

## Where Is Galah?

Written and Illustrated by Sally Morgan

Published by Little Hare, March 2015

### SYNOPSIS

*Where Is Galah* is the seek-and-find story of Dingo looking for Galah, and of Galah continually eluding him until, finally, Galah decides to reveal himself. But Dingo has already given up after a long day of searching and has gone to bed, and now Galah cannot find Dingo!

### THEMES

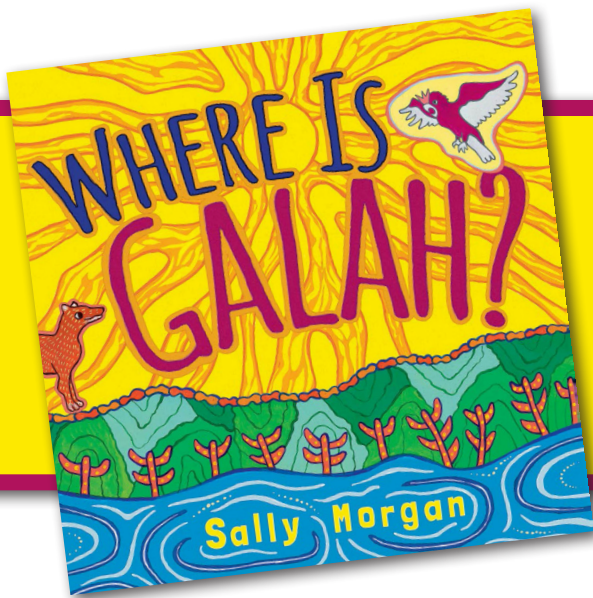
The purpose of this early-childhood picture-book, with its focus on seeing and hearing, is the discovery of various sounds made by native Australian creatures. This is combined with the fun of identifying each of the animals, the actions they are performing, and the whereabouts of the galah hiding on each page. The sounds the animals make are a mix of animal cries and onomatopoeic sounds.

### WRITING STYLE

The writing style is simple, patterned and repetitive. The only changes are the animal sounds on each spread, and the two new animal names that Dingo identifies. The repeated question of 'Where is Galah?' on each page encourages the reader to interactively search for the hidden Galah. It also increases the suspense, building curiosity about the outcome, and prompting the reader to turn the page to see what happens next. The sudden break in the rhythm on the penultimate spread echoes the surprise occurring on the page, and also pre-empts the twist on the final opening. The author has used her writing style to reflect and highlight the narrative events.

### ILLUSTRATION STYLE

Sally Morgan's illustrations style is patterned and abstract, and has echoes of a number of art forms, including tapestry and embroidery, batik, silk painting, as well as traditional Indigenous art. Repeated motifs reflect the repeating text and create vibrant impressions of variations of grassland, scrubland, woodland and desert, as well as rivers, waterholes and ocean. The artist has also painted a different sky on each page, showing the transition from dawn, through sunrise, midday, afternoon, sunset and ultimately night. Her use of colour in the sky reflects the different temperatures and light intensities of different times of day.



## Where Is Galah?

Written and Illustrated by Sally Morgan

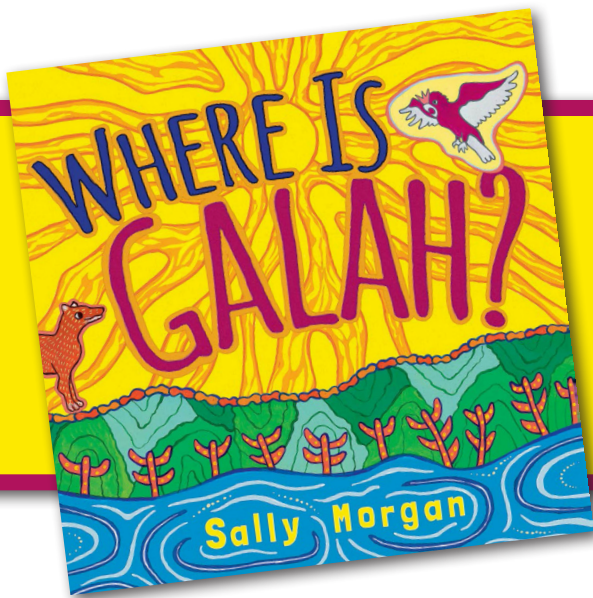
Published by Little Hare, March 2015

### AUTHOR /ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND

Sally Morgan is an Indigenous writer and artist who was born in Perth in 1951. She belongs to the Palkyu people of the eastern Pilbara in Western Australia. Sally is best known for her award winning book, *My Place*, which charts the history of her family. Sally is now specialising in writing and illustrating books for children and young people. Her personal interests are reading, taking her dogs for a walk and gardening.

### STUDY NOTES

1. All the way through the book there are lines of words describing sounds. Which of these sounds represent animal cries? Which sounds are created by animal movements? Think of some more movement-sounds that each of the animals in the book might make. What kinds of sounds do you make when you walk, run, jump, clap your hands, knock on a door? Write down as many sound-words as you can.
2. Look for the sun on each spread. Make a note of where the artist has placed it in the sky. What is the artist trying to show us by the position of the sun on each page?
3. The sky is painted in a different colour and with different patterns on each page. What might this tell us about the weather on each page? Which colours of sky make you think of cooler weather and which make you think of warmer weather? Paint a picture of a landscape that makes you feel cool or cold, or warm or hot.
4. Sally Morgan has chosen bright colours for her landscapes. Choose a page and describe the emotions the colours on that page make you feel. Most pages have many colours, but they also have a main colour. This main colour can represent the main emotion for that page. Paint a picture of a landscape that makes you feel lonely, happy, or calm.
5. Sally Morgan has painted several types of natural Australian landscape. Sometimes there are two or more landscape types on a single spread. What kind of landscapes has she painted? In which landscape would you rather have a picnic? Write a letter to someone telling them why you would love having a picnic in that particular landscape.



## Where Is Galah?

Written and Illustrated by Sally Morgan

Published by Little Hare, March 2015

### ACTIVITIES

- Re-read the book showing each page to the class and after finishing each page, ask the class to spot where the galah is hiding on each page.
- *Where Is Galah?* features Australian creatures. Ask your class to start a list of animals they have spotted in the Australian outback.
- Then start a new list of animals by broadening the category to all native Australian animals – they do not have to have seen them.
- Re-write the story of *Where Is Galah?* as a shared writing activity. Ask students to choose two new main characters for the class story, replacing Dingo and Galah with different native Australian animals. After writing, allocate each pair or group of students a page from the story to illustrate. Bind the book and keep it in the class library.
- Go through a few of the favourite animals in the lists and discuss what noises they make. Get the class to interact by making the noise of the animal you read out.
- Draw a class story map of which animals Dingo has seen on his way to finding Galah. Invite a group of students to colour the story map while others work together to create a stick puppet of each character in the story. Invite groups of students to use the story map throughout the week to retell the story to the class. Keep the map and puppets in the class library.
- Ask the students to choose one of the native Australian animals on the lists you have made and as a side project, do some research on that animal. Create some questions that each student must answer about that animal. At the end, bind each students report and add to the class library.