

Song Bird Drought Rescue (Song Bird 5) by Karen Tyrrell

Teacher Notes: Song Bird Drought Rescue (Song Bird) by Karen Tyrrell

Book Trailer on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVY9iB6rth4>

A read-aloud, junior/MG novel suitable for children 7+, teachers, librarians & eco supporters.

Age Level: 7 – 12+ years Word Count: 25K

Reviews available from 30th May onwards: Junior Writers Club, Ragamuffin Books, Readlilearn, Educate. Empower, Melissa Wray's blog, Goodreads, Amazon, Reading Time (CBCA), Buzz Words, Reviews from writers, children, parents. Aligned with primary **STEM** Science curriculum

Discussion Ideas

Knowledge and Literal Understanding

- Drought means prolonged period of dryness causing damage to crops or livestock.
- Bango Paterson, Australian bush poet of Winton, wrote Waltzing Matilda.
- Winton is home of Waltzing Matilda, Combo Waterhole and Lark Quarry.
- Longreach home of Qantas, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Stockman's Hall of Fame.
- Great Artesian Basin Australia's largest underground water supply.
- Lark Quarry site of world's largest dinosaur stampede.
- Palaeontology is the scientific study of dinosaurs and fossils.
- Water saving tips reduce, recycle, switch off, create a waterwise garden.

Inferential and Critical Thinking

- How is Drought a result of Climate Change and water/ land management practices?
- How can children help save water and the environment?
- How can Song Bird's super powers be explained by STEM science, engineering, technology and science fiction?

Literacy Skills

Word Building

- *Word Endings* – adding 'ed' - *pleaded, hurtled, yelled, pounded, stretched, paced, flashed, moved, promised, tapped, tracked, estimated, flared, bulged, whistled.*
- Ending rule - change y to i – *bullied, terrified, scurried, hurried, emptied, worried,*
- Adding ING: *spinning, shimmering, trailing, rushing, spiralling, sucking.*
- Vocabulary **Drought Rescue:** *Australia, Queensland, Winton, Longreach, outback, drought, sheep station, dinosaur stampede, windmill, waterhole, Waltzing Matilda.*
- Emotion Words: *brave, feeling, screamed, heart thumping, worried, evil, worry, laugh, terrify grim, shiver, smile, cry, embarrass, bawl, terror, disappoint,*
- High Frequency Words – *song, bird, flew, sang, super, kids, friend, water, save, rescue, find, wheelchair, aunt, uncle,*
- Onomatopoeia – (see Drama) *CLICKETY CLACK! WHOOSH! SWERVE! SCREEEEEEEEEECH! MWAH-AHA-HA-HA! SHH! SPZZZ! Koo-kark-ka-ka-ka!*
-

Grammar

- Naming Words – nouns – find the naming words in the story.
- Action Words – verbs – (see also Word Endings and Drama)

Comprehension

- Song Bird Drought Rescue comprehension Questions - For years 3 & 4
- Song Bird Drought Rescue comprehension Questions - For years 5 & 6

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Literature

- Read fiction and non-fiction texts about drought, the outback, dinosaurs and sheep stations
- What's the difference between fiction, fact, legends and myths? (ie Aboriginal Dreamtime stories: Tiddalick).

Writing

- When did you help save water? What did you do? What challenges did you face? Write a true account or a story from your imagination.
- Have you ever wished you had SUPER Powers? What would YOU do?
- Acrostic Poem – DROUGHT – RESCUE –OUTBACK– WATER
- Creative Writing Activity Sheets – Create a SUPER hero or SUPER villain

Maths

- SUPER maths race/ challenges with speed OR amount of sums completed
- How many sums can you complete in 10 minutes?
- Timer: how long does it take you to do 10 20 50 100 sumsand get them right?
- Geometry: How do you draw Superhero symbols and logos? ie star, lightning bolt,
- **Mathematical Superpowers:** Times tables, problem solving, calculations, maths problems, fluency. <http://www.oakham-primary.rutland.sch.uk/mathematics/>

Craft

- Song Bird Drought Rescue **posters**. Use *textas, crayons, paint, pencil, collage, art paper, cardboard,*
- Drought Rescue *Diorama with living and non-living things (inside shoe box)*
- *Origami dinosaurs– paperfolding square of coloured paper*
- *Create Superhero stick puppets*
- *Create Superhero masks/ logos*
- *Create Superhero onomatopoeia words and slogans*

Art

- Illustrate a scene from the text or from the story as outlined in *Writing*.
- ***Drought Rescue*** colour-in sheets using bright colours. Activity sheets

Drama

Body language:

- Show how to stand and walk like a superhero. Hero pose: head up, smile, shoulders back, hands on hips.
- Walking a straight-line showing self-confidence: walking tall, shoulders back, chin up.
- Imitate real, villain & mythical outback creature movements: Destructo's sneaking, K9 dog robots.

Present ***Drought Rescue*** as a PLAY or pantomime.

Show range of **GOOD emotions** using facial expressions and hand gestures ...

Determined helpful, scared, sad, confident, assertive, friendly, guilty, proud, nervous, caring, 'EVIL' emotions: unfriendly, mean, aggressive, frightening, scary, bully, black, slink, hide.

History

- Who were the first Superheroes? What is the history of DC and Marvel comics?
- **Song Bird's Mentors** – Leonardo Da Vinci (flying machines) & Amelia Earhart

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Social Skills

- Discuss how to make and keep a friend?
- How can you work with a team ... to succeed?
- How do friends and families look after each other?
- How can you be a Superhero in saving *water* and living in a sustainable way?

Cross Curricular

The Australian Government wants schools to increase student engagement in **STEM**

Science

Technology

Engineering

Mathematics

STEM Science

- List and draw: types of dinosaurs, outback animals, drought-resistant plants.
- Children list ways to save water at home and school
- Diary journal with drawings and notes on daily/ weekly care of a garden.
- How do you identify types of opals?

Drought Rescue ... Hands on STEM Science activities.

SUPER POWERS

- How can SUPER powers be explained by STEM science?
- How does Song Bird fly? How does she lift up off the ground? How does she move?
- How is singing produced by your vocal chords? How is singing explained by science?
- How do you sing louder? higher? Hold a note for longer? How could singing shatter windows?

Links: STEM Science & Superpowers

10 Inventions that gave us Superpowers:

<http://scienceonthego.griffith.edu.au/superpowers/>

Science of Super Powers

<http://www.stemfinity.com/The-Science-Of-Super-Powers-Camp>

Science of Superpowers VIDEO <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMhew8yRjvA>

Superpowers on Wiki http://powerlisting.wikia.com/wiki/Superpower_Wiki

Year 3-4 Reading Comprehension Questions Song Bird Drought Rescue

1. **Before reading:** Study the book cover and title closely. What do you think Song Bird Drought Rescue is about?
2. **After reading:** Is the story what you thought it would be?
3. Where is Song Bird Drought Rescue set?
4. What's Song Bird's human name?
5. Who are Song Bird's two best friends?
6. Why did Song Bird go to the outback?
7. Which two relatives does Song Bird try to help?
8. Who's the villain in the story?
9. What plane flew Uncle Banjo to Winton hospital?
10. What was the problem on the Spirit of the Outback train?
11. Name three activities you can enjoy at the Age of Dinosaurs museum?
12. What's a wallaroo?
13. Who's Destructo? What's he trying to do?
14. What happened at Lark Quarry 93 million years ago?
15. What's a Banjo-saurus and a Matilda-saurus?
16. Name 3 ways you can save water.
17. Name 3 places the heroes visit searching for Aunt Matty?
18. What's another book in the Song Bird series?
19. Name a precious gem found in the story.
20. What delicious food is mentioned in the last chapter?

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21. What are outback windmills used for?

22. Name 3 birds of the outback?

Year 5-6 Reading Comprehension Questions Song Bird Drought Rescue

1. **Before reading:** Study the book cover and title closely. What do you think

Song Bird Drought Rescue is about?

2. **After reading:** Is the story what you thought it would be?

3. Which Queensland town is the central location for Song Bird Drought Rescue?

4. What's Song Bird's full human name? (3 words)

5. Who are Song Bird's side-kicks?

6. What's the Spirit of the Outback?

7. On what property does Aunty Matty live?

8. What problems is that sheep station experiencing?

9. What's Song Bird's main mission in the outback?

10. Which two relatives does Song Bird try to help?

11. Which famous bush poet is associated with Combo Waterhole?

12. What famous song did Destructo re-write?

13. Name 3 activities you can enjoy at the Age of Dinosaurs museum?

14. Which organization flew Uncle Banjo to Winton hospital?

15. How is a wallaroo different to a kangaroo?

16. Who's Destructo? What's he trying to do in the outback?

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17. Who did Destructo kidnap? How will Song Bird find her?
18. What technology does Destructo use to spy on people?
19. Who is K9? How is he important to the story?
20. What happened at Lark Quarry 93 million years ago?
21. What dinosaurs in the story have similar names to Rosie's relatives?
22. What treasure did they find in the underground caves?
23. Name 5 ways you can save water during a drought.
24. What's the Great Artesian Basin? Where do you find it?
25. What advice would you give Aunt Matty and Uncle Banjo on how to survive the drought?
26. How can children solve environmental problems like eco superheroes?
27. What elements of Song Bird Drought Rescue are pure fiction?
28. In the real world, how can we stop eco villains like Destructo destroying the environment?


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The Effect of Drought


Select four images from the circles below. Colour the images and write in the table how these living or non-living things could be affected by drought. For example, shops might be affected because farmers may not have money to spend in them.



land and soil



transportation



shops



hydroelectric power stations


irrigation


schools and students



groundwater


factories


farms and farmers

The Effect of Drought

Living or Non-Living Aspect of the Environment	How It Is Affected by Drought?



Effects of Drought

Shortage of water	Food crops and livestock die	Did farmers over-plant?	Less water leads to death
Did animals and crops die?	Food and water shortages	Threats multiply from farms to cities	Farmers lose money
Threats multiplied when you know	Farmers lose control and pressure	Increased number of bushfires	Could be biological feedback

Can you think of some more?

Droughts in Australia



Why No Rainfall?













A decrease in rainfall can happen for a number of reasons. Scientists study patterns in the climate and how forced that climate processes can change the weather.

El Niño, a climate process, is the main cause of droughts. About two out of every three El Niño results in a drought.







Warm water in the Pacific Ocean doesn't get close to Australia. The winds that blow it towards Australia are not as strong. This means there is less moist air and this will usually lead to less rain and storms.

Did you know...?
El Niño doesn't guarantee there will be a drought.

Desert Plant Adaptations

		
Plants called succulents store water in their stems and leaves.	Some plants live for only a short time so that they can avoid drought.	Growing slowly requires the plant to make less food, therefore they don't lose as much water.
		
Long roots go deep into the ground and spread out to absorb more water.	Spines or thorns on plants make it difficult for animals to eat them.	A waxy coating on leaves and stems help to reduce water loss.
		
Some plants have no leaves or only small leaves that grow after it rains. The lack of leaves helps with water loss.	Plants that open during the night attract pollinators that are more active when it is cool.	Leaves with their hair reduce the amount of water lost. Lightly coloured hair helps to reflect the sun heat and shade a plant.
		
Plants without leaves photosynthesise in their stems.	Some plants have leaves that turn so that they can avoid losing too much food on them.	

Desert Plant Adaptations

		
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ink saving Eco

A New Calling

In 1894, Banjo Paterson began a career change, working first as a lawyer and then as a journalist.

In the same year, he began working for the Sydney Morning Herald and the Melbourne Age as a war correspondent in the Boer War in South Africa where illustrations were reviewed as fighting for the first time.

Not long after that, he went to China to cover the Boxer Rebellion but he missed the fun and missed all the action.

By 1903, he was appointed editor for the Evening News in Sydney and his career change was complete.

Early Work Life

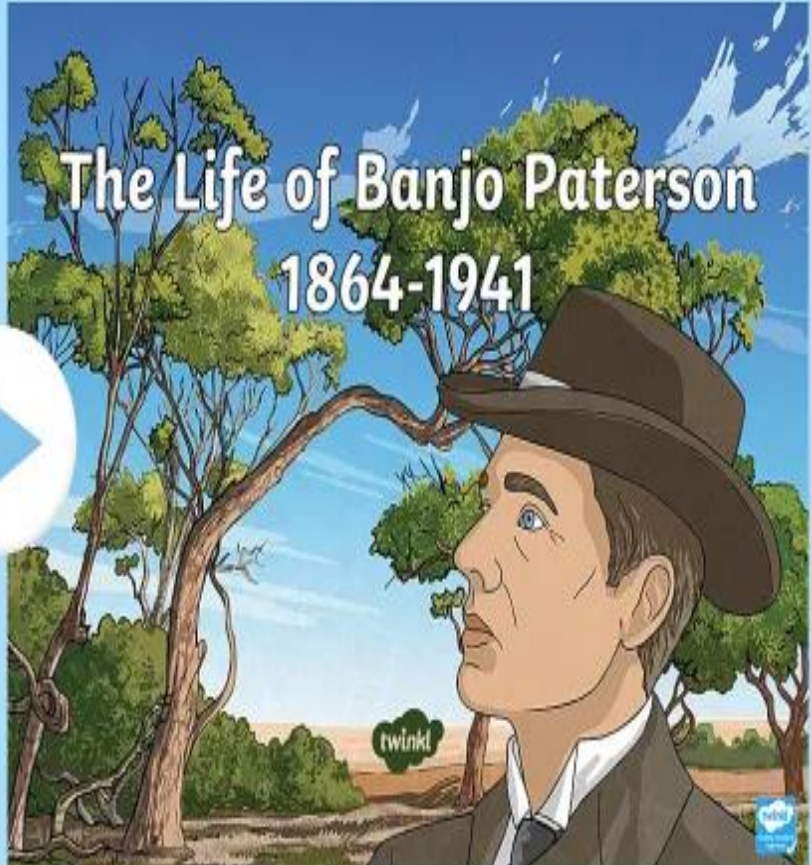
After leaving school in 1881, Banjo Paterson started work as a law clerk in Sydney.

Six years later, he qualified as a solicitor and with a business partner, he started a law firm called Street and Paterson.

During this time, he published his first series of poetry in the famous literary journal, The Bulletin.

The Life of Banjo Paterson

1864-1941



twinkl

twinkl logo

NATURAL DISASTERS



Forest Fire



Volcano



Earthquake



Tsunami



Hurricane



Flood



Snowstorm



Tornado



Dust Storm



Hailstorm



Thunderstorm



Sandstorm



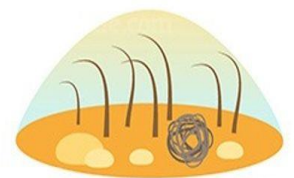
Avalanche



Windstorm



Sinkhole



Drought

SONG BIRD SUPERHERO. DROUGHT BREAKER.

SONG BIRD


DROUGHT RESCUE



Report writing

Here is some nonfiction text for you to read.

Remember: Nonfiction books give information.



Dinosaurs

Dinosaurs lived on Earth millions of years ago, before there were humans. They lived on the land, and could move very fast. They laid eggs and had scaly skin.

Size

Some dinosaurs were as small as a hen. Some were as big as a house. Some were the same size as you.


Food

Some dinosaurs were hunters. They ate meat. Others ate plants.

Fossils

We know about dinosaurs because people found their bones. The bones tell us where dinosaurs lived, what they ate, and what they looked like. There are no dinosaurs left on Earth. We are not sure why.

Key words are important words. Write some key words from this text about dinosaurs.



Write a report about dinosaurs by answering these questions.

How do we know about dinosaurs?

What did dinosaurs eat?

Were all dinosaurs the same size?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Australia

Word Search Puzzle

K L M A C T X C B D Z J P D W H C X Q D E K R J Z
B G R B Z J D O B K L Y J E J F W G N C N C U U N
O H D F G S J K J P K E A O R N S I K L R A H F S
L U R A U I A U V E R I D A F T W X J U U B Q Q E
N J D Z H R S I Y N N T E I S R H D O Z O T C Z R
T H G I B N A I L A R T S U A T A E R G B U A B N
N V Q B Y A H V M A Y M R D I L V Z W A L O N C F
L S X S R P N S Z F R Y A X E Z E M J Q E K B D V
F B B K O I A Y B C W T G U B Q E D K H M Y E M B
P N R Z O T S N C R D I S N G C N Y A I C G R P T
S Z F B U Z L B R G U V U U T I M O R S E A R G J
K E E R Y E E K A L E O B O A G F X B Z L Z A U F
T I Y L H E C X H N K A M V G K C Z D C H X B L B
G U L F O F C A R P E N T A R I A S Y D N E Y M Z
Y W B L G B K F E E R R E I R R A B T A E R G R B

Adelaide

Canberra

Great Barrier Reef

Melbourne

Sydney

Australia

Darwin

Gulf of Carpentaria

Outback

Tasmania

Brisbane

Great Australian Bight

Lake Eyre

Perth

Timor Sea



WINTON: Add Places from Song Bird Drought Rescue

