

Baby Koala Rescue

Author:
Tilda Kelly

ISBN: 9781408363348

Publisher:
Hachette Children's Books

Synopsis

A tragic bush fire sparks a beautiful friendship between a young girl and a baby koala. Ruby is dreading changing schools as her autism makes it hard to befriend other kids. But when her dog finds a baby koala and her family agrees to foster it, Ruby quickly becomes the koala's best friend.

Ruby loves quiet and routine, which makes her a perfect koala carer!

A talented artist, she names the koala Pablo - after her favourite artist.

Through looking after Pablo, Ruby befriends a neighbouring girl who loves painting as much as she does.

Soon Pablo is well enough to move to a koala kindergarten. But is Ruby ready to move to her own new school?

Author Bio

Tilda Kelly is a writer who has travelled the world extensively, meeting many exotic creatures on her adventures – from koalas and kangaroos in Australia, to giraffes and gazelles in Africa and tapirs and tigers in Asia.

At home, she has a dog and two cats (both adopted) to keep her company as she writes her animal stories.



Tilda Kelly is the pseudonym of an experienced children's book author.

- What is a pseudonym?
- Why would an author want to use a pseudonym instead of their real name?

Curriculum Links

Health and Physical Education - Year 1 and 2

ACPPS017 Practise strategies they can use when they feel uncomfortable, unsafe or need help with a task, problem or situation

Health and Physical Education - Year 3 and 4

ACPPS038 Investigate how emotional responses vary in depth and strength

English Year 3

ACELT1596 Draw connections between personal experiences and the worlds of texts, and share responses with others

Themes

- Animals
- Art
- Autism
- Change
- Confidence
- Friendship
- New Baby
- New School

As a classroom teacher consider the situation of the students in your class as to whether you address the autism in the book directly.

Some students in your class may have sensory or physical difficulties, or emotional challenges. Sometimes these needs are acknowledged by parents, teachers or classmates. Others are not.

The activities in these notes can be adapted to the the individual needs of the students in your class.

What's your happy place?

From reading the first chapter we can see that Ruby does not love being around lots of people and she does not like the noise and jostling.

She is most comfortable at home and at the Green Gates Wildlife Sanctuary.

Write about the place that you love the most, where you are the most comfortable, and write about why this place makes you feel that way.

Senses:

Ruby does not like:

- loud noises
- bad smells
- lumpy foods

Write about a smell, taste, touch, sight, or sound you like.

OR

Write about a smell, taste, touch, sight, or sound you do not like.

What do we know about Ruby:

- Ruby likes facts.
- Does not like change
- Does not like crowds
- Sensitive to sound and touch
- Loves animals
- Love to paint

List five facts about yourself. Include things that people might not know about you.

Figures of Speech and What They Mean

People sometimes use expressions that are not meant to be taken literally.

These are called "figures of speech." Ruby takes most things people say literally, she can have trouble understanding the meaning of figures of speech.

For example,

When Mrs Hanson says 'See you on Monday, Ruby,' Ruby thinks it's a weird thing to say because of course Mrs Hansen will see her on Monday, what she means is 'see you' as a way of saying goodbye.

Can you think of other things we say, that may be considered odd or strange if taken literally?

- *Don't count your chickens before they hatch*
- *Barking up the wrong tree*

After reading the book:

If appropriate, discuss what the class thinks autism is, and what it might mean for someone who is autistic.

Did anyone guess that Ruby might be autistic?

Sometimes people with autism don't like to talk about it, or draw attention to their differences.

Do you think it would have been easier for Kirra to understand how Ruby reacted when Pablo got sick if she knew about Ruby's autism?

Why do you think it may be difficult for someone to talk about their autism?

What can we do to make it easier for someone to talk about any worries that they may have?

Art:

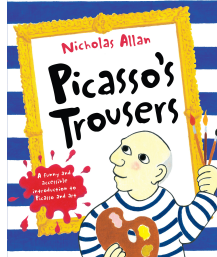
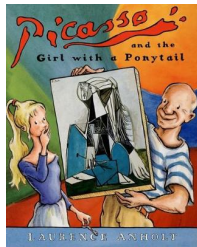
Ruby loves art.

She names the Koala Pablo, after her favourite artist, Pablo Picasso.

Have you heard of Picasso?

Picture Books about Picasso:

- Picasso's Trousers
- Picasso and the Girl with a Ponytail



Have you heard of any other artists?

Books about other artists by Laurence Anholt



Bushfires

Baby Koala Rescue is a story that takes place after a bushfire.

Ruby's Mum works at the Green Gates Wildlife Sanctuary.

Part of what they do there is rehabilitate koalas who are injured or who lost their homes in the fires.

WIRES is an Australian wildlife rescue organisation.

WIRES mission is to actively rehabilitate and preserve Australian wildlife and inspire others to do the same.



To find out more, go to:

<https://www.wires.org.au/>

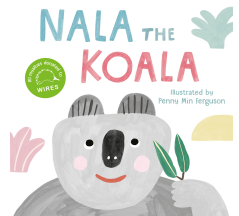
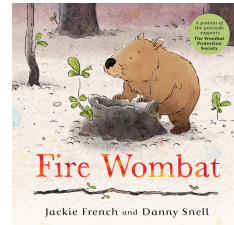
Other books on bushfires:

Novels:

- Eco Rangers: Wildfire Rescue
- Mission Fox: Koala Round Up

Picture Books:

- Finding Home
- Fire Wombat
- Nala the Koala



Non Fiction:

- Bushfire Book: How To Be Aware And Prepare
- Fabish: The Horse That Braved A Bushfire

