

MAMA & HUG

BY ALEESAH DARLISON

CLASSROOM RESOURCE



A PICTURE BOOK
AGES 5 - 7 YEARS

BOOK BLURB

When Hug first climbs out of his mother's pouch it is spring, deep in the Australian Bush. As Hug grows, the season changes to the sharp dry crackle of summer. One day, danger comes to the bush and Mama must flee to protect her baby.

A realistic and emotive tale, beautifully illustrated by Heather Charlton.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Aleesah Darlison



Aleesah Darlison is an award-winning author of over 50 books for children. She has won or been shortlisted for numerous awards including the Environment Award for Children's Literature, the CBCA Eve Pownall Award, and the Speech Pathology Book of the Year Awards. Many of Aleesah's books champion the cause of animals, the environment, and child self-empowerment.

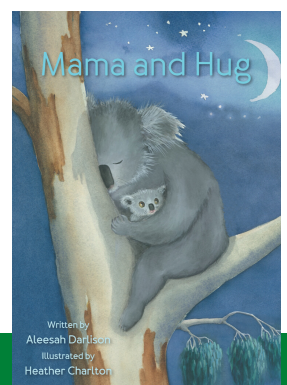
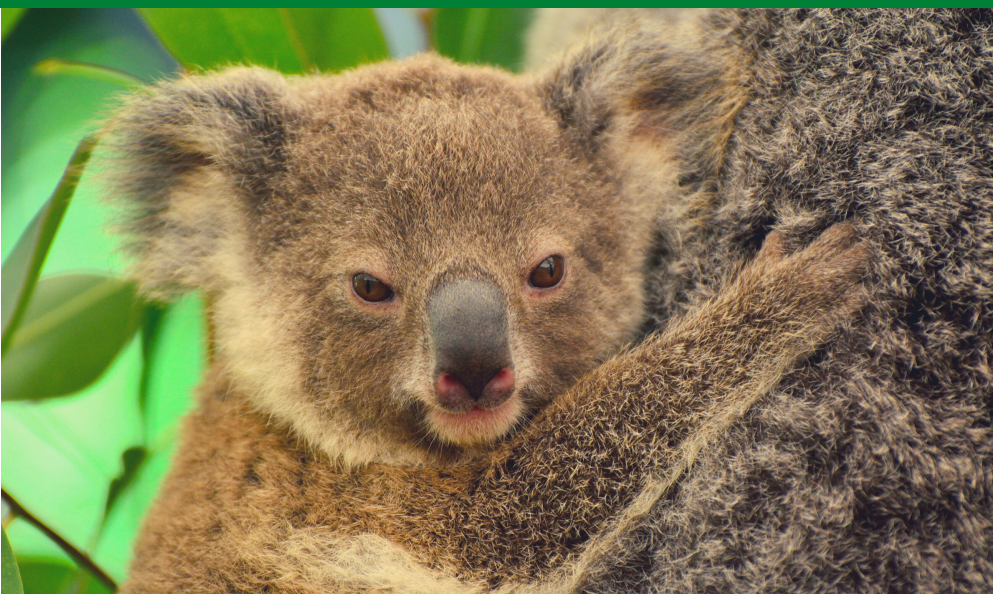
INCLUSIONS

- About the Author
- Koala Fact Sheet
- Writing Exercise - Onomatopoeia
- Critical Thinking Exercises - Marsupials and Koalas

BUY THE BOOK

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Aleesah Darlison's website
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PREPARED BY ALEESAH DARLISON
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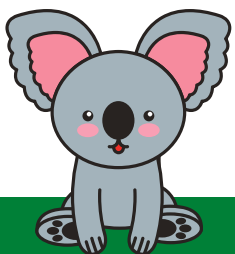


Fast Fact!

Koalas don't get much energy from their leafy diet so they can sleep for over 20 hours per day!

KOALA FACT SHEET

- The scientific name for a koala is *Phascolarctos cinereus*.
- The word “koala” comes from an Aboriginal word meaning “no drink”.
- Koalas get most of their water from wet leaves and from fresh new leaves.
- Adult koalas eat 200-500 grams of eucalyptus leaves each day.
- Koalas are warm-blooded mammals.
- Koala teeth have been adapted to their gumleaf diet. Their back teeth are shaped to cut and grind the leaves to get the most nourishment and their front teeth are very sharp so they can nip the leaves off the tree.
- They aren't very social creatures and prefer to be alone.
- In captivity, female koalas can live to be eighteen years old, but male koalas have a shorter lifespan.
- In the wild, most koalas only live to be three or four years old.
- There are over 500 different types of eucalyptus trees, but koalas only eat about 50 of them.
- They are also nocturnal so they are mostly only active at night.
- Koalas are arboreal, meaning they are tree dwelling.



A baby koala is called a joey

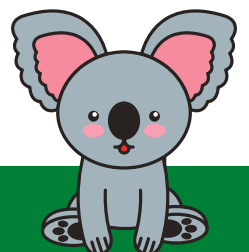




WRITING EXERCISE – ONOMATOPOEIA

Onomatopoeia (sound words) are used throughout *Mama & Hug*. Can you find some and list them here?

Can you make a sentence of your own that uses sound words? Try describing the sounds you might hear in the Australian bush when it's raining or during a storm.



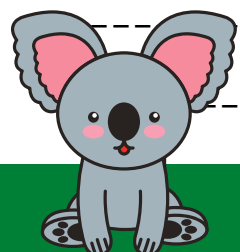


CRITICAL THINKING - MARSUPIALS

Koalas are Australian native animals. They are also marsupials. What do marsupials have in common with one another?

List all the marsupials you can think of

Draw a picture of a koala here





CRITICAL THINKING – KOALAS

In *Mama & Hug*, a bushfire causes serious problems for koalas and other animals. What are some other issues facing Australian native animals?

Mama & Hug is a narrative non-fiction picture book. While Mama and Hug are fictional characters (they aren't real), their story is similar to many other real koalas. There is also lots of non-fiction information and facts woven throughout the story. Write down 5 facts you learned about koalas by reading the book.

