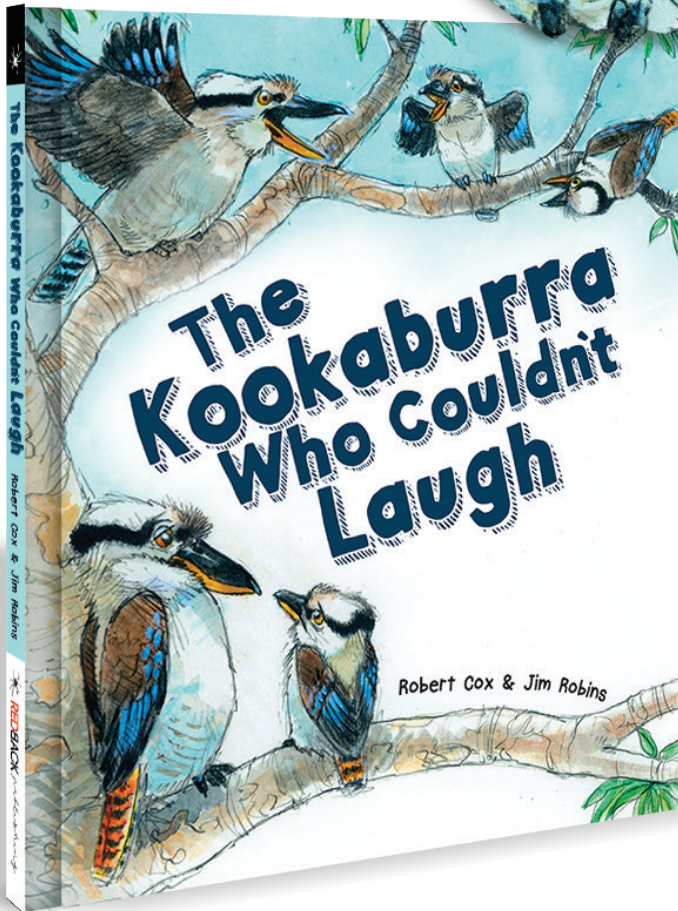


NOTES FOR TEACHERS



The Kookaburra Who Couldn't Laugh

AUTHOR:
Robert Cox

ILLUSTRATOR:
Jim Robins

PUBLISHING DETAILS

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GENRE: Picture Book

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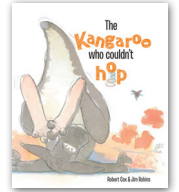
PUBLISHER: Redback Publishing

BINDING: Hardback

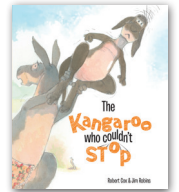
PAGES:

32 pp Size: 276 x 235 mm

Other books by the same
Author & Illustrator



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ABOUT THE STORY

When two kookaburras fall in love and their three eggs hatch into babies, it seems they have the perfect family all ready to do what kookaburras do best laugh.

But poor Bridget just cannot laugh. Or even smile. Her father and two brothers do everything they can to encourage her to start laughing, but nothing works. Serious Bridget just thinks they are being either silly or dangerous, until one day a magpie accidentally drops a nut on her head, which starts a smile, then a chuckle, then an enormous laugh that spreads all around the neighbourhood.

Bridget, who couldn't laugh at anything or anyone, finally learns that sometimes the best laugh is the laugh you have on yourself.

IDEAS PRESENTED IN THE BOOK

- Family life is not always easy. Siblings are all individuals, and they develop their life skills at varying ages.
- Little Bridget cannot master one of the basic things that kookaburras do - laugh! Her parents try to encourage her, and her brothers try to help, but nothing seems to work. It takes an event caused by a character outside the family group to finally trigger the chain of events that results in success for Bridget.
- Fitting in is often difficult for children, just as it is for Bridget. She overcomes this by laughing at herself, even though she gets a bump on the head in the process.

CLASSROOM AND STORYTIME ACTIVITIES

- Have you ever wondered what kookaburras are laughing at? Make a list of all the funny things they might be thinking that would make them laugh.
- When you hear a kookaburra, do you think it is really laughing? What could be some of the real reasons for the noisy call that kookaburras make?
- If the magpie had not dropped the macadamia nut on Bridget's head, do you think she would ever have learnt to laugh? How would not being able to laugh have affected Bridget's life as she grew up?
- Think of some of the ways brothers and sisters should help each other at home, just like Bridget's brothers tried to help her learn to laugh.

