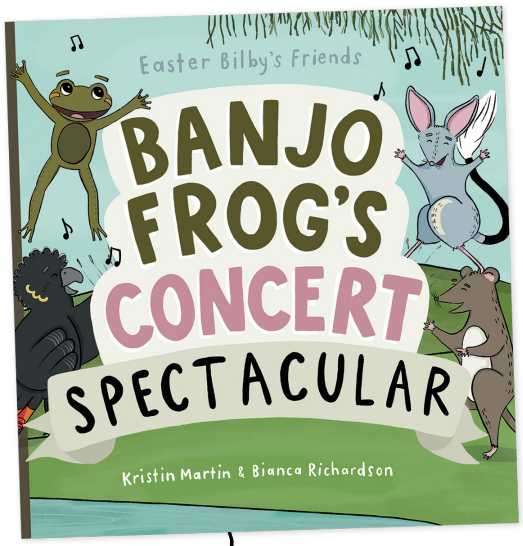
Easter Bilby's Friends

BANJO FROG'S CONCERT SPECTACULAR

by Kristin Martin and Bianca Richardson

Teachers' Notes



About the Book

Easter Bilby is excited to join his friends for Banjo Frog's Concert Spectacular, but something is wrong! Banjo Frog, Glossy Black Cockatoo and Southern Brown Bandicoot are too hungry and tired to sing.

Easter Bilby explains to the animals how it's the wild rabbits' fault they're hungry and tired, and comes up with a plan to save the concert with help from the local school children.

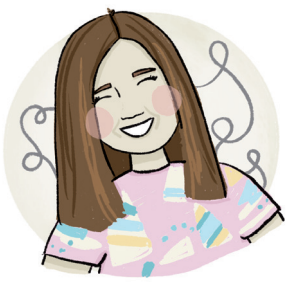
Banjo Frog's Concert Spectacular is the first book in the Easter Bilby's Friends series. Set in the Mount Lofty Ranges in South Australia, it explains to children how introduced wild rabbits affect the native plants and animals in the area, and what they can do to help.



About the Author

Kristin Martin is a poet, primary school teacher and the author of the poetry collection *To Rhyme or Not to Rhyme?* (Glimmer Press). She lives in Adelaide, South Australia with her family, four frogs, three turtles, and a lizard named Ash.

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About the Illustrator

Bianca Richardson is a graphic designer and illustrator with a love of wonky hand drawn lines. She lives in the beautiful Limestone Coast region of South Australia with her husband and two little legends.

justdrawmorebianca.com

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About the Foundation for Rabbit-Free Australia

Foundation for Rabbit-Free Australia is an incorporated, not-for-profit environmental charity dedicated to the control of European wild rabbits in Australia. The Foundation raises awareness of the harm caused by wild rabbits, supports ongoing research into control options, and encourages land managers in their efforts to apply best practice rabbit controls.

Themes

conservation of plants and animals

helping the natural environment

food and shelter

Learning Areas

English
Science

Recommended Reading Age

4 to 9 years

Publication details

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These notes were prepared by Kristin Martin and Bianca Richardson.
They may be downloaded and printed for classroom use.



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Foundation/ Year 1

English

1. Listen to the poem at the beginning of the book which tells the back-story of Easter Bilby.

   Identify the pairs of rhyming words in the poem.

   What does the poem tell us about Easter Bilby?

2. Listen to the picture book.

   Identify the characters.

   Identify the main events.

   What is the problem in the story? How is the problem solved?

   Draw your favourite character and write some adjectives around the picture to describe the character.

3. Download the *Who Am I?* activity sheet from the website, https://easterbilbysfriends.org.au/

   Listen to a *Who Am I?* poem and identify which character it describes.

   Write your own *Who Am I?* about an animal of your choice. It does not need to rhyme.

4. Download the finger puppets from the website.

   Colour-in the puppets and cut them out.

   Using the finger puppets, act out the story with a partner or in a small group.

Science (biological sciences)

1. Listen to the story.

   Discuss the story's problem: that the animals' basic needs are not being met.

   For each character, identify which basic need is not being met (food or shelter).

   Identify how the problem was solved in the story.

2. Listen to *The facts behind the story* at the back of the book.

   Identify the food and shelter requirements for each of the animals in the story.

   Choose an animal. Draw and label a diagram showing the basic needs of that animal.

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Year 2/ Year 3

English

1. Listen to the poem at the beginning of the story.

   Identify the rhythm of the poem (there is a beat on every second syllable) and the rhyme pattern (the rhyme is at the end of each second line).

   Read the poem together as a class.

   Discuss what the poem adds to the picture book. Why do you think the author included it?

2. Read the picture book and look carefully at the illustrations.

   Describe how the setting changes between the beginning and the end of the story. How is this important to the story?

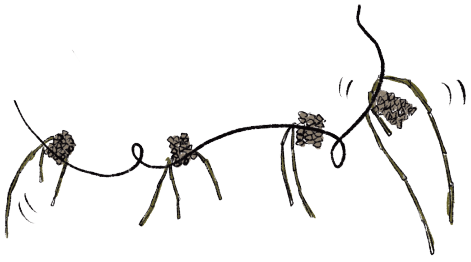
3. Rabbits are not shown in the story, besides as simple sketches in the Easter Bilby's explanation diagrams. Also, they are always referred to as *wild* rabbits rather than simply *rabbits*. Why do you think the author and illustrator chose to do this?

Science (biological sciences)

1. Read *The facts behind the story* at the back of the book.

   Classify the animals in the story (mammal/ bird/ amphibian).

2. Rabbits and bilbies are both mammals. Research these animals and describe their similarities and their differences.



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