

Baby Bilby's Question Teacher's Notes

Written by Sally Morgan
Illustrated by Adele Jaunn
Published by Little Hare, 2012

Synopsis

Baby Bilby asks the question on every young child's lips. "How long will you love me?" What follows is a simple journey through unlikely pairings as his father demonstrates the extent of his love for his son.

The words in this book are clear and concise, all painting one image, that the fathers love for his son will continue forever.

Readers will love the collaboration between the pictures and text in the book, as the unlikely pictures that the father paints for his son continue. The images joyfully show the contradictions in the text, continually reinforcing the point of the story.

Children will love the vibrant illustrations and references to Australian animals.

Themes

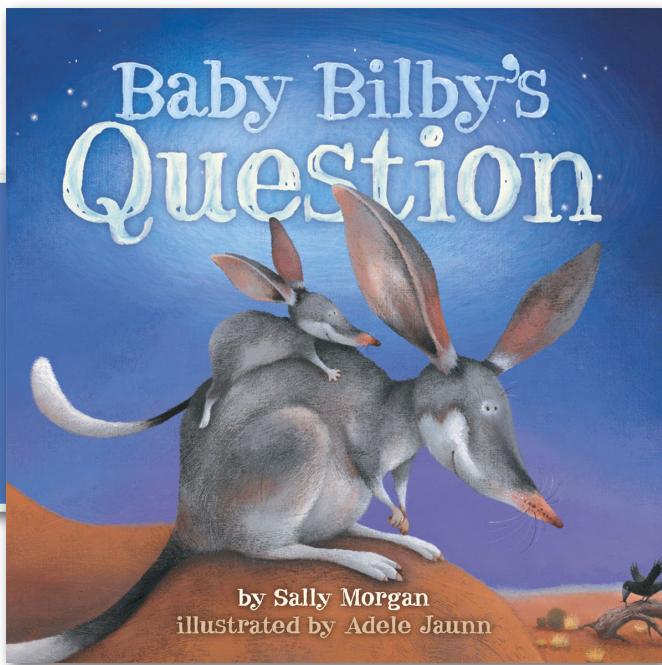
Family

Love

Australian animals

Language

Parents



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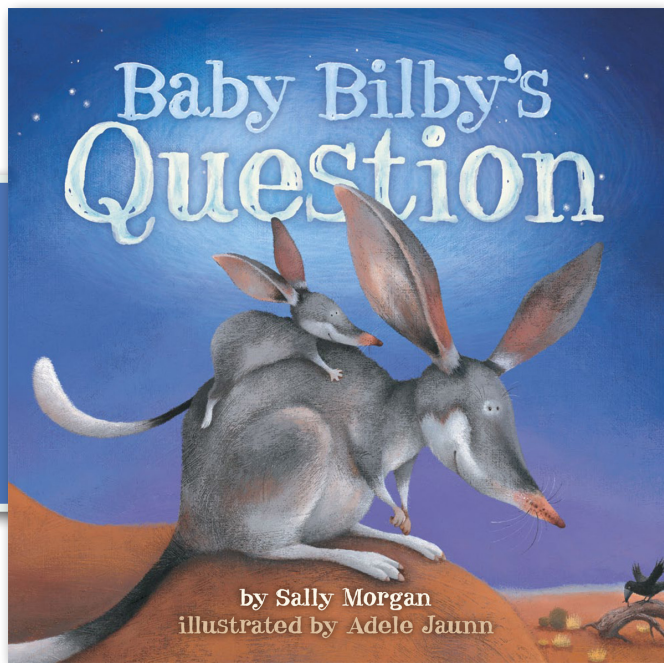
SALLY MORGAN was born in Perth in 1951, she is a Palkyu person from the Pilbara in the north west of Western Australia and is one of Australia's most celebrated aboriginal authors. Sally is most well known for her award-winning book *My Place*, which documents the journey of her family back to their people and their country. *My Place* has sold over 1 million copies in Australia alone since its 1999 release.

Sally has also written a number of books for children, including *Sam's Bush Journey* illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft. Her other picture book title, *Me and My Dad* and her *Charlie Burr* junior fiction series see Sally writing with her children, Ezekiel, Blaze and Ambelin as they mine their own childhoods for inspiration.

Sally is also an artist, her works are on display in numerous private and public collections in both Australia and around the world. Sally is a Patron of Indigenous Literacy Day and works at the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia.

Questions/ Comprehension

- What does Baby Bilby want to know?
- Why do you think he wants to know this?
- How does his dad respond?
- What do you think he means by this?
- What Australian animals are listed in the book?
- Can you see any animals in the book that are not Australian?
- How do you know that this is an Australian book?



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Activities

1. Read out each of the examples that Baby Bilby's dad uses to express how long he'll love Baby Bilby. Talk about literal meanings with the class.
Ask students in groups to imagine what it would be like if Baby Bilby's dad was talking literally. In groups make a list of why your chosen example wouldn't work in real life. Act out a funny scene imagining that the example you've been given really happened.
Discuss Baby Bilby's dad's intended meaning. Ask students to come up with examples of where phrases like this can be used to show an intended meaning that is different from the literal meaning.
2. The animals in this book are very much out of their comfort zone and natural habitat! Choose one of the animals from the book and find out where it really belongs. Make a poster illustrating your chosen animal's natural habitat, and explaining some of the reasons why it lives there (food, shelter, water etc).
3. Talk about parents with the class. Ask them to take a copy of the book home and read it aloud with one or both of their parents.
Tell students to ask their parents to describe the way they love their children, using *Baby Bilby's Question* as an example, then bring them into school and pin the descriptions to a big board to share with everyone.
4. Discuss the illustrations with the class. Ask them to comment on things like the colours used, and whether they think the pictures are cartoony or realistic. Is there anything else that they notice about the illustrations? Make a list as a class of the things that students point out.
Look closely and see if you can see characters who appear on more than one page, Who are they? Tell each student to pick one of the descriptions of how long Baby Bilby's dad will love him for. Ask them to draw their own illustration for their chosen description using some of the characteristics that they came up with during the earlier discussion about the pictures. Display the pictures in class.