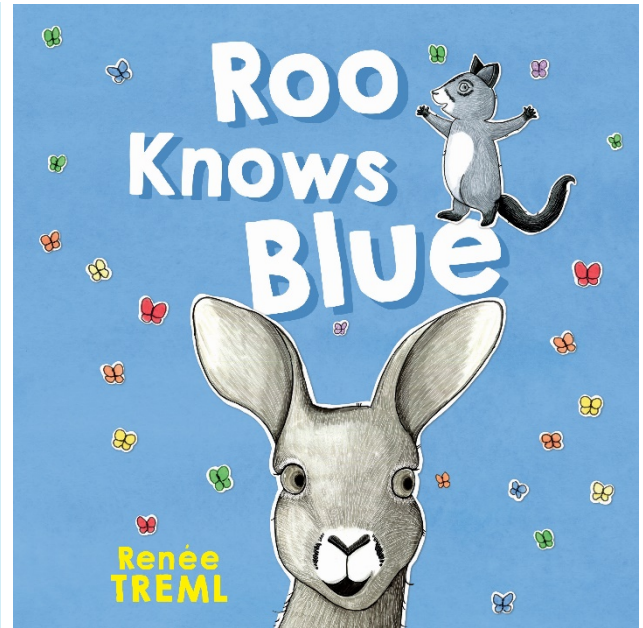
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Roo Knows Blue

Renée Tremain

PLOT SUMMARY

Who knows blue? Roo knows blue!

But does Roo know other colours too?

Sing along with Roo and Possum as they practise their colours.

A joyous celebration of colour in the Australian bush from bestselling author-illustrator Renée Tremain.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Renée Trembl was inspired by Australia's wildlife and native birds after moving from the USA to Australia in 2007. She loves to create artworks that highlight the subtle details of nature with delicacy and humour. Renée's books have won or been listed for awards including the CBCA Crichton Award for New Illustrator, Speech Pathology Book of the Year and the Environment Award for Children's Literature. Renée's illustrations are featured on a variety of products, including stationery, ceramics and fine art prints.

AUTHOR'S INTERVIEW

What inspired you to write *Roo Knows Blue*?

I love Mo Willems' *Pigeon* books and wanted to create a book that encourages kids to talk back to the story. I hope at story time kids will call out the colours and help Possum teach Roo that there's more out there than just the colour blue.

What made you choose a possum to be Roo's friend?

I love possums and have so many drawings of them in my sketchbooks. This possum was perfect for Roo because it has just enough sensibility and cheerfulness to compliment Roo's silly nature.

What is your favourite colour?

It's probably pretty obvious, but blue is my favourite colour.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Ask the students to have a look at the front cover. Can they tell who the story is going to be about? Do they know the words on the front cover?
2. Can the students name all the animals on the front cover?
3. Look at the animals on the front and back covers. Do the students think these characters are friends? Why do they think that?
4. Where do the students think this story will be set?

KEY STUDY TOPICS

About the story

1. Read *Roo Knows Blue* as a class. The author uses a singsong refrain that is repeated throughout the book:

Little Roo hops along, hops along and sings this song ...

How would this change if Possum was the main character instead of Roo? Would the singsong refrain have to use different words to match Possum? Which words would need to be different?

2. Possum gets a bit frustrated with Roo in the story. How does it show in the illustrations? Why does Possum get impatient with Roo?

As a class, look at the rhyming words on each spread. Can the students think of other words that fit each rhyme? For example, what else rhymes with:

too, blue

head, red

fellow, yellow

Colours

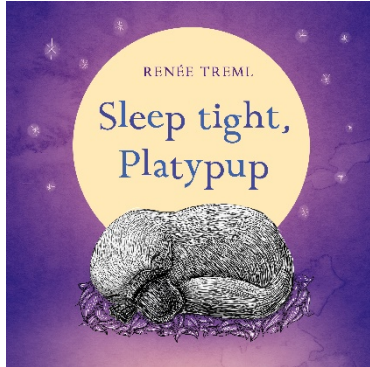
1. Ask the students what their favourite colours are. Do the students feel a certain way when they look at different colours? Do they think certain emotions and colours could match up? Discuss as a class.
2. Ask the students to pick one of the colours used in the book: blue, red, yellow, pink, green, purple or orange. Make a list of all the other different things they can think of that have these colours. Draw a few of them in a scene together.

Animals and their environment

1. As a class, discuss what the students know about kangaroos and possums.
2. Can the students name other books that feature Australian animals as the main characters?
3. Roo and Possum are the main characters of this story. Ask the students to look at each page and see how many other animals they can find. Can they name each one?
4. As a class, discuss what different animals like to eat and where they live. Pick one of these animals and draw their home environment.
5. How many other Australian animals – not featured in the story – can the students name? Write a list of these as a class.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



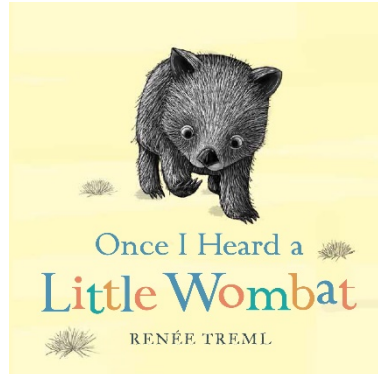
Sleep Tight, Platypup
by Renée Trembl

Poor little Platypup is frightened of the dark. What is that shadow? Who made that noise?

But there's nothing to fear. With his mother by his side, the little platypus ventures out of his burrow to explore. The moonlight dances on the water. Leaves whisper and gumnuts knock in the wind.

Platypup discovers that his home by the river is just as lovely in the dark of night as it is during the day! And that's not scary at all.

Teachers' resources available.

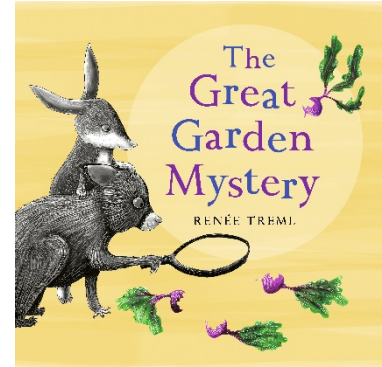


Once I Heard a Little Wombat
by Renée Trembl

'Once I heard a little wombat stomp stomp stomp . . .'

Read along and act out the movements as these baby Australian animals eat, play and settle down for nap time.

A beautiful Australian take on a classic nursery rhyme.



The Great Garden Mystery
by Renée Trembl

Someone is stealing the beetroots, who could that somebody be? Join us in the garden and we'll unravel this mystery.

A mix of clever Australian animals examine the clues, but can this cluey cast catch the thief before they strike again?

This beautifully illustrated picture book is perfect for reading aloud and features a cast of Australian and other animals that will delight both young and older readers.



What colours can Little Roo see?



BLUE
RED
YELLOW
GREEN
PINK
PURPLE
ORANGE



Draw something that is ...

purple

pink

green

blue

yellow

orange



ORDER FORM

| TITLE | AUTHOR | ISBN | SCHOOL YEAR | RRP | QTY | TOTAL |
|---|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------|-----|-------|
| Roo Knows Blue | Renée Trembl | 9780143790327 | Pre-K-K | \$19.99 | | |
| Sleep Tight, Platypup (hardback) | Renée Trembl | 9780143789697 | Pre-K-1 | \$19.99 | | |
| Once I Heard a Little Wombat (board book) | Renée Trembl | 9781760890544 | Pre-K-K | \$14.99 | | |
| The Great Garden Mystery (paperback) | Renée Trembl | 9780857984173 | Pre-K-1 | \$14.99 | | |
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| TOTAL | | | | | | |

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