

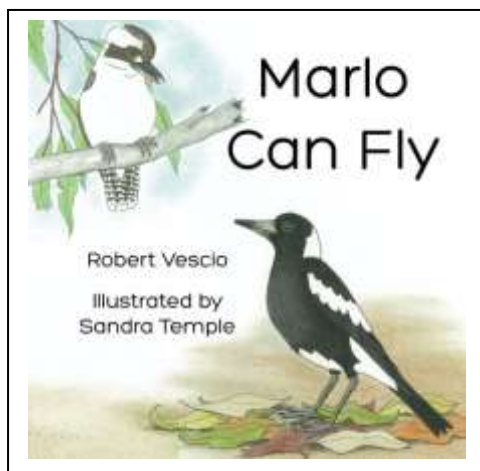


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Teacher's Notes and Ideas

Prepared by Wombat Books



Marlo Can Fly

by Robert Vescio

Illustrated by Sandra Temple

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Recommended Retail: \$19.95

Recommended Age: preschool/school age

Introduction/Story Summary	page 2
Key Learning Areas	page 2
Values Addressed/Themes	page 2
About the Author	page 2
About the Illustrator	page 3
Discussion Questions	page 3
Activity Sheets	page 4-6
Colouring-in Pages	page 7-11

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Marlo Can Fly
Robert Vescio

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Introduction

Marlo wants to be different. Instead of flying, she would rather slither like a snake, hop like a kangaroo and swim like a crocodile. However, Marlo proves that she can put aside her wishes when it's important and rise to the challenge.

Story Summary

Marlo Can Fly is the story of a magpie who doesn't conform to expectations and derives happiness from trying different pursuits in life. But realises after helping someone very special, that she too, is special and unique in her own way.

Key Learning Areas

Australian animals

Natural environment

Exploring one's place in the world

Values Addressed/Themes

Happiness

Independence

Expectations of individuals

Trying different pursuits in life

Helping others

Characteristics of Australian animals in their natural environment

About the Author



Robert Vescio loves to read and is a self-confessed hoarder of books, especially children's books. He enjoys writing stories and sharing his passion with children of all ages.

Two of his picture books will be released in 2013, along with an early reader chapter book.

A number of his short stories have been published in anthologies such as *Packed Lunch* and *Short & Twisted*. He has also won awards for his children's writing.

Robert is a BIG kid at heart! He is a huge fan of Disney and loves animation. He lives in Sydney and enjoys spending time with his children, who are an endless source of inspiration.

About the Illustrator



Sandra Temple has been a professional artist, illustrator and author for more than thirty years. She has travelled extensively with her art, gaining insights into her special interest, the world's endangered species, although she paints all subjects in all mediums.

The winner of many prestigious awards both in Australia and overseas, including UK Wildscape magazine Winner Wildlife Artist of the Year 2009 (professional), Runner-up Wildlife Artist of the Year 2008 (professional), a gold medal at the Wildlife Art Society UK exhibition in Bristol and People's Choice Awards in 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, and 2000. Sandra has paintings in private, corporate and government

collections nationally and internationally. She holds classes in all mediums and is in demand as a workshop tutor in Australia and overseas.

More information can be found on Sandra's website www.sandratemple.com. For more information on purchasing artworks, body painting, murals and commissions contact Sandra via email: sandratemple@hotmail.com

Discussion Questions

1. The story reads, 'Marlo Magpie wanted to be different'. Talk about why it is okay to be different. What are some examples of being different?
2. Marlo is special in many ways. What does it mean to be special? How is everyone in your class or your family special?
3. Why do you think the animals laugh at Marlo when she tries to slither like a snake, hop like a kangaroo and swim like a crocodile?
4. Should you expect someone to behave a certain way? Why? Will this make them happy?
5. Marlo finds happiness trying different pursuits in life. How do you choose to find happiness?
6. Ultimately, Marlo is happy because she is not afraid to try different things. What things do you enjoy doing?

Activities

Have each child draw a picture showing how they are unique. Students can draw themselves, their interests, their favourite things. The pictures can depict their culture or background.

Word Search

Fill in the missing words in the story. Then find all the underlined words in the puzzle.



Marlo Magpie wanted to be _____.

She _____ on the forest _____ and watched the other _____ as they circled high in the _____.

Why should I _____ just because the others do? She thought.

So Marlo tried to _____ like Sally Snake, _____ like Kate Kangaroo, _____ like Chas Crocodile and _____ like Kev Koala, only to be _____ at by Kandy Kookaburra.

However, Marlo knew she was a bird and of course she _____ fly.

Answers: different, crouched, floor, birds, sky, fly, slither, hop, swim, crawl, laughed, could

Activity Sheet 2

1. Unscramble each of the clue words and write them in the boxes. Take the letters that appear in the shaded boxes and unscramble them to reveal the answer to the question.

Question: What colour is the Australian Magpie?

NGSIW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
HETARFE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
KYS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						
CPUTYSUELA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DIBR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Answer:

2. Draw a line to match the names with the characters

Kandy



Kate



Sally



Chas



Marlo



Kev



Activity Sheet 3

Can you draw Marlo using the grid below as a guide?

