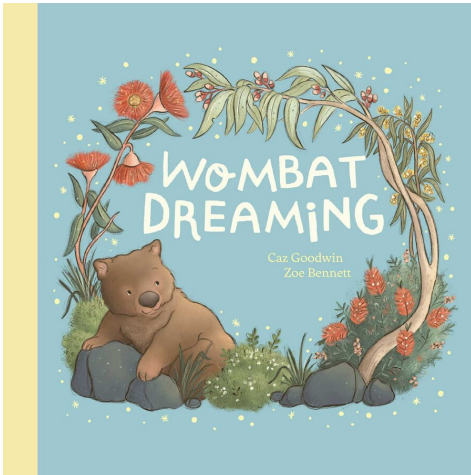


Teacher Notes

Wombat Dreaming

by Caz Goodwin and Zoe Bennett

Teacher notes prepared by Bec Kavanagh



Publication details

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Reader ages: 3-7 years

Themes

- Bodies
- Acceptance
- Fitting in
- Celebrating uniqueness
- Individuality

About the Book

Lil desperately wanted

to join in the class.

But each time she tried,

she'd land PLONK on the grass.

Lil loves doing yoga with her friends, but some poses aren't easy when you're a roly-poly wombat with short legs.

Take a deep breath, salute the sun and watch as Lil finds her own way to lead the bush yoga class.

An affirming story to remind us of our individual and unique talents.

About the Author

Caz Goodwin is an award-winning, internationally published children's author. Her books have won or been shortlisted for awards including 2024 CBCA Book of the Year, Speech Pathology Book of the Year and the National Arts Council Beyond Words Award (Singapore). Caz is passionate about children's literacy and heads the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) in Victoria and is on the Young Australian Best Book Awards (YABBA) council. She is also an Australia Reads ambassador. Caz's books have been produced in Braille for low-vision children and included in the Premier's Reading Challenge. They have also featured on Sarah Ferguson's Fergie and Friends show, CBCA Storytime, podcasts, newspapers and radio.

About the Illustrator

Zoe Bennett is an illustrator based in Sydney, Australia. Her work aims to capture the playfulness, curiosity and candidness of childhood, family and ordinary moments. She especially loves to capture quintessentially Australian scenes, colour palettes and characters. With a background in biological sciences Zoe enjoys the unique experience of having a biologist brain and following her creative aspirations.

Before Reading

- Read the blurb of the book aloud – what does it tell you about who the book is about and some of the problems they'll have to overcome in the story?

Before Reading cont.

- Have you ever wanted to take part in an activity that you're not naturally good at? How did you find your own way to participate?

Comprehension Questions

- What do the animals do on a Sunday?
- Where do they do this activity?
- Explore the illustrations on the first two pages – which animals can you see? What do you notice about the wombat?
- What does Lil want desperately?
- What happens when Lil tries to copy the other animals?
- How does Lil feel after class? What reveals that she's feeling this way?
- What does Lil call the pose she comes up with?
- How do the animals react to the pose?

Literacy

- **Rhyme**
 - You might have noticed that some of the words in the story rhyme – which ones? Do you notice a pattern in the rhyming words? How do the rhymes help you understand the rhythm of the story?
 - Many of the rhyming words in the story are easy to find rhymes for. Choose one, and come up with three alternative rhyming words that aren't in the story.
- **Verbs**
 - Yoga is all about movement, which means that to write about yoga, we need to have a good vocabulary of verbs, often described as doing words.
 - Find five verbs used in the story and write them below.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

- Now, come up with your own list of five verbs that might be used to describe an activity that you love doing.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Final reflections

- Which parts of the book felt familiar? Does this story reflect your life?
- How would you describe Lil in the final image? How do you think she's feeling here and why?
- What do you think Lil has learnt about herself in the story? What can you learn from her?

Creative Activities

- In the story, each animal leads a yoga pose based on their unique strengths. What pose does the dog do? What kind of pose do you think a snake would be good at, or a possum? Draw a picture of the pose they might lead the class in.
- Have you ever taken part in a yoga class? Have a try here (<https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>). How does it make you feel? Which poses are you good at? Which poses do you struggle with? Would you do it again? Why/why not?
- This book is all about celebrating difference. What's something that you're good at? Come up with a mini-lesson to share your passion with the class. How will you make sure that everyone is included?
- Reflect on a time when you've been left out of something. How did it make you feel? Did anyone try to make sure that you were included? How? Rewrite the experience, thinking about what would have needed to change to allow you to take part.