



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Lower and middle primary
(ages 6–8; years 1 to 3)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, personal and social capability, critical and creative thinking

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Develop independent reading
- Help foster understanding and empathy
- Encourage discussions around family and belonging

THEMES

- Family
- Home/belonging
- Outback life

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

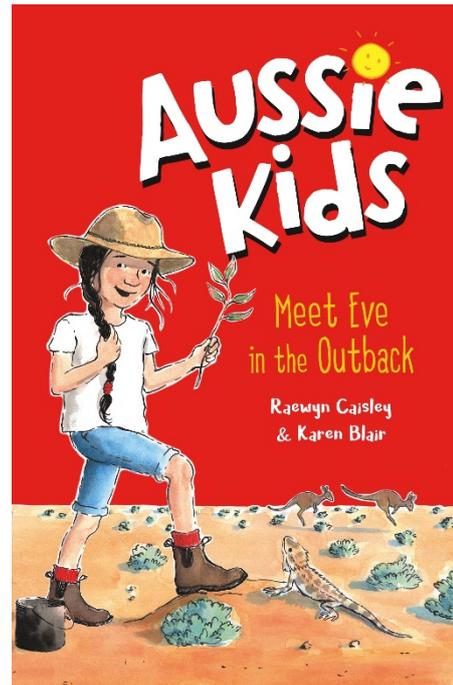
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Aussie Kids: Meet Eve in the Outback

Raewyn Caisley and Karen Blair

PLOT SUMMARY

Hi! I'm Eve.

I live at a roadhouse in the Nullarbor.

We don't get many visitors. But today my cousin Will is coming.

We'll have so much fun!

Aussie Kids is an exciting new series for emerging readers 6-8 years.

From a NSW Zoo to a Victorian lighthouse, or an outback sheep farm in WA to a beach in QLD, this junior fiction series celebrates stories about children living in unique places in every state and territory in Australia.

8 characters, 8 stories, 8 authors and illustrators from all 8 states and territories!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Eve from Western Australia.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Raewyn Caisley was born in New Zealand but has lived in Australia, in Fremantle, WA, for more than half her life, with her husband Terry and their son Jack. Raewyn is the author of books for younger readers that include bestselling Aussie Bites and Nibbles titles, and the picture books *Hello from Nowhere* and *Something Wonderful*. *Hello from Nowhere* won the 2015 SCBWI Crystal Kite Award for Australia and New Zealand, was shortlisted for the 2016 Adelaide Festival Awards and the WA Premier's Book Awards, and was a CBCA Notable Book in 2015. *Something Wonderful* was shortlisted for the Patricia Wrightson Prize for children's Literature, won the 2016 Speech Pathology Australia book of the Year Award, and was a 2017 CBCA Notable Book.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Karen grew up in Perth, Western Australia. She loves to illustrate the joys and adventures of childhood. She lives in Fremantle with her husband and two children and works part-time as a primary-school art teacher. Her characters are often inspired by her students and her own children.

Her award-winning books include *Something Wonderful* and *Hello from Nowhere* by Raewyn Caisley, *With Nan* by Tania Cox, *Granny Grommet* and *Me* by Dianne Wolfer, *Me and You* by Deborah Kelly, *Baby Beats* and *Baby Animal Farm*.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

Questions

1. Look at the front cover of the book. Where do you think this story is set? What do you think it is going to be about?
2. Look at the picture of Eve on the cover. How do you think she is feeling?
3. Turn to the back cover and look at the map. Can you find where you live on the map? Is it a long way from Eve's home?
4. The cover shows Eve standing in a desert environment. Have you ever been to a desert? What do you think it would be like to live there?

Activities

- What are the names of the different animals on the cover? As a class, discuss what you know about these two different Australian animals.

WRITING STYLE/STRUCTURE

Questions

1. This book is broken up into chapters – how many are there?
2. Stories have a beginning, middle and an end. A problem or worry is usually introduced for the main character at the start of the story. What is Eve's problem at the start of the story? Can you find the moment when this problem is resolved?

Activities

- As a class, discuss what you think the story would have been like if Eve had gone to visit Will in the city instead? What type of activities do you think they would have done? Draw a picture of what you think Will's home might look like.
- Write a list of all the farm animals mentioned in the story. Write a separate list of the native Australian animals. Pick one of these animals to write a story about. What would the title of your story be? What name would you give your animal character?
- Look at the illustrations in the book. How do you think the illustrations add to the story? Do they give you extra information that isn't in the text? Pick a moment in the story and create your own illustration for that moment.

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Family

Questions

1. Eve's Nan has travelled a long way to see her. Do you have family members who travel a long way to see you?
2. Eve's cousin, Will, has come to visit from the city. Do you have any cousins? Do they live near you or far away? Are there members of your family you only see on special occasions?
3. In the story Wally Scuds lives in the bush with his dog. He tells Eve that he's had 'a lucky life' (p28). What do you think the good things would be about living by yourself? What would the bad things be?

Activities

- Eve's family runs a roadhouse on the Nullarbor Plain. Do you know what a roadhouse is? Write a list of all the different things that a roadhouse might need to sell or provide as a service for people travelling through the area.



- Will is visiting Eve on the holidays – have you ever been on a family holiday? Where did you go? Draw a picture of a holiday you can remember. Or draw a picture of your ultimate dream holiday.

Outback life

Questions

1. Eve and her family live in an extraordinary part of Australia. Had you heard about the Nullarbor Plain before reading this story? Has the author given you hints about what it is like to live in this part of Australia? How do you think it is different to where you live?
2. Distance effects everything in Eve's world. Do you have to travel a long distance to get to school or to the shops? Do you think living far away from these things would mean you'd have to be more organised? Discuss what you might have to do differently if you live out in the bush or in the outback compared to living in a city.

Activities

- The outback is a different place to live compared to a city. And a roadhouse is a different place to live compared to a house. Can you draw some other interesting places where people live? Eg some homes are above shops, some people live in caravans and some live on houseboats.
- In chapter 7, Eve and Will look at the stars and can see different constellations. Have you looked up at the stars before? Find out what 'stargazing' is called. Then research some constellations with your class (the Southern Cross and the Big Dipper are two you could research). Draw these constellations or others you have found out about labelling each one.
- Write a poem about living in your community. Include things about the environment and your neighbours. Read it to the class.
- Draw an aerial view of Eve's farm and the surrounding area. Then draw an aerial view of your home and the surrounding area. How are the two drawings different? How are they the same?

KEY QUOTES

1. *'She's loved sharing the magic of Nowhere with Nan last year.'* (p. 2) Eve talks about the 'magic' of where she lives a few times in the story. Can you list things that are magical about where you live?
2. *'Eve was afraid roos and blue-tongues and mudlarks couldn't possibly be as exciting as dolphins.'* (p. 5) Eve is worried Will's visit because his home is so different to hers. Do you think this is a normal

thing to be worried about? Do you think that Will would worry that Eve wouldn't find *his* home as exciting as hers?

3. *'Next they took Will to see the old telegraph station.'* (p. 22) Telegraphs were used to communicate between long distances before there were phones. Can you name any other ways people use to communicate before telecommunications were invented? Which of these methods are still used today?

ILLUSTRATIONS

Karen Blair has created the illustrations for *Meet Eve in the Outback*.

1. Do you think the illustrations add an extra layer of meaning to the story?
2. Would you like the story as much if it didn't have illustrations?
3. Which is your favourite illustration in the book? Why do you like it so much? How does it make you feel?
4. Why do you think the colour red was used for this book? Do you think it would work as well if blue had been used? Or green? Why or why not?

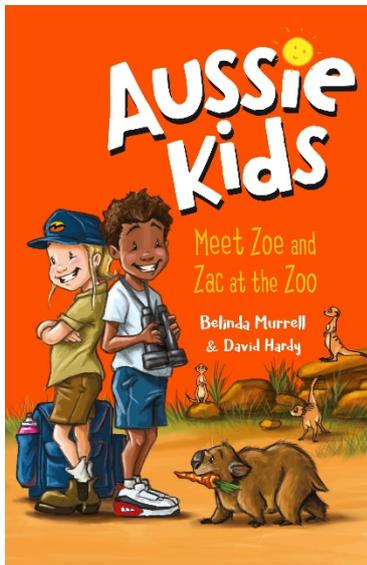
FUN FACTS PAGE

At the back of the book there is a section called 'Fun Facts about the Outback'.

- Where is the outback? Research this with your class. Are there many different types of environments in Australia? What are some others?
- Did you know there were so many camels in Australia? What else do you know about camels? Research camels and then draw a picture of one.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



Aussie Kids: Meet Zoe and Zac at the Zoo
by Belinda Murrell and David Hardy

Hi! I'm Zoe and this is Zac.

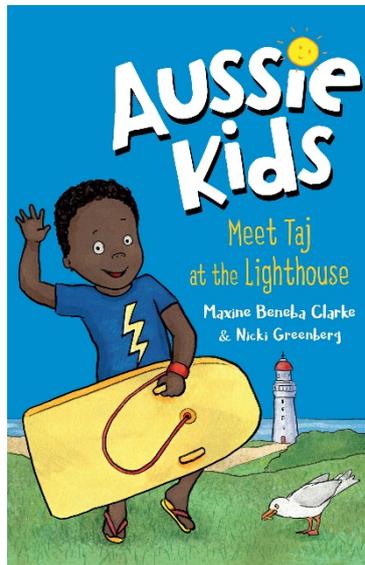
We're so lucky we live at the zoo!

As a birthday treat, we're helping out with the animals.

We can't wait!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Zoe and Zac from New South Wales.

Teachers' resources available.



Aussie Kids: Meet Taj at the Lighthouse
by Maxine Beneba Clarke and Nicki Greenberg

Hi! I'm Taj.

This is my favourite T-shirt.

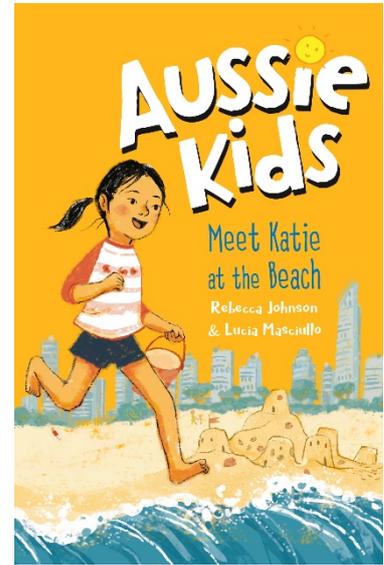
I brought it to Australia from my old home.

My family came here after a long journey.

It was hard at first, but now I love my new home!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Taj from Victoria.

Teachers' resources available.



Aussie Kids: Meet Katie at the Beach
by Rebecca Johnson and Lucia Masciullo

Hi! I'm Katie.

I have a wobbly tooth that won't come out!

But it's not going to spoil my trip to the beach.

We're going to eat mangoes and play beach cricket!

Come on an adventure with Aussie Kids and meet Katie from Queensland.

Teachers' resources available.



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Aussie Kids: Meet Eve in the Outback	Raewyn Caisley and Karen Blair	9781760894108	1-3	\$12.99		
Aussie Kids: Meet Zoe and Zac at the Zoo	Belinda Murrell and David Hardy	9781760893651	1-3	\$12.99		
Aussie Kids: Meet Taj at the Lighthouse	Maxine Beneba Clarke and Niki Greenberg	9781760894528	1-3	\$12.99		
Aussie Kids: Meet Katie at the Beach	Rebecca Johnson and Lucia Masciullo	9781760893675	1-3	\$12.99		
TOTAL						

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