

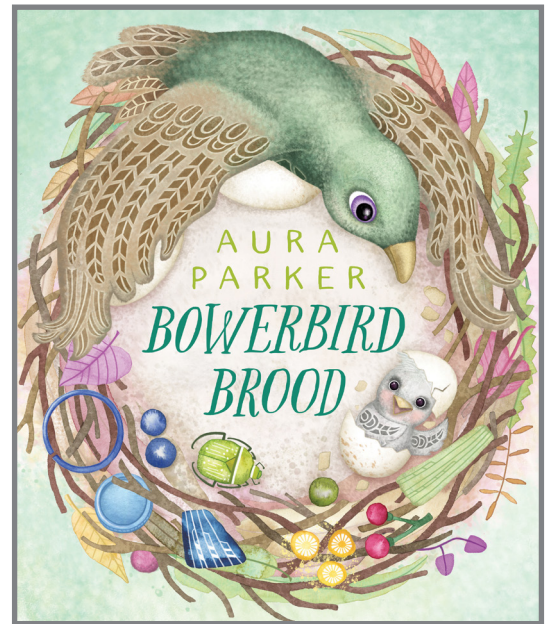
Bowerbird Brood

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
AURA PARKER

SCIS: 5510987

ISBN: 9781761521621

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

I am a protector.

Always watching, guarding . . . and shielding.

Bowerbird's nest is full. These fine eggs, whole and smooth . . . the perfect THREE! But will they hatch?

A story of love and tenderness with universal themes of growing up, taking flight and leaving the nest.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Aura Parker is a writer, illustrator and designer who creates prints, textiles and picture books. Her work is joyful, imaginative and brimming with details to explore. She works from a studio in Sydney.

Bowerbird Blues was ALIA's National Simultaneous Storytime book for 2024, read to almost 2.4 million children.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the story, discuss the book cover and title. Some things to include in your discussion might be:
 - What can you see happening on the cover?
 - What do you know about bowerbirds?
 - What can you deduce about bowerbirds from the cover artwork?
 - Where do you think this book is likely to be set, and why do you think this?
 - Why do you think bowerbirds have been given this name?
 - What is the most interesting object you can see on the cover of this book?
 - What do you predict is likely to happen in this story?
 - Who do you think is likely to be the main character of the story, and why do you think this?
- Look carefully at the artwork on the first page of the story, where the bowerbird says that she's a protector. Where do you think all the objects in this artwork are likely to have been found? Why do you think they are included in this illustration? Can you identify what all of the different items are?
- Go for a walk around the school grounds or local area, and look for dropped or lost items, shiny things, and interesting sticks, twigs, flowers or other bits of fallen foliage. Try to find at least six items for an interesting bowerbird collection of your own.

- When you return to class, use your found items as the focus of an artwork. Your artwork can be a collage incorporating the items you found, or it can be a painting, drawing or sculpture inspired by the different objects you have collected. After completing your artwork, write a reflection piece that outlines what you found, where you found it, why you thought that it was worth collecting, where you think it came from and how you have incorporated it into your artwork.
- How do you think it must feel to be a bowerbird? Write and illustrate a short piece from the point of view of a bowerbird who finds an interesting item that a human has lost or discarded.
- How has the author/illustrator helped to share the bowerbird's viewpoint with the reader? What different events, words and artwork do you feel have helped you understand what life as a bowerbird must be like?
- Alliteration is when two or more words start with the same sound. How many examples of alliteration can you find? How does reading alliterative text aloud make you feel?
- When the eggs hatch, the author uses both alliteration and onomatopoeia while describing this event. What is onomatopoeia, and what examples of it can you find in the story?
 - Individually, write a poem inspired by your reading of *Bowerbird Brood*, that uses both alliteration and onomatopoeia. Illustrate your poem, and mount the illustration and the final copy of your writing side by side on a large piece of cardboard. Display everyone's finished work so that the whole class can read and appreciate what has been created.
- What do you think is a bowerbird's favourite colour, and why do you think this?
 - With a time limit of five minutes, make a list of all the different blue objects that you can see without leaving your classroom.
- If a bowerbird was in your classroom, what blue objects do you think it might collect? Draw a picture of a bowerbird surrounded by some of the different blue objects you can see in your classroom. Use the list from the previous activity to help you think of items to include in your artwork, and caption your artwork with a written description of all the items your bowerbird is surrounded by.
- Look carefully at the final illustration of the bowerbird family. What are the different blue objects that they have surrounded themselves with, and where do you think they might have found them?
- Read the end pages of the book, and complete the suggested activities.
- How many different types of bird appear in the story text or illustrations? As a class, create a list of all the different birds in the story. In pairs or small groups, choose one of the birds from the list to research further. Find at least five interesting facts about where it lives, what it eats, its habits and plumage. Create a poster featuring your bird that has at least one original illustration, and five facts. Present your poster to the class and share what you now know about this bird.
- Where do bowerbirds live? Where do the bowerbirds in the story live? What can you deduce about the location of their nest from the different illustrations? As a class, discuss what the visual narrative tells you about this family of bowerbirds, focusing on the information that isn't included in the textual narrative.
- Which of the different birds in the story have you seen in real life? Where and when did you see them? Have you ever seen a bowerbird? If not, why do you think that this is the case?
- What is the most exciting part of the story? What is the most interesting part? As a class, discuss what you think is the most enjoyable aspect of this book, and why you liked it. Individually, draw a picture of your chosen event.

AUTHOR OF NOTES
RAE CARLYLE