

BANJO, THE WOYLIE WITH BOUNCE

BY ALEESAH DARLISON

TEACHING NOTES



BANJO,

the Woylie with BOUNCE



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.



A PICTURE BOOK FOR AGES 4 - 8 YEARS

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Banjo is a tiny woylie joey. Bounce with Banjo as he escapes from danger and searches for a safe place to call home.

Part of the Endangered Animal Tales Series, which highlights unique Australian animals. Written by Aleesah Darlison, illustrated by Mel Matthews and published by Penguin Random House Australia.

- Simple, accurate vocabulary for young readers.
- Story text perfectly complimented by bright, colourful illustrations.
- An important message about one of Australia's endangered animals.
- Includes fact boxes.

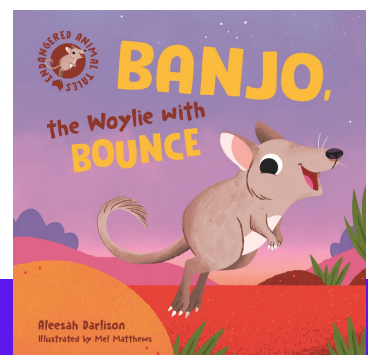
INCLUSIONS

- About the Author
- Woylie Fact Sheet
- Classroom Discussion & Activities:
 - Language
 - Literature
 - Literacy
 - Science Understanding
 - Humanities and Social Science
 - The Arts

BUY THE BOOK

Purchase the book at www.penguin.com.au.

Find more Teaching Notes at www.aleesahdarlison.com.





Fast Fact!

Woylies are known as nature's gardeners. Each animal digs up 2-6 tonnes of dirt each year.

WOYLIE FACT SHEET

- Woylies are Australian native animals.
- They are also called 'brush-tailed bettongs'.
- They are mammals, so they feed their babies milk.
- Woylies are marsupials, which means they have a pouch - just like a kangaroo or koala - where they carry their babies.
- These animals used to roam across 60% of Australia. Now their range is less than 1% of the continent. They're listed as CRITICALLY ENDANGERED.
- They are active at night, which means they are nocturnal.
- Woylies have strong legs and can jump very high.
- When threatened, they make an explosive farting sound as they hop away.
- Woylies love eating truffles and fungus (mushrooms). They also eat tubers, seeds, and insects.
- They are the forest's natural 'soil engineers'. Their digging spreads seeds and spores, which makes an excellent home for plants and other animals.
- They are so small they can fit into the palm of your hand.
- Their tail is very strong and acts as a fifth hand - they can use it to pick things up and to carry grass and twigs they use to build their nest.
- Woylies live for about 6-8 years in the wild.



Woylies make nests from grass and twigs. They wrap their tail around their nose for warmth and security.





CLASSROOM DISCUSSION & ACTIVITIES

LANGUAGE

Throughout the story, the author uses a writing device called onomatopoeia. This is where a word imitates the natural sound of things.



Where is onomatopoeia used in this spread? Look through the book to find where the author has used onomatopoeia in other places.

What does 'bounce' mean? Give a definition or use synonyms.

What other Australian animals bounce or jump?





LITERATURE

Write a story about Banjo's first day in his new home. How does he feel? Who or what does he see in the sanctuary? You might like to include animal and human characters. Draw a picture to accompany your story.

Write a poem about woylies. Try to find words that rhyme so that it can be a rhyming poem. You might like to include words like hop, jump, tail, grass, and pouch.

LITERACY

Discuss what happens in *Banjo, the Woylie with Bounce*. What are some of the problems facing Banjo and his mum before they reach the sanctuary?

Write three descriptive sentences about woylies.

What was the 'growling' and 'rumbling' that Banjo heard on his way to the sanctuary? Why was he scared?





SCIENCE

Biology

Create an information poster about woylies. Draw a picture of a woylie. Colour it in. Label its external features. Add some key facts.

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

History

Research feral cats and foxes. Why were they introduced into Australia? What effect have they had on Australian native animals?

Geography

Draw a map of Australia and mark where woylies used to live. Then, in a different colour or pattern, mark where they live now.

Visit the WWF Australia to watch videos on woylies and how people are helping to save them. This link includes an excellent video of WOYLIE FACTS:

<https://www.wwf.org.au/news/blogs/10-facts-about-woylies#gs.62pmyc>.

This link will take you to the Marna Bangarra website, which shows how woylies are being reintroduced to Yorke Peninsula in South Australia:

<https://www.wwf.org.au/what-we-do/rewild-the-yorke>.

Why do you think it's important that woylies are re-introduced to their natural habitats?





THE ARTS

Study the illustration on Page 10 and 11 then discuss the feelings of Banjo and the fox. What might they be thinking and feeling here?



Draw a picture of a woylie sleeping with its tail wrapped around its nose.

