

Teaching Notes & Resources

Early Years

Themes: Family | Starting school | Growing Up | Empathy

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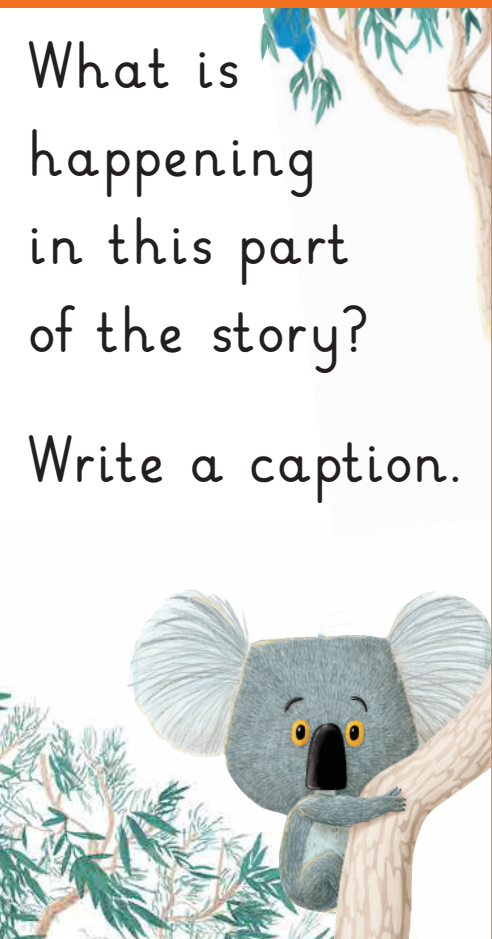


CAPTION WRITING

THE
KOALA
WHO COULD

What is
happening
in this part
of the story?

Write a caption.



Communication, Language and Literacy

Comprehension

Who are the main characters in the story?

Where do you think the story is set? What clues can we find for this in the story?

What does Kevin like to do?

Why did the other animals want him to leave his tree?

Why did Kevin not want to leave his tree?

How does Kevin feel at the end of the story?
What has he learned?

Discussion Questions

What does the word 'afraid' mean?

What things have you been too afraid to try?

Why is it good to try new things?

What new things have you tried?

Caption Writing

What is happening in this part of the story?

Write a caption.



Story Sequencing

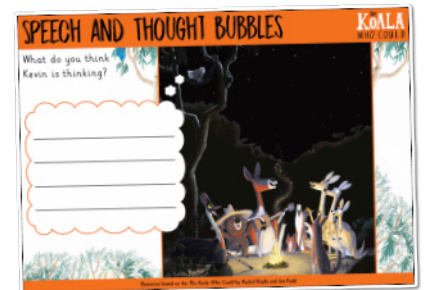
Can the children order the main events of the story?

Can they retell the story in their own words?



Speech and Thought Bubbles

What do you think Kevin is thinking?

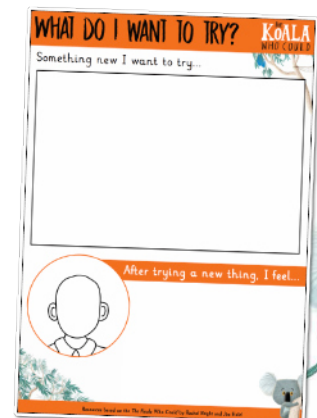


Personal Social and Emotional Development

What do I want to try?

Kevin was always very cautious and didn't like to try anything new, so he missed out on lots of opportunities. When faced with no choice but to fall, he realised the worst had happened and it was okay. He soon fell in love with pushing himself to try new things.

In this activity, children will think about something new they want to try. This could be a new food, a new activity or hobby. What is something they've been too afraid to try? Can they revisit the resource when they have tried the new thing – how do they feel now? Was it as scary as they first thought it might be?



Phonics

Koala Sounds

Hide lots of pictures of objects in the sand. Can the children find the objects that use /k/ as the initial sound? Koala/Kangaroo/kick/kite/key/kettle/king/kitten.

Rhyming words

Identify rhyming words in the story and find rhyming pairs e.g. free/tree; meet/feet; sun/bun; pace/place; day/play; plant/can't; late/wait; blow/no; pinging/clinging; pass/class; paw/more; plan/can. What other words can the children think of that rhyme?

'k' Initial Sound

For children working at Phase 2, this is a useful book to focus on the phoneme /k/. Can children spot /k/ in the book title *The Koala Who Could*? What other words do they know that use the initial sound k? Place lots of objects or pictures of objects in a tray. Can they pick out the objects that have the initial sound /k/?

CVC Words

Write some of the CVC words from the story on the board

e.g. sun, sit, nap, tap, big, hat, mug, wombat. Can the children blend the sounds to read the words? Now they know the words, can they find these things in the book?



Expressive Arts and Design

Musical Animals

Explore using different musical instruments to represent Australian animals. How does a kangaroo move? How can we show this with the instrument? Which animals are quiet? Which animals move slowly? Which animals are loud?

Koala Aboriginal Art

Provide the children with an outline of a koala, as well as different coloured paints and cotton buds. Can the children use the paint and cotton buds to paint their own picture of Kevin in an Aboriginal art style? What other animals can they create in this same style?



Understanding the World

Making Damper bread

Damper bread was a staple of the early Australian settlers' diet. Traditionally, the dough was cooked directly on the coals of an open fire.

What foods are part of UK tradition that we enjoy eating? What traditional foods are eaten in other parts of the world?

Follow a simple recipe to make Damper bread with the children or bake at home and set up a tasting session with the children.

Ensure you have carried out a full risk assessment, including potential food allergies.

Where does Kevin live?

Can the children locate the continent of Australia on a map? What do the children know about Australia? What is it like to live there? What is the same as the UK? What is different?

Who Lives with Kevin?

What other animals do we notice in the story? Do you know any other animals that live in Australia? Can the children create an animal spotter sheet for Australian animals?

Continuous Provision

Food tasting

Ensure risk assessment is carried out for any food allergies.

Set out a food tasting table with fruits for a fun and simple food tasting set up.

Trying new foods is often a big challenge for children. Can the children be brave like Kevin and try something new? What foods did they try? Which did they like?

Which didn't they like?

Extend: provide a way for the children to give a thumbs up or down to the foods they try.

Australian Animals Small World

Provide the children with sand or an Australian photo backdrop and Australian animal toys or photo cut outs. Allow the children to explore the small world. You could set up a problem-solving scenario such as Kevin the Koala is stuck up a tree. Listen for story language repeated by the children.

Australian Animals Non-Fiction Book

Provide photos of Australian animals that are featured in the story and simple writing frames. Can they children write about the animal? Can they label the photograph? Pull all the writing templates together to create a class non-fiction book about Australian animals.

Fine Motor Control Dreamcatchers

Australian Aboriginal dreamcatchers, also known as snugglepots, are often made with a circular frame and decorated with natural materials such as feathers, fur, and shells. They are believed to protect the dreamer from evil spirits and to promote positive energy.

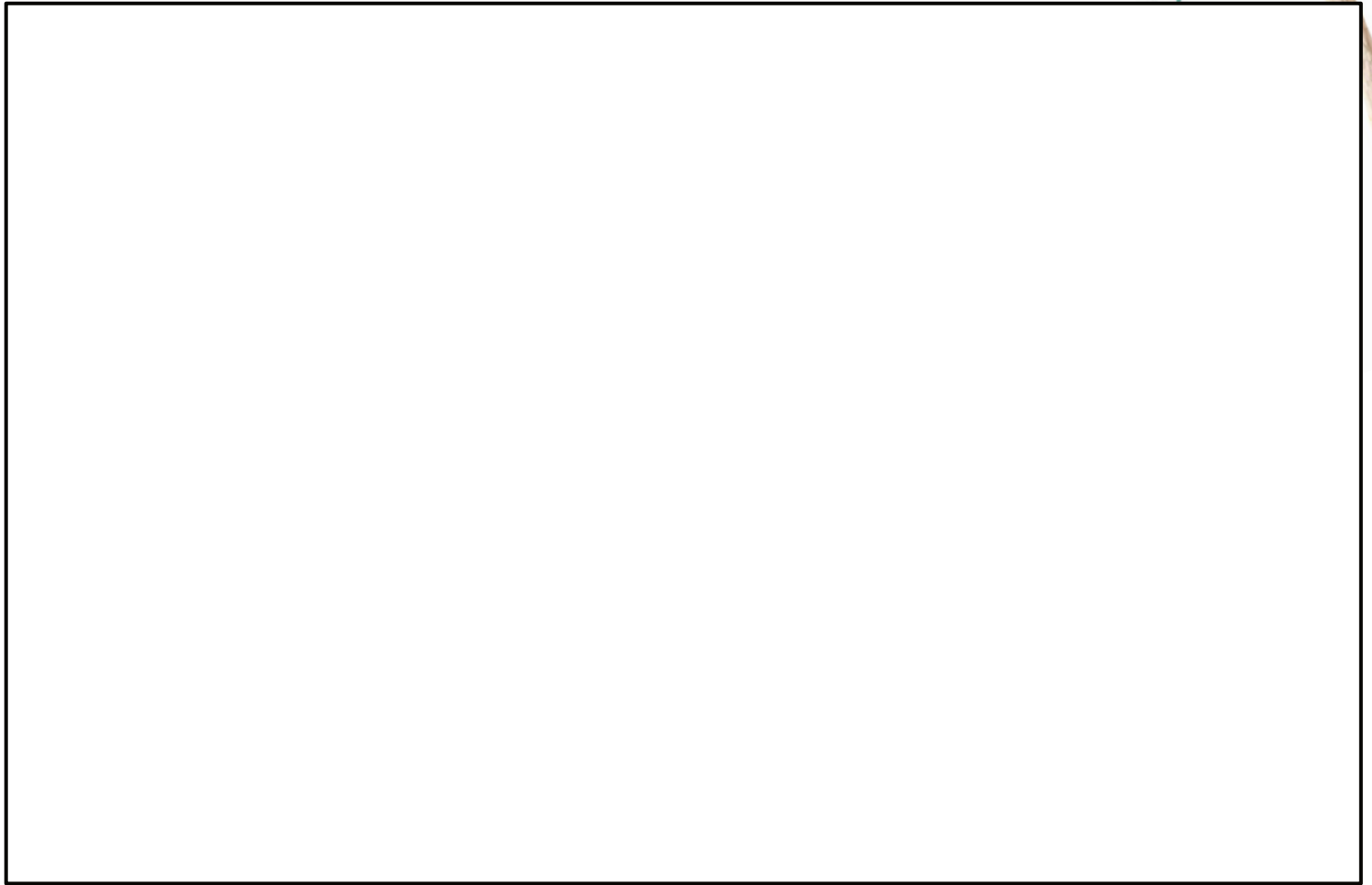
Use the template to print onto card or laminate. Use a hole punch to create the holes. Provide children with string or wool to thread back and forth through the holes. Thread beads onto the end of the loose wool.



WHAT DO I WANT TO TRY?

THE
KOALA
WHO COULD

Something new I want to try...



After trying a new thing, I feel...



SPEECH AND THOUGHT BUBBLES

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WHO COULD

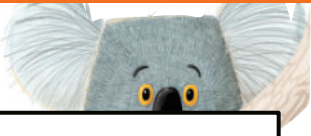
What do you think
Kevin is thinking?



STORY SEQUENCING

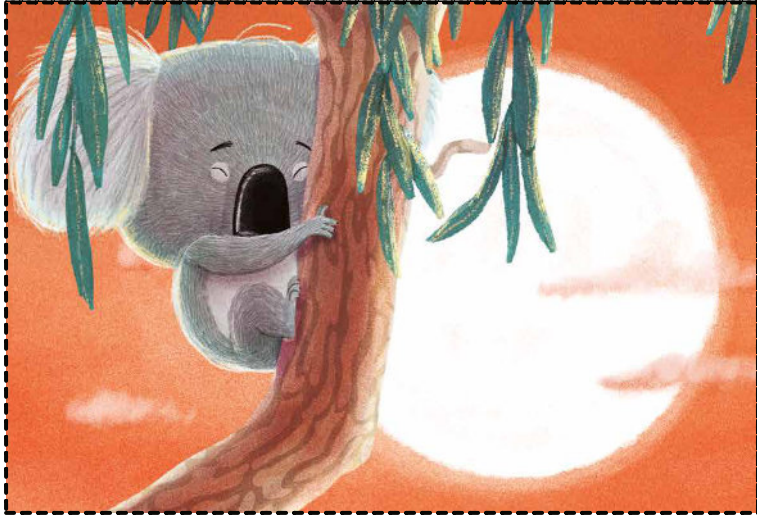
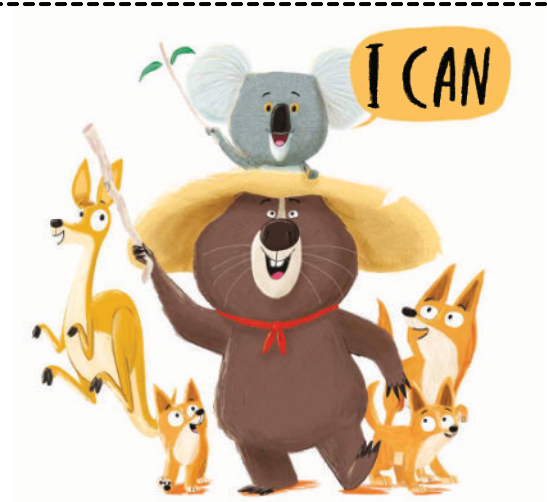
THE
KOALA
WHO COULD

Can you order the main events of the story?



STORY SEQUENCING

THE
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