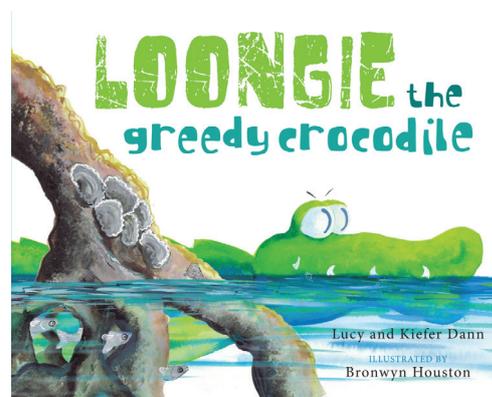


Magabala Books • Teacher Notes

Loongie the Greedy Crocodile

Written by Lucy and Kiefer Dann

Illustrated by Bronwyn Houston



Teacher Notes prepared by Christina Wheeler

OVERVIEW

Loongie is a greedy saltwater crocodile who lives among the mangroves at Walaman Creek in the remote Kimberley region of Western Australia. He has no friends and no-one will come near the creek while he's around. Loongie soon learns why being greedy has its consequences.

THEMES

- Loneliness
- Mangroves
- Greed

AUDIENCE AND WRITING STYLE

Written in third person, past tense, *Loongie the Greedy Crocodile* is a cautionary tale that centres on the consequences of greed. Set in the mangroves of the Kimberley region, Loongie becomes lonely when he realises he has scared away the animals of the mangrove by eating everything in sight. When he spots some shellfish in the bay, he pays the price for his gluttony, breaking all of his teeth. *Loongie the Greedy Crocodile* is written simply and is accompanied by beautiful illustrations, and is best suited to an early childhood audience.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATOR



Lucy Dann was born in Broome in 1960. She has cultural connections to the Bardi Jaawi people, and has been involved in many language and cultural projects.

Kiefer Dann, also known as 'Bluebone Dann', is a descendant of the Nyul Nyul people of the Dampier Peninsula in the west Kimberley. Born in 1993, Kiefer is the youngest of six children. He grew up in Broome and is also a talented sportsman and musician.



Bronwyn Houston is a descendant of the Nyiyaparli and Yindijibarndi people of the Pilbara in Western Australia. She grew up in Broome and finds her creative inspiration in the natural world.

Bronwyn has written and illustrated several Magabala Books' titles including *Staircase to the Moon* (2011), *Counting Aussie Animals in my Backyard* (2014) and *Return of the Dinosaurs* (2016). *Loongie the Greedy Crocodile* was the first book that Bronwyn illustrated, at the age of twenty-one.

LINKS TO THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

This book and the classroom activities provided are primarily relevant to the following areas of the Australian Curriculum:

Learning area	Year level
English	Years F-4
Humanities and Social Sciences	Year 4
Science	Year 1

The appendix highlights relevant content descriptions, cross-curriculum priorities and general capabilities that relate to the text and classroom ideas provided.



CLASSROOM IDEAS

English

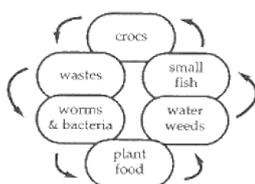
- Using the first page opening in combination with the title of the book, make predictions about the plot of *Loongie the Greedy Crocodile*. What does it mean to be greedy?
- Why doesn't Loongie realise that it is wrong to eat his friends? How does greed sometimes make it difficult to notice obvious things?
- Why is it important that Loongie suffers the consequences of his greed? Share a time when you felt the consequences of your own greed. Why is it important to learn from these experiences?
- How does Loongie's greed affect the ecosystem of the mangrove?
- How are the Longbums the heroes of this story?
- Which is your favourite illustration in *Loongie the Greedy Crocodile*? Why is this your favourite? Recreate this piece in the style of Bronwyn Houston.
- Write this story from one of the birds' points of view. Why are you hiding high in the branches? What are you thinking when Loongie breaks his teeth on the longbums? How does it feel when the other animals return to the mangrove?
- How important is it to have friends? Write a reflection to share the role that friends play in your life.
- Examine the illustration in which Loongie creeps up on the strange-looking shellfish. Why are the words 'Slowly very slowly' and 'And then' written in a larger and different coloured font? Discuss also the use of onomatopoeia on the following page - 'sap, crunch, oouch, aaargghh!'
- In what ways do you feel sorry for Loongie? What advice would you give him?
- Write a revised version of this story in which Loongie realises his ways and changes his behaviour so that he is no longer lonely.
- Using a suitable graphic organiser, compare *Loongie the Greedy Crocodile* with Joshua Button's *Joshua and the Two Crabs*. How do these two picture books share the importance of mangroves in their own ways?
- In small groups, retell *Loongie the Greedy Crocodile* in a dramatic performance.

Humanities and Social Sciences

- Use the BOLTS mapping conventions, create a map showing the location of Walaman Creek in the Kimberley region.
- Investigate the ecosystem of tidal creeks and mangrove swamps. Draw and label a cross-section of this ecosystem, including the many creatures living in this habitat.
- How important are mangroves to the environment? What are current threats to mangroves? What can be done to prevent the degradation of mangroves? How have humans impacted on mangroves? What can be done to help change this?

Science

- Research and take notes on the shellfish known as 'longbums'. What is their life cycle? What role do they play in the food web of the mangrove biome?
- Research and present an information report on crocodiles. Include information about their appearance, diet, behaviour and life cycle.
- Identify and explain the characteristic text structures of *Loongie the Greedy Crocodile*. Use a story graph to help map the plot.
- Rewrite *Loongie the Greedy Crocodile* as a ballad.
- Crocodiles are at the top of the food chain. Using the diagram found at the link below, explain how food chains work, particularly in mangroves. http://www.mesa.edu.au/friends/croc_kit/relationships/relationships.asp



APPENDIX - LINKS TO THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

Year	Curriculum Area
F	<p>English</p> <p>Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts (ACELT1783) • Retell familiar literary texts through performance, use of illustrations and images (ACELT1580)
1	<p>English</p> <p>Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss features of plot, character and setting in different types of literature and explore some features of characters in different texts (ACELT1584)
	<p>Science</p> <p>Biological Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living things have a variety of external features (ACSSU017)
2	<p>English</p> <p>Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how depictions of characters in print, sound and images reflect the contexts in which they were created (ACELT1587)
3	<p>English</p> <p>Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create imaginative texts based on characters, settings and events from students' own and other cultures using visual features, for example perspective, distance and angle (ACELT1601)
4	<p>English</p> <p>Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create literary texts that explore students' own experiences and imagining (ACELT1607)
	<p>HASS</p> <p>Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of environments, including natural vegetation, to animals and people (ACHASSK088)
	<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living things depend on each other and the environment to survive (ACSSU073)
<p>Cross-Curriculum Priorities</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Culture; Sustainability</p>	

