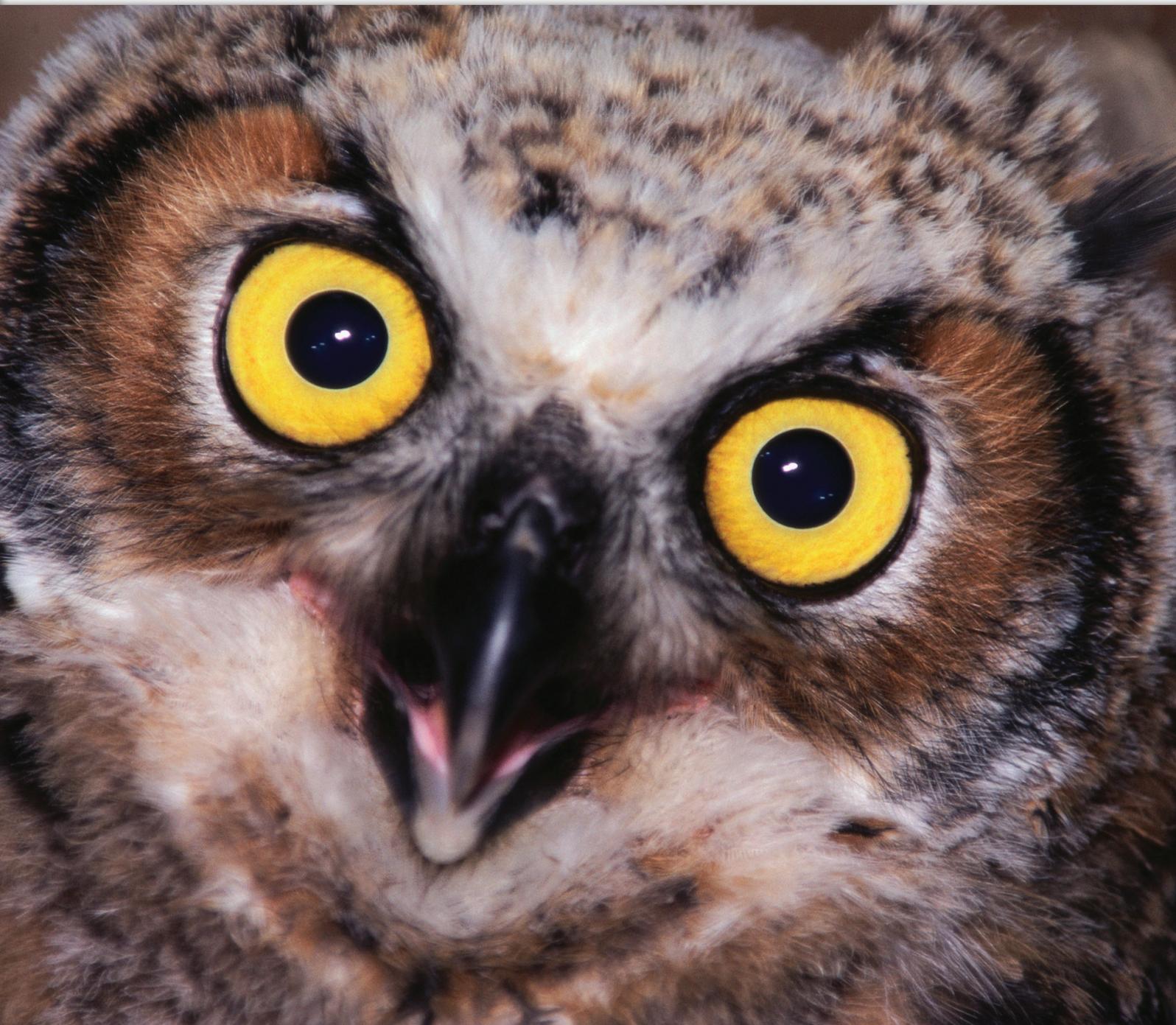


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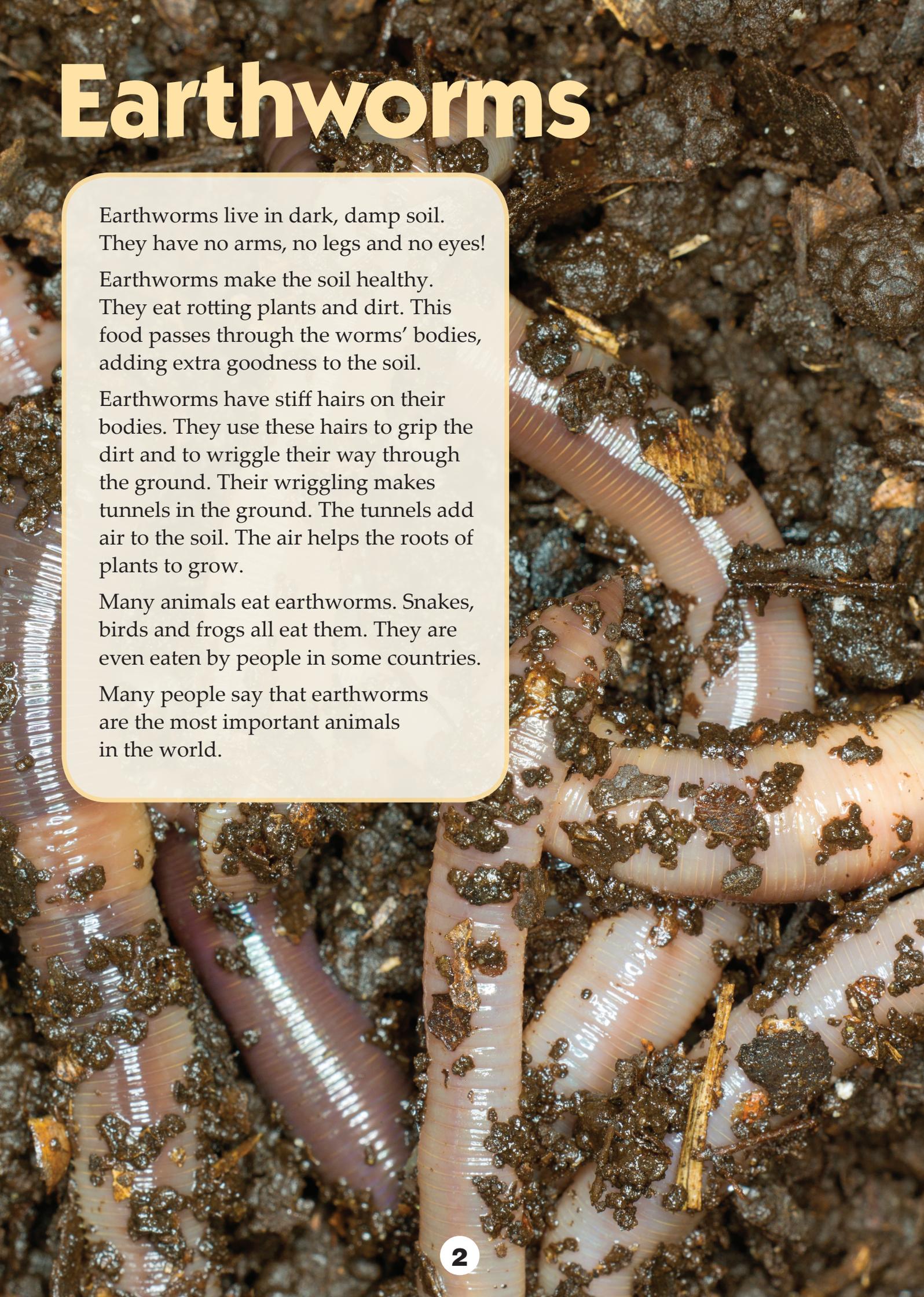
Reading Magazine 2013



NAPLAN NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
Literacy and Numeracy

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Earthworms



Earthworms live in dark, damp soil. They have no arms, no legs and no eyes!

Earthworms make the soil healthy. They eat rotting plants and dirt. This food passes through the worms' bodies, adding extra goodness to the soil.

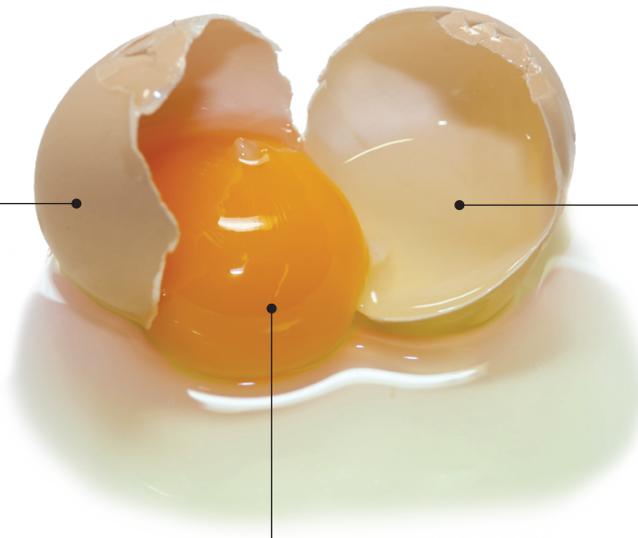
Earthworms have stiff hairs on their bodies. They use these hairs to grip the dirt and to wriggle their way through the ground. Their wriggling makes tunnels in the ground. The tunnels add air to the soil. The air helps the roots of plants to grow.

Many animals eat earthworms. Snakes, birds and frogs all eat them. They are even eaten by people in some countries.

Many people say that earthworms are the most important animals in the world.

Eggs

People all over the world eat eggs. Most of the eggs we eat come from hens. Eggs are easy to cook. They can be cooked in lots of ways such as fried, scrambled or hard-boiled. Eggs can be used with other things to make cakes, ice-cream and spaghetti.



Shell

The shell protects the egg. Shells can be brown or white.

White (albumen)

The eggwhite is mostly water, protein and some minerals. Before it is cooked, the white is not white; it is clear.

Yolk

The yolk has most of the egg's vitamins and minerals. The yolk can be pale yellow to dark orange. The colour depends on what the hen eats.

The fresh test

Put your egg in a saucepan of water and use the guide below to find out how old your egg is.

What happens to the egg	Age of egg
Sinks to the bottom of the pan and stays there	3–6 days old
Sinks, but floats at an angle	Just over 1 week old
Sinks, and then stands on end	About 2 weeks old
Floats on top or just under the surface	Over 2 weeks old

Eggs last a long time. You can keep them for about four weeks in your fridge.

The Story of Thunder and Lightning

Based on a Nigerian folktale

In the old days, when animals lived among people, two sheep called Thunder (an elderly female) and Lightning (her son) lived in a village. Lightning was a cranky ram and if people angered him, he ran around the village throwing his bright flashes, damaging and burning crops and huts. Thunder used to yell at him to stop causing so much destruction, but the careless ram didn't listen to her rumblings and the damage was often great.

The villagers lived in fear and told their king, who ordered that Thunder and Lightning live in the bush far away from the village. After moving, the ram still went on in his angry way and sometimes he set fire to the forest which spread to the people's farms and the village. The people were tired of their peaceful lives being upset by both Lightning's fury and the noise of Thunder's shouts.

Once again the people complained to their king. This time he sent the naughty sheep to live in the sky far away from the land and all the people.

Sadly, Lightning still managed to throw down his angry 'fire' from above, though not as easily as before. His mother, no matter how far away from him, shouted at him to stop but it was always too late to prevent Lightning's bad behaviour.

An interview with Andy Griffiths



Andy Griffiths is well known as a writer of children's books. Here are some interesting things you might not know about him!

What do you like to do besides write?

I go for long runs and bike rides beside the beach. An hour of exercise after a long day of writing helps me recharge. Then I'm ready to write some more.

Do you write using a computer or by hand?

I write the first drafts of stories by hand, and then I transfer my drafts onto a computer. I like to write by hand when I travel. I find it very easy to lose myself in my journal when I am away from my usual distractions.

What super power would you like to have?

X-ray vision as long as I could turn it off sometimes.

What is your favourite food?

I'm never happier than when I'm drinking banana and blueberry milkshakes. And I love fish. But I don't like drinking fish milkshakes — they are just disgusting!

What is your favourite book?

Alice in Wonderland. It has so many surprises and such silliness in it.

Do you write for adults too?

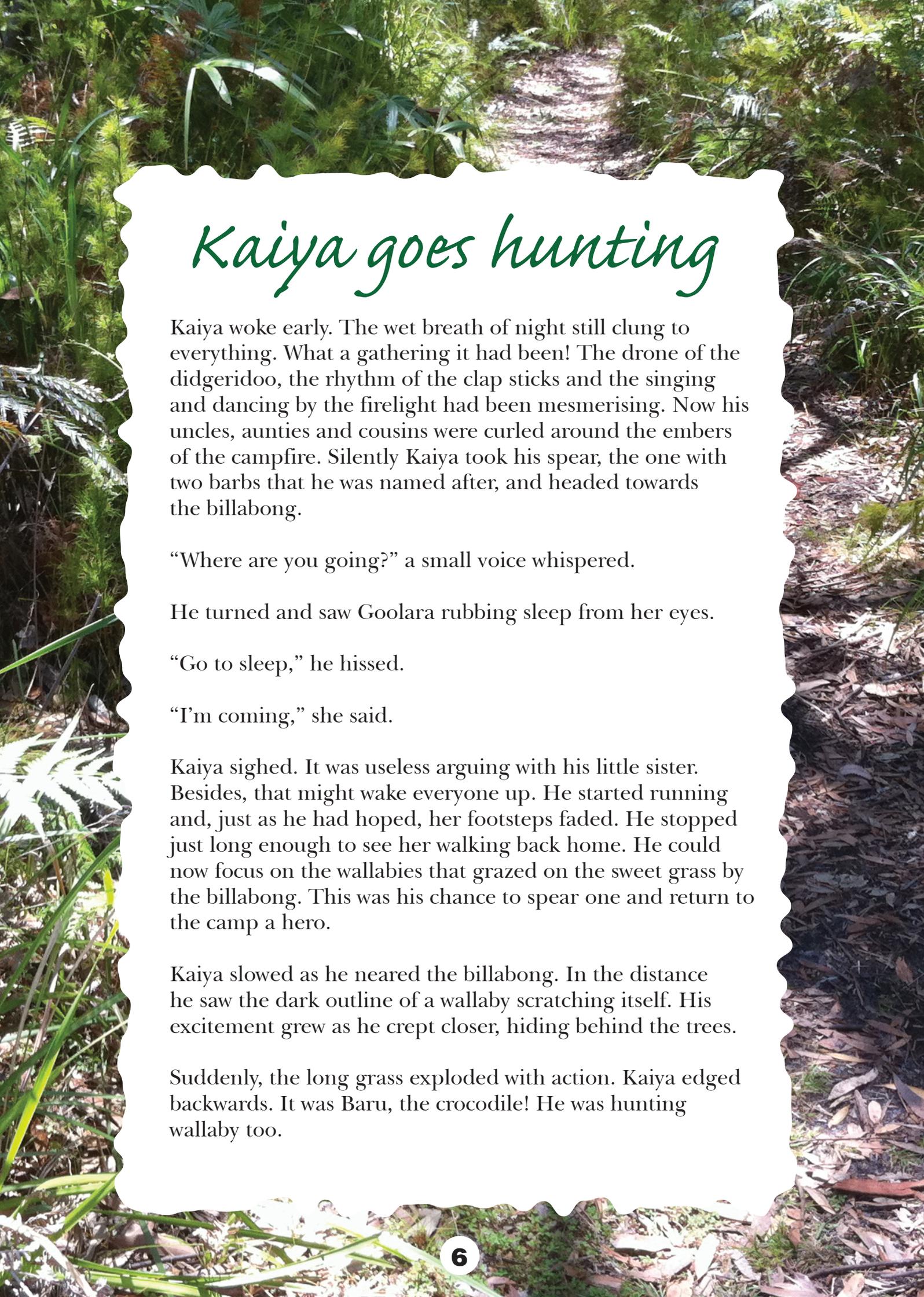
Only if I really have to. I much prefer the freedom and fun of writing for children.

What do you say to kids who say, "Why should I read?"

I quote the words of Dr Seuss: "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

I've found this to be true in my own life.

ANDY GRIFFITHS



Kaiya goes hunting

Kaiya woke early. The wet breath of night still clung to everything. What a gathering it had been! The drone of the didgeridoo, the rhythm of the clap sticks and the singing and dancing by the firelight had been mesmerising. Now his uncles, aunties and cousins were curled around the embers of the campfire. Silently Kaiya took his spear, the one with two barbs that he was named after, and headed towards the billabong.

“Where are you going?” a small voice whispered.

He turned and saw Goolara rubbing sleep from her eyes.

“Go to sleep,” he hissed.

“I’m coming,” she said.

Kaiya sighed. It was useless arguing with his little sister. Besides, that might wake everyone up. He started running and, just as he had hoped, her footsteps faded. He stopped just long enough to see her walking back home. He could now focus on the wallabies that grazed on the sweet grass by the billabong. This was his chance to spear one and return to the camp a hero.

Kaiya slowed as he neared the billabong. In the distance he saw the dark outline of a wallaby scratching itself. His excitement grew as he crept closer, hiding behind the trees.

Suddenly, the long grass exploded with action. Kaiya edged backwards. It was Baru, the crocodile! He was hunting wallaby too.

Adopt-a-Dog



Candy

Size: small

Breed: Australian Terrier cross

Colour: black, white and tan

Age: 4 years old

Personality: gentle

Candy is a fun-loving dog who could come home with you straightaway — or in two wags of a tail. She is a much-loved pet but sadly, her family has moved overseas. Candy is now searching for a new family. Could Candy be the perfect pet you are looking for?

The Evans family found their perfect pet last year when they adopted a Labrador. Here's what they said: "We love Rocky. He is really part of our family. He loves to be walked and to play with the kids."

At Adopt-a-Dog we know that each of our furry friends will make a great addition to your family. Kids, are you having trouble convincing your parents? Tell them that Candy is friendlier than a cat, more interesting than a fish and cheaper to feed than a pony. And if you are lucky enough to take Candy home, you can even start using the excuse, "The dog ate my homework!"

We are proud to say that Adopt-a-Dog has helped more than 50 dogs to find a home this year. All our dogs have been to the vet so they are desexed, microchipped, vaccinated and wormed.

You can adopt Candy now for \$300.

You would have to be barking mad to miss out.



Candy has our full 4 paws of approval.

Sara's early morning

On Saturday morning, Sara got up early to play football.

She put on her football shirt and black shorts. Then, she pulled on some long socks. Next, she carried her football boots to the door and put them on.

'I thought you played football on Sunday, not Saturday!' said Sara's dad.

'Oh, yeah!' said Sara, and she went back to bed.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Earthworms

Image © Science Photo Library

Cover

Image © Corbis Australia

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