

BUSH BASH!

Teachers notes by Bec Kavanagh

Bush Bash

By Sally Morgan & Ambelin Kwaymullina

Published by Little Hare

2012

Synopsis

Bush Bash is a simple story filled with details that encourage learning and imagination. Each page is layered with colourful illustrations that introduce the groups of Australian animals that One Dashing Dingo meets on his journey to visit Emu. Within each picture are hidden Australian objects, encouraging readers to spend as much time exploring the illustrations as they do the text and which will give them an incentive to spend real time looking at each of the pages.

The story itself is a simple one – One Dashing Dingo is on a journey and won't stop for anything, not two nosy numbats, three flying frogs or four burrowing bilbys. Each of the animals follows him until at the very end of the book he reveals his destination – a party for Emu's birthday!

This is a more complex book that you might originally think – there are many areas of learning covered that make this an ideal text for the classroom while the vibrant and interactive illustrations make for a fun book to read alone.

Topics

Australian animals & landscape

Language

Counting

Australian art

Puzzle books



BUSH BASH!



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 is alliteration? How is it used in *Bush Bash*
- What Australian animals are mentioned in *Bush Bash*? What others can you think of that are not mentioned?
- What other things can you find in the book that are uniquely Australian?
- How is colour and pattern used in the illustrations? Do they remind you of pictures that you have seen anywhere else? What similarities/differences can you find between these illustrations and traditional aboriginal artwork?
- What different landscapes does dingo walk past to get to emu? What animals does he find in each? What other animals might be found in each of these settings?
- What words has the author used to describe the animals that dingo meets? Why has she chosen these words? What is the name given to describing words like these?

BUSH BASH!

Activities

- The illustrator has made this book interactive by adding an extra list of things to find on each page. How does this change your experience of the book?
What other interactive books have you read? (*eg. Anamalia*)
What other kinds of interactive elements can you think of? (*eg puzzle, lift the flap, hide and seek*)
In groups, choose a page of the book and add interactive elements to make it even more fun!
Some ideas...
 - Straightforward additions to the page (*eg. Lift the flap/pop up*)
 - Making a media element that could be included with the book (*eg. A recorded song, a read-a-long, a book trailer*)
- Books are often the idea that is the basis of movies, toys and other merchandise.
 - What book characters can you think of that have been turned into other merchandise?
 - Why do you think this happens?
 - Since this is a fun & interactive book, why not make your own piece of merchandise in the form of a board game? (*include elements found in the book such as the characters, counting, pictures, colours and whatever else you can think of*)
- A lot of the hide-and-seek objects are made by Aboriginal people. As a class talk about which objects are made by Aboriginal people and which are not.
Choose one of the objects to write a project on. Think about things such as
 - What is the object?
 - How is it used/made?
 - How is it linked to the Aboriginal people?
 - Does it come from a specific region of Australia?
 - Can you demonstrate or make one to show the class?

BUSH BASH!

Activities (continued)

- *Bush Bash* is the story of one dashing dingo's journey to visit emu. As he follows a path through the book he leaves a trail of footprints behind.

Talk in class about how distinctive footprints are.

- How are dingo's prints different to a bird, or a snake, or your own?
 - How are footprints used to track people or hunt for food.
 - Choose an animal and find out what kind of footprint it has. With paint and objects you can easily find (*potato stamp, stick painting, fingers*), make a picture with a trail of your chosen footprints. Put them up in the class and see if other people can guess what animal they come from.
- Talk about the different kinds of language that has been used in this book
(*eg. Adjectives, alliteration or repetition*)

Choose another book that you love and look for examples of these types of language.

