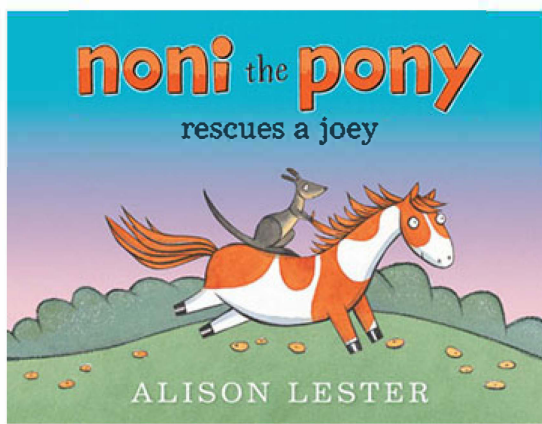


Noni the Pony Rescues a Joey

Exploring the 2019 CBCA Short List: Early Childhood



Parts in this unit

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- [Examining](#)

Author: [Alison Lester](#)

Publisher: [Allen and Unwin](#)

Themes: Friendship, animals, home and family

Years: Australian Curriculum: English, Foundation to Year 2: Science, Years 1 and 2. NSW Early Stage 1 and Stage 1

From the publisher's synopsis: Noni the Pony heads out for the day, to roam the green hills behind Waratah Bay. As she and her friends wander down a green trail, they meet someone small with a very long tail. Can they help the lost baby wallaby find the way home?

Unit writer: [Amanda Nicholls](#)

Field and context

Building field knowledge

- The book is quintessentially Australian, featuring native animals and language unique to Australia. What is a native animal? Brainstorm a list of animals with the class, then work together to categorise as 'Native' and 'Not Native'. Do they come up with any of the native animals featured in the book – wallaby, koala, wombat, platypus, emu, echidna, possum, goanna and quoll? [ACSSU211 ST1-4LW-S](#)

- What is the difference between a kangaroo and a wallaby? Watch this [Wicked Wildlife](#) video [ACSSU017 ST1-4LW-S](#)

Exploring the context of the text

- The book is set in the hills around Waratah Bay, Victoria. Have a look at some photos of the area on the [Travel Victoria](#) website. Have any of your students been there, or does it remind them of any places they've been? What are some of the landscape features? [ACELT1589 EN1-4A](#)
- Read *Noni the Pony* and *Noni the Pony Goes to the Beach*, the other books in the series. This could be extended to do an author study of Alison Lester's books, all of which are highly engaging and relevant to Foundation-Year 2 students. The [Reading Rockets Author Study Toolkit](#) has some excellent ideas and teaching points for doing an author study in junior classrooms. [ACELT1581 EN1-11D](#)
- Watch a wildlife rescuer looking after an orphaned baby wallaby in [Caring for a Baby Wallaby](#) (caution: some children may find this upsetting as its mother was killed by a car - not shown). This [National Geographic video](#) shows a baby wallaby climbing into its mother's pouch. [ACSHE034 ST1-10ES-S](#)

Responding and exploring

Responding to the text

- Have you ever been lost, such as at a shopping centre or at the park? What happened? What did you do? Compare students' experiences to the joey's, who was chasing a gum leaf and lost his family. Use this opportunity to talk to the students about what to do if they ever get lost. [ACELT1582 EN1-11D](#)

Exploring plot character and setting

- Noni is described at the beginning of the story as 'friendly and frisky and loves running free'. Do you think this is true? What other words would you use to describe her after reading the story? What are some adjectives to describe the other animals in the book? [ACELA1452 EN1-9B ENe-9B](#)

Creating texts

- Recreate the story as a short play. You could add or change characters and create situations and lines for them as Noni and her friends look for the wallaby mob. [ACELT1586 EN1-10C](#)
- Help students develop empathy and to understand the characters by '[hot seating](#)'. Students take on the role of one of the characters in the story and their classmates ask them questions, which they answer in character. [ACELT1586 EN1-10C](#)
- In the same manner as the Hairy Maclary series, where each character has a short rhyme (Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy, Hercules Morse as big as a horse, and so on) have students create a short rhyming couplet for each character, such as 'The Ladies next door, the friendliest four'. Write their names and do an illustration. [ACELT1585 EN1-6B](#)
- Write a letter from the joey's family to Noni, Dave and Coco, thanking them for looking after their joey. [ACELT1832 EN1-2A](#)
- Read the blurb, and explain its purpose. Does it give away the whole story? Have a go at writing your own version as a piece of shared writing. [ACELT1586 EN1-10C](#)

Examining

Examining text structure and organisation

- The story takes place over the course of a day, but some animals are sleeping – why would that be? [ACELY1660 EN1-4A](#)
- Examine the double page spread of them finding the wallaby family. What time of day is it? How do you know? How do the words and pictures work together here? Have a look at the following pages as twilight fades to the dark. How else do we know it's night time? [ACELY1670 EN1-4A](#)

Examining grammar

- The text is written in rhyming couplets. Read each couplet, leaving the last word out. See if students can predict the word. Enlarge the text and cover the last word, and do the same activity but as a shared reading. Play [Words and Pictures Rhyme Time](#). [ACELA1439 ENe-4A](#)
- Noni tells the joey that 'Your wallaby mob can't be too far away.' What is a 'mob'? [ACELA1454 EN1-6B](#)
- Go on a hunt for capital letters and full stops in the text. Play [The Sentence: Capital Letters and Full Stops](#) to practise. Did you find any question and exclamation marks in the text? What other punctuation did you find? Make an anchor chart for your classroom. [ACELY1672 EN1-2A EN1-9Bp>](#)

Examining visual and multimodal features

- Examine the picture of the koalas sleeping in the tree. How does it give the impression of height? Have a look at some of the photos from this [photography competition](#) in which all the photos had to be taken from above. Have a go at drawing pictures from a bird's eye view. [ACELY1661 EN1-2A](#)
- Coco the cat doesn't seem quite as patient as Noni and Dave the dog when the joey gets upset. How does the illustration help us to understand this? For students with cats, can they relate to this? Are cats generally more independent than dogs? [ACELT1582 EN1-11D](#)
- Examine the picture of the baby joey chasing the leaf. How does it give the impression of movement? Does it look like the joey is having fun? Why? [ACELY1661 EN1-2A](#)

Additional and related resources and links to other texts: Find further [teaching notes and teaching ideas](#) from the publisher. See also the PETAA unit for work for [Noni the Pony Goes to the Beach](#) (2015).

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