
Book reviews

Magabala has produced accompanying teacher support materials for each of these books. The resources are available at <https://www.magabala.com/pages/education>.

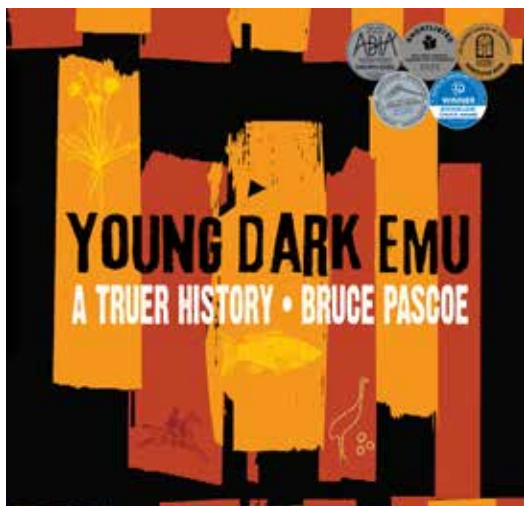
YOUNG DARK EMU: A TRUER HISTORY

Pascoe, B.

Magabala Books, 2019

Faye Blanch

Flinders University



This is a much-needed text especially for middle schooling and secondary school. I purchased this text and use it as a resource for teachers in higher education to critique and see the possibility of using it in their own teaching units of work. This text speaks to Indigenous studies, the land, the environment, science, and food sources. It is a

bright, big and bold text that encourages engagement and offers different perspectives for teachers and all Australians. As a text for history students it highlights the different states and geographical areas and provides a sharing of history. The development of this text certainly offers strength in terms of the book and allow reading it slowly through studying it, alongside Pascoe's book "Dark Emu". This text itself can be gifted to students and is a great resource for learning and teaching. The text offers acknowledgement archival documentations, the colonial voices and visual representations alongside Indigenous ways of being and knowledge systems. What Dark Emu does is show the research undertaken. Each chapter offers insightful critical awareness of first peoples' lives and worldview before European arrival. I recommend all Australians both Indigenous and non-Indigenous have this book in their homes and libraries.

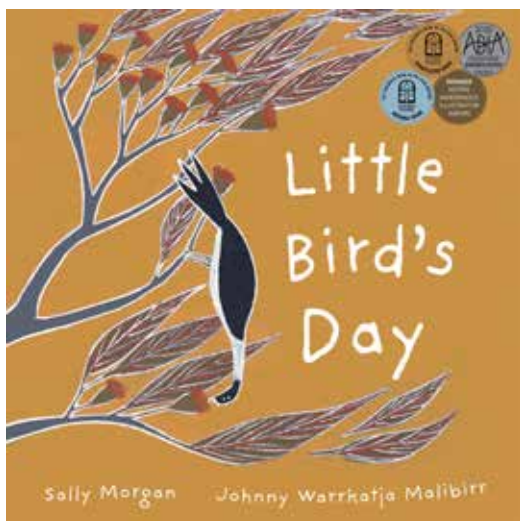
LITTLE BIRD'S DAY

Morgan, S. & Warrkatja Malibirr, J.

Magabala Books, 2019

Faye Blanch

Flinders University



This book tells the story of a day in the life of a little bird. The story reveals the various things that the little bird does, from searching among the flowers, to joining friends, to the rain and then to rest.

This text is an easy read and enjoyable. Children would love this book because of the design of the cover to the representations of

Indigenous artwork that support what the little bird sees. The ochre colours in which the story lies, are beautiful and are strengthened by the beautiful artworks that comes with many layers that can allow for discussion with children and I would think teachers. There is nothing I dislike about this text, and for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children as well as Kindergarten and Early Primary teachers this book speaks to a whole range of themes and ideas that can be discussed. I would also use this as resource for teaching Indigenous studies with students in Higher Education to articulate Indigenous themes. The tactile feel of the book is also good and the bright colours inside the text allow for discussion on Indigenous artwork, what is seen in the pages, as well as the little bird itself and what the bird sees on its journey. I love this text. I recommend this book for 0-8 years.

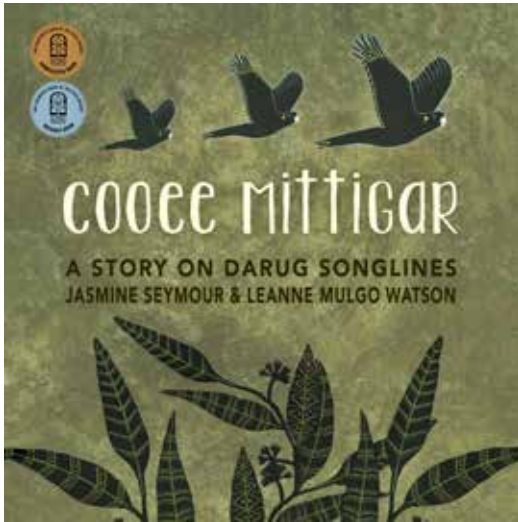
**COOEE MITTIGAR:
A STORY ON DARUG SONGLINES**

Seymour, J. & Mulgo Watson, L.

Magabala Books, 2019

Faye Blanch

Flinders University



This children's book invites the readers to see the display of the Darug language of the Sydney area. By introducing children to language, this book gives both teachers and children the right to speak the Darug language and to see what the word 'songlines' means. Inside the text a glossary of the Darug words lets the readers to see Darug and

English language together. A great teaching resource to allow another lens by which to see Indigenous ways of being and understandings. The design of the text on pages 1-2 reveals the river as a human form as well as flowing, this can generate discussion of land, rivers and worldview in the context of the Darug songlines.

This text is interesting in that it reveals insight into every part of the Darug people and the relationality of living as Darug in the Sydney area. While this book is for young children, I can see other children relating to this text, because of the inclusion of the Darug language. Again, a text that can be resourced by teachers in English, humanities, art, mathematics, science, and language. The design of the book offers insight into Indigenous animals as key to the worldview of the Darug people as well as all of Australia, so discussion about the environment and what is lost is key to children knowing their future. I really like this book and the back pages include not only the language but the authors.

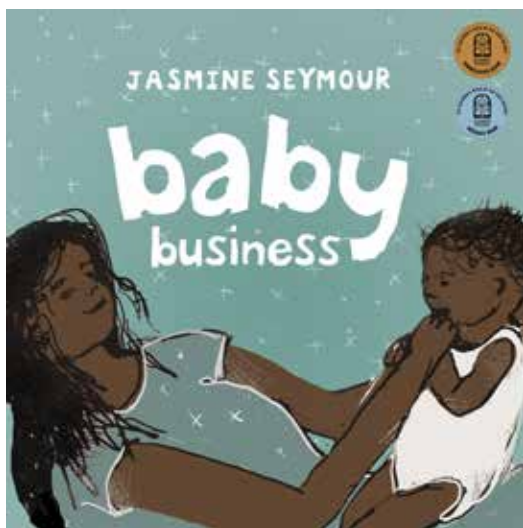
BABY BUSINESS

Seymour, J.

Magabala Books, 2019

Faye Blanch

Flinders University



Again, this text highlights the relationship that Darug people have with country and start introducing from an early age of baby connects to country. This text shows the process of country and baby connection. An easy book to read, for ages 0-5. This is an intimate text and speaks to the relationship between mother, aunties,

and baby as well as the land. It further speaks to what a smoking ceremony is. And I really like the emotions that are displayed in the text in terms of engaging with country and the land and maintaining totem as well as family members. There are language/ words that need to be further discussed with children.