Teacher's Notes

Windy Hollow Books



Our Home is a picture book about where children live in Australia. From a rugged coast to an outback station to a high-rise apartment, *Our Home* showcases the landscapes, families and communities that make up our homes in Australia.

Author and Illustrator's Notes

I have always loved the different houses and landscapes in Australia. This book combines my love of onomatopoeia with the things that constitute 'home'. My hope for this book is that every child in Australia can see a part of their life - whether it's the type of house, landscape they're familiar with, or family - reflected in this book.

Catherine Meatheringham

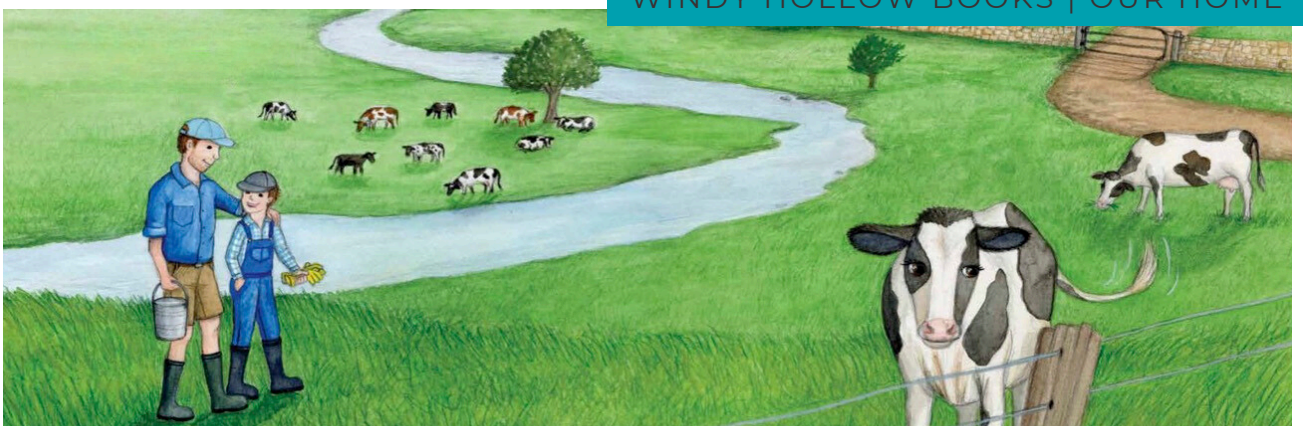


I have always had a love of architecture and landscape painting so it was a pure joy to illustrate the families, homes and landscapes in *Our Home*.

I researched different types of Australian domestic architecture, Australian landscape locations and different ethnicities of Australian families for this story. I hope in doing so we have represented all types of all Australian families in our book.

You may notice that some illustrations depict the homes quite small within expansive landscapes. The horizon line is visible and the vast sky expands in these spreads whereas in the busier city and suburban homes I have illustrated these with a closer view point. The horizon line isn't seen in these busier environments to give a contrast to how it feels to live in the varying landscapes. I used predominantly watercolour with coloured pencil, gouache and acrylic to illustrate Our Home.

Max Hamilton



Activities

Early Literacy

Read the book: invite children to join in reading the book by making the sounds in the story. They can say the sounds after, or along with you, or clap their hands along with the sounds.

Syllables:
Introduce children to syllables by clapping the syllables in the sound words such as beep, tap and crack (one syllable) and then clapping the words to describe the homes such as waving, swaying and ripening (two and three syllables).

Beginning sounds:
Explore the beginning sounds of each of the sound words with the children. For example, Tap, Rustle, Ding.

Visual literacy:
The illustrations tell their own story. Ask the children about who is in the story, what they are doing and where they live. Ask them to describe the landscape and buildings.

Retell the story:
Ask the children to retell the story as they see it from the illustrations only.

Blurb:
Explore the blurb on the back cover. Explain blurb's purpose and ask the children to retell a new blurb for the book.

Onomatopoeia & Sounds

The author uses onomatopoeia (words that imitate sounds) to describe the sounds the homes make. This includes sounds of houses, people, vehicles, environment and landscape.

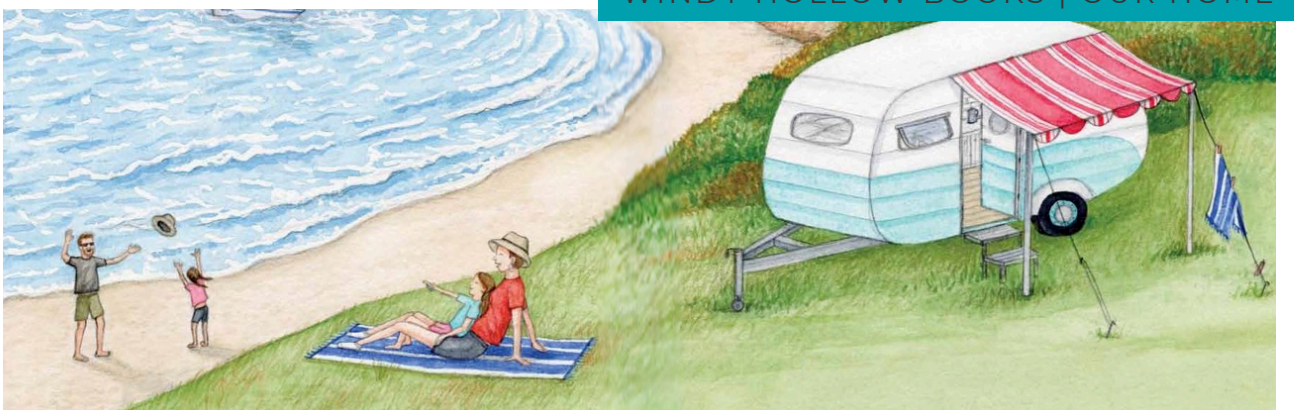
Onomatopoeia:
Explore what onomatopoeia is with the children.

Other sounds in the book:
Make up other sounds for each home in the book. This can include the sounds of the animals on the page (woof, moo, squark), vehicles, nature and the sounds the families might make.

Sounds their own home makes:
Invite the kids to describe the sounds they can hear in their own home. This can include pets, family, the environment (eg. bird calls, weather, traffic) and the house (eg doors banging, taps dripping).

Listen:
Ask the children to close their eyes and listen to the sounds around them – both inside and outside. Ask them to describe the different sounds that they can hear.

Our Home Orchestra:
Make the sounds in the book from instruments or objects. For example, Rustle can be paper rustling and Tap can be tapping sticks or blocks. Reread the story with the class playing the sounds along with the story.



Activities

Homes

What is a home:
Families and people live in a range of different houses and environments. What are the different parts of a house?

Identity:
Talk about the different homes the class live in. In what ways are their homes similar to the homes in the book. In what ways are they different?

Connections:
Explore the children's connections to places in the book. This can include the housing type and landscapes that they are familiar with.

Where are the homes in the book:
Explore the different places that the homes are located in the book. For example, cities, suburbs, the country, beach and remote Australia.

Animal homes:
Explore animal homes (such as burrows, hollows and nests) as well as the homes of the animals in the book (dogs, cows, birds (pigeons and seagulls), cats and crabs).

Create a home out of loose parts:
Use loose parts and natural materials to create a home. This can include blocks, boxes, cardboard, toy people and animals and objects collected from nature such as leaves, sticks, stones and flowers.

Design a home:
Talk about architects and builders and how they design and build a home. Print a variety of different floor plans for inspiration. Provide the children with large pieces of paper and markers to draw a floor plan for their perfect home.

Extension Activities

Humanities and social sciences – Geography

What are homes like:
Identify the features in the book that are:

- Natural (water, air, plants, soil)
- Managed (human altered landscapes such as farms and gardens); and constructed (buildings and transport).

Where are the homes in Australia:
Identify where in Australia the homes may be located. For example, urban, rural and remote.

Traditional owners:
find out who the traditional owners are, and what the traditional name is, of the place where you live and where your school is located. Find out why Country/Place is important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Humanities and social sciences – History
Past and present / then and now:
Discuss how homes, including houses and families, have changed over time. Identify what was different about the homes when parents or grandparents were children.

Create an *Our Home* poster about your own home.

- **Draw the landscape, house, vehicles and people and animals that are their home.**
- **Write about their home. This can include using a verb to describe a home, similar to the book, eg. My Home is Growing, waving, swaying.**
- **Describe the sounds (onomatopoeia) that your home makes.**

OUR HOME

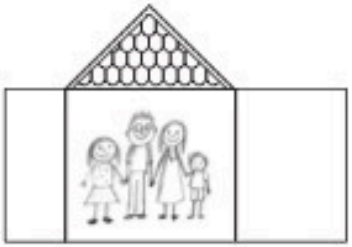
Catherine Meatheringham Max Hamilton





Cut out the home shape and fold along the dashed lines.

Stick on some windows, doors and roof patterns or draw them on.



Next open the side flaps and draw your family inside your home.

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