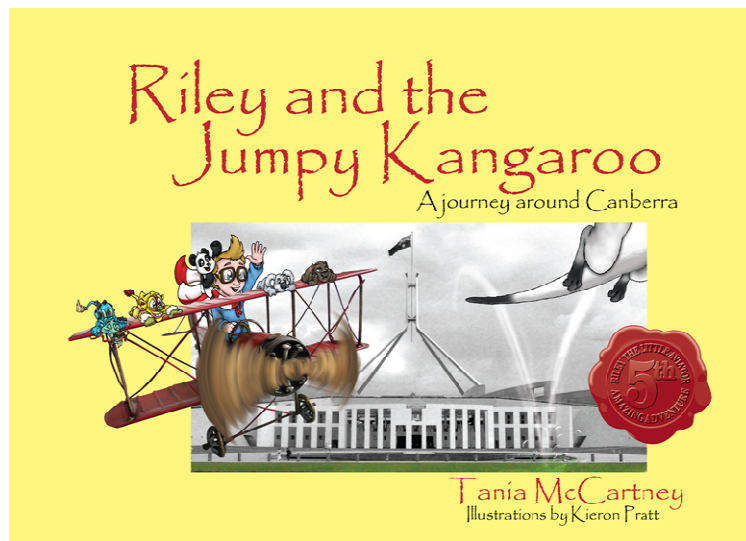


Teaching Notes

Riley and the Jumpy Kangaroo

by Tania McCartney, illustrations Kieron Pratt

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Background

Riley and the Jumpy Kangaroo: A journey around Canberra is the fifth book in a unique series of multimedia travelogue books for pre- and primary school aged children. It follows the journey of little aviator Riley as he flies around Canberra, trailing a very jumpy roo – who appears to have lost something important. Why is she so jumpy? Bounding around the iconic sights of Canberra – from Parliament House to Lake Burley Griffin and Black Mountain tower – can this roo finally find what she's been looking for?

Featuring photos of the capital and surrounds, *Jumpy Kangaroo* is the first Riley book to feature both black and white and full colour photographs. Along with adorable illustrations by the talented Kieron Pratt, this heart-warming tale will captivate animal lovers – and anyone up for adventure.

About the author and illustrator

Tania McCartney is a travel-loving Aussie who has been writing since her teens. She is the author of both children's and adult books, is an experienced editor, speaker and magazine writer, and is the founder of Kids Book Review. *Riley and the Jumpy Kangaroo* has been aligned with the Canberra 100 Centenary celebrations and the book will be launched at Floriade in September 2013. Tania lives in Canberra with her husband, two kids and a pile of books. www.taniamccartney.com

Kieron Pratt is a Canberra-based illustrator with an extremely well-developed funny bone. This is his fourth book in the Riley the Little Aviator series.

Lesson 1 – Exploring Canberra and Kangaroos

Riley and the Jumpy Kangaroo is set in modern-day Canberra, and features an iconic Australian animal particularly endemic to the Australian Capital Territory, where locals frequently encounter roos in their own backyards. Read the book and ask the following questions or discuss the following elements with children, either during or post-reading:

Where is Canberra located?

Are there really kangaroos in Canberra? Where do you think they would sleep at night?

Parliament House is located on Capital Hill and was opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 9 May 1988. Parliament House is one of the largest buildings in the southern hemisphere and was designed to blend with the environment; one million cubic metres of earth and rock were removed so it could be built into Capital Hill. The flag mast stands 81 metres high, weighs 220 tonnes and is one of the largest stainless steel structures in the world. The Australian flag flies over Parliament House 24 hours a day. Can you guess how large the flag might be? (About the size of a double-decker bus.)

Commonwealth Bridge. Four bridges have been built across the Molonglo River on Commonwealth Avenue. The first three were constructed before Lake Burley Griffin was created. The fourth bridge – the one that stands today – was opened in November 1963. Commonwealth Avenue and its bridge were part of Walter Burley Griffin's plan for the layout of Canberra and its inner city and suburbs. The name 'Commonwealth' represents the connection between Great Britain and Australia.

City Walk is a pedestrian street right in the middle of Civic, Canberra's central business district and shopping precinct. It features Canberra's famous merry-go-round, as well as the Canberra Times fountain. You can often find street performers and sculpture on City Walk, as well as events like the Canberra Multicultural Festival.

Black Mountain Tower, officially named Telstra Tower, opened in 1980. The Tower acts as a transmitting station for Canberra television and FM radio, as well as a key station for national telecommunications. Visitors to the tower can enjoy stunning views right over Canberra and its surrounds, including the Brindabella Ranges in the west. The tower cost \$16 million to build and attracts 430,000 visitors every year. Can you guess how high the tower is in metres? (195 metres.)

Australian National Botanic Gardens. Covering an area of 90 hectares, the Gardens were first conceived in the 1930s. Back then, Canberra was known as 'A City of Flowers' yet it did not have a botanic garden – and it took 30 years to establish the gardens, which were officially opened in 1970. Now, the Gardens host a scientific collection of native plants from all over Australia, and researchers also cultivate plants that are threatened in the wild. Why do you think some of Australia's native plants are under threat?

The National Zoo and Aquarium is Australia's only combined Zoo and Aquarium. Situated on seven hectares of land just five minutes from the centre of Canberra, the zoo keeps a wide variety of both native and exotic animals, as well as the largest inland saltwater tank, and the largest collection of big cats in Australia. The Zoo is privately owned and receives no Government or Commonwealth support. The zoo relies on a large number of volunteers to stay in operation. What kind of animals are 'big cats'?

The National Museum Australia is home to more than 200,000 historical and Indigenous objects, collected since 1980. Less than two per cent of the collection is on show at any one time! The rest is in storage around Canberra. The Museum has the largest collection of bark paintings in the world, and the oversized heart of racehorse Phar Lap is the most popular object. More than 80,000 students participate in the Museum's school programs each year. Who do you think is responsible for making bark paintings?

The **Australian War Memorial** is our national memorial to Australians who have died or participated in the wars of the Commonwealth of Australia. The memorial is regarded as one of the most significant memorials of its type in the world. The War Memorial consists of three parts: the Commemorative Area, the Museum and the Research Centre. There's also an outdoor Sculpture Garden. The Memorial opened on Remembrance Day, 1941. Do you know which red flower is used during ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, to honour our fallen soldiers?

Lake Burley Griffin is an artificial lake named after Walter Burley Griffin, the man responsible for Canberra's design. Construction on the Lake began in 1963 and it now contains 33,000,000 cubic metres of water, is 11 kilometres long and has a shoreline of just over 40 kilometres. Lake Burley Griffin contains six small islands including Aspen Island which is the site of the Australian National Carillon. The Captain Cook Memorial Water Jet, located near Commonwealth Bridge, throws six tonnes of water into the air – as high as 147 metres! How do you think the lake was filled with water? (By damming the Molonglo River.)

The **National Library of Australia** sits on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin and is the largest reference library in Australia. The Library collects material produced by Australians, for Australians or about the Australian experience. It holds over 10 million collected items including books, journals, newspapers, manuscripts, pictures, photographs, maps, oral histories and the performing arts, many of which have been digitised and added to the Library's online collection. The building itself was opened in 1968 with a marble foyer, stained glass windows and three impressive tapestries. What does digitise mean?

Questacon, Australia's National Science and Technology Centre, opened in 1988, right on Lake Burley Griffin. Questacon holds creative, interactive science exhibitions and programs for kids, with shows and demonstrations by young scientists – all designed to make science, engineering, technology and mathematics fun. The name 'Questacon' combines two words – 'quest' meaning 'to discover' and 'con' meaning 'to study'. Today Questacon is Australia's largest science centre and is among the world's leading science centres.

The collection at the **National Portrait Gallery** was established in May 1998 and was originally housed in Old Parliament House and in a nearby gallery on Commonwealth Place. On 4 December 2008, it moved to its permanent home right on Lake Burley Griffin, next to the High Court of Australia. The gallery can hold around 500 portraits at any one time, and hosts many wonderful exhibitions. What is a portrait?

The National Gallery of Australia was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1982. In order to keep its precious art in tip-top condition, the Gallery's air temperature is kept between 22–23 degrees Celsius, and an air filter removes 85 per cent of all dust particles in the air. The building's galleries are arranged on three levels and include Australian art, international art, a sculpture gallery and a large Indigenous art collection. What kind of items might you find in the Indigenous art section?

Manuka is a suburb located south west of the centre of Canberra. Manuka Circle was on Walter Burley Griffin's original plan for Canberra and was named after a New Zealand tea tree. Local Canberrans pronounce Manuka (MAHnika) very differently to the way the original tree is pronounced (ManOOka). Manuka is filled with lovely shops, restaurants and cafés. The shops were built between 1925 and 1930.

Old Parliament House is located on the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin. From 1927 to 1988, it was a temporary base for the Commonwealth Parliament after its relocation from Melbourne to the new capital, Canberra. The building now serves as a venue for exhibitions, lectures and concerts. The building uses timbers from various parts of Australia, including timber native to each state and territory. The gardens at the front of the house eventually became the National Rose Garden.

Commonwealth Park is located on the northern shore of Lake Burley Griffin, right near the city centre. The gardens were designed in 1964 at the same time Lake Burley Griffin was filled with water. The park has an area of just over 34 hectares. The park has many small ponds and water features, walking trails, bike paths and sculptures, and often hosts concerts and events. Which large flower festival is held in Commonwealth Park each September? (Floriade.)

Floriade is Australia's premier flower festival event. Held every Spring, it showcases one million flowers in bloom. Flowers include tulips, irises, daffodils, hyacinths, violas and chrysanthemums. The garden bed design at Floriade changes every year, and follows a theme, with the design process starting 18 months before the event. After each event, the flower beds are removed and twenty thousand square metres of turf is laid down so the park can be enjoyed by local Canberrans. What is turf?

Kangaroo Facts

Discuss the following kangaroo facts.

- Kangaroos are mammals. They are the biggest marsupial in the world. What is a marsupial? (A mammal that births very small young that continue development within the mother's pouch.)
- The kangaroo is also a 'macropod'. What do you think this means? ('Big foot.')
- Kangaroos are native to Australia but several species of tree kangaroos and forest wallabies are also found in New Guinea. Some feral populations have been introduced to New Zealand, Hawaii and even Great Britain. What does feral mean?
- There are over 40 different species of kangaroo, including the Eastern Grey and Western Grey. The smallest is the Rock Wallaby and the largest is the Red Kangaroo which can stand as tall as a human.
- The kangaroo was chosen for the Australian coat of arms (along with the emu) because, like the emu, it represents progress – it can only move forward and cannot move backwards. In the case of the kangaroo, why do you think this is so?
- The kangaroo is the only large animal that moves by hopping. What other animals hop?
- Kangaroos move their back legs together, except when they swim – each leg is moved independently.
- A male kangaroo is called a 'buck', 'boomer' or 'jack'.
- A female kangaroo is called a 'doe', 'flyer' or 'Jill'.
- A baby kangaroo is called a joey.
- Joeys have a gestation period of about 30 days. They stay in their mother's pouch for around nine months, and drink milk from teats inside the pouch. Each teat has different milk for different stages of development. How small do you think a baby kangaroo is when it's born? (About the size of a peanut.)

- A kangaroo can have three babies on the go at once – one just out of the pouch, one growing inside the pouch and one embryo on 'pause' mode, waiting until the second baby leaves the pouch so it can crawl out of the kangaroo's body, enter the pouch and start suckling.
- Kangaroos normally move around in groups or 'mobs'. These mobs include a dominant male. What do you think 'dominant' means? (The boss!)
- The word 'kangaroo' stems from an Aboriginal language (Guugu Yimidhirr). 'Gangurru' was used to describe the Grey Kangaroo.
- A kangaroo can hop as fast as 60kph and can leap as high as three metres.
- Kangaroos eat grass, shoots and leaves. They need very little water to survive. How long do you think a kangaroo can go without drinking at all? (Several months.)
- Kangaroos have stomachs like cows. They regurgitate their food and chew on it as 'cud', then swallow it. This helps digestion. Have you ever seen a kangaroo chewing its cud?
- Kangaroos sometimes fight. They attack by using their front paws and sharp claws. What other part of their body do you think they might fight with (Their strong hind legs.)
- Sometimes kangaroo play by boxing each other with their front paws.

Big Red
 Western and Easter Greys
 Wallabies
 Tree Wallabies
 Rock Wallabies
 Wallaroos
 Potaroos
 Pademelons
 Bettongs
 Quokka
 Rat Kangaroo

Lesson 2 – Story Writing Elements and Structure

Read the book and ask/integrate the following questions:

What is the title of this book? What does the title tell you about the story?

What is the subtitle of this book? What does 'subtitle' mean?

Who is the author? What does the author do?

Who is the illustrator? What does the illustrator do?

What are the end papers? What picture do they have on them?

Who took the photos in this book?

Where can you find more information about the publication of this book? (Imprint page)

What does multimedia mean? (text, illustrations, graphics, photographs)

Where is this book set?

Who are the main characters?

Why does Riley want to fly around Canberra?

What problems and conflict does Riley encounter?

What drives him to follow the kangaroo?

What makes you want to turn the pages of this story?

What do the photos in this book offer the reader?

Why do you think most of the photos are black and white?

When is the climax of this story? What happens?

How does the story resolve?

What is your favourite part of the story and why?

What did you learn from this story?

Lesson 3 – Book Making Activity

Read the story.

Have children take B&W photographs around the classroom or school.

Create a main character and a friend.

Choose a vehicle.

Write a storyline where the character and friend search for an object or animal.

Draw pictures of the vehicle and characters that can be cut out and placed on the photos.

Add text to the pages. Print out and staple together.

Discuss the multimedia elements used in the construction of these books.

Further activities like dot-to-dot, colouring sheets, word-searches and mazes can be found at www.taniamccartney.com/4kids.html.

Tania can visit your school with a variety of fun, interactive readings and presentations aimed at children from Grade 1 to 6. For more information go to Creative Net Speakers' Agency: www.fordstreetpublishing.com/cnet

See Tania's site, Kids' Book Review, for more teachers' resources and lesson plans – www.kids-bookreview.com.