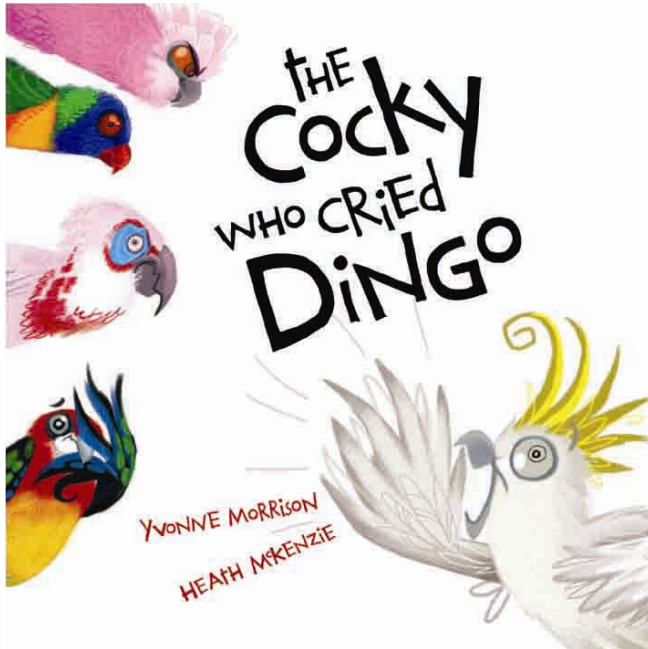


LITTLE HARE



The Cocky Who Cried Dingo

TEACHER NOTES
By Christopher Cheng

WRITTEN BY YVONNE MORRISON
ILLUSTRATED BY HEATH MCKENZIE
PUBLISHED BY LITTLE HARE BOOKS,
2010

Cocky is a cheeky trickster, who loves nothing more than pulling pranks on the other birds. But when Cocky's tricks get him into real trouble, he finally learns his lesson...or does he?

Release Date September 2010

RRP \$24.99

ISBN 9781921541421

Reading Guide Ages 3-9*

*Please note that the recommended age range is a guide only and this book may be suitable for use outside of this recommendation.

SYNOPSIS

Cocky doesn't want to go to sleep. Cocky decides that it would be fun to play tricks on his other parrot friends. So while they are preparing for an evening of slumber Cocky lets out a shriek "... I'm trapped in the jaws of a big hairy dingo!" of course he wasn't and his friends are not very pleased and even less so when it happens again. This is the Boy Who Cried

Wolf with a delightful Australian twist using Australian birds and told in wonderful rhyming verse.

THEMES

Friendship

Lying / exaggeration

Australian animals

Poetry / verse

Fables

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Yvonne Morrison is best known for *An Aussie Night Before Christmas*, which has topped Christmas best-seller lists for several years, she wrote this after the success of *A Kiwi Night Before Christmas* which sky-rocketed to success in New Zealand. *The Cocky Who Cried Dingo* is Yvonne's first book with Little Hare. It will be followed by a companion title, *Town Possum*, *Outback Possum* in early 2011.

Yvonne writes part-time and works as a primary teacher. She also teaches adult dance classes and works in a wildlife sanctuary. Yvonne lives in New Zealand.



On the inspiration behind *The Cocky Who Cried Dingo*, Yvonne writes:

"I work at a wildlife sanctuary that is home to three crazy sulphur-crested cockatoos. I thought that a cockatoo would make a great main character for the Aussie 'Boy Who Cried Wolf.'"

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Heath McKenzie is a best-selling illustrator/designer from Melbourne. His work has appeared in children's books, magazines, novels, cover art, advertising campaigns and even on jewellery! He is most known for illustrating the best-selling *The Australian 12 Days of Christmas*. Heath illustrates Little Hare's popular illustrated-fiction series, *Pop Hooper's Perfect Pets*, and his first picture book with Little Hare, *An ABC of Pirates*, with Caroline Stills, was published in 2010. He



is currently working on the follow-up picture book to *The Cocky Who Cried Dingo, Town Possum, Outback Possum*. You can find out more about Heath at:

www.heathmck.com

QUESTIONS/ COMPREHENSION

- List the species of parrot that appear in the book. How are they the same / different?
- What was the problem with cocky pretending he was trapped in the jaws of a dingo?
- Why did the birds in the tree ignore dingo?
- Make a list of the key events in the story.
- Discuss with students about being afraid. Students recount their own stories and reflect on their feelings.
Have you ever been tricked like this before? How did you feel?
- Can cocky rely on his friends? How important are friends? How important is telling the truth?
- Identify the orientation complication and resolution in the title and then rewrite a different resolution.
- How do the illustrations show the feelings and emotions of each of the characters?
- How does the illustrator
 - show that cocky has changed his ways?

- show that the other birds were upset with cocky?
- Look at the final illustration in the book. What is cocky doing?

ACTIVITIES

- Read the original Aesop's fable - *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*.
 - Discuss how the two stories are the same / different.
 - Act out both versions.
 - Students develop their own 'wolf/ dingo' crying scenario then write the story, create a video, and dramatise it.
- Create a collage featuring other Australian animals from 'back of beyond'. Students then choose one animal and research the animal (include the scientific name) and present the information to the class.
- After discussing the importance of friendship and truth have students prepare a speech about what they have learnt.
- Create another verse that the birds could recite should cocky ever try his 'cry dingo' trick again.
- This story is written in rhyming verse. Rewrite the story in different forms such as a narrative or a report.
- Ask students to rewrite the story from the point of view of the dingo.
- Using technology:
 - Older students: have students discuss the issues of 'crying dingo' and then present their findings in a podcast.
 - Younger students: have students prepare a podcast reviewing this title.

- Create a trailer promoting the book. Students will need to work out the theme and the main points about the *The Cocky Who Cried Dingo*, write the storyboard and then create the podcast using software. Promote the book in the library using the completed trailer, and other trailers that the students have produced.