



## Happy Birthday Wombat

By Jackie French & Bruce Whatley

### Book Summary

She eats, she sleeps, she scratches. But today it's Mothball's birthday and it's time to celebrate!

Created by author Jackie French and illustrator Bruce Whatley, *Happy Birthday Wombat* is a very funny picture book about enjoying a special day – as seen through the eyes of the world's most famous wombat.

### Key Learning Outcomes

#### Foundation

- English
- ACELT1575
- ACELT1783
- ACELT1578
- ACELT1580

#### Year 1

- English
- ACELT1581
- ACELT1582
- ACELT 1586

### Themes

- Wombats
- Relationships
- Birthdays
- Parties
- Visual Literacy

**Recommended Ages: 3+**

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## CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

- Re-tell the story of *Happy Birthday Wombat* in a mode of your choice. Ideas include a dramatization, voice recording using an app such as Explain Everything or a written response. Alternatively, re-write this story from the little girl's point of view.
- How is Wombat's birthday celebrated? What special treats and activities have been organised for him? How do you celebrate birthdays in your family? Write a reflection to share your ideas.
- Create party invitations and a menu for Wombat's birthday. Use models of invitations and menus to help explore features of these text types.
- Create a timeline of Wombat's birthday, sequencing the events of the day to show the structure of the story.
- What are your favourite aspects of *Happy Birthday Wombat*? What makes this text enjoyable to read? Share with a friend.
- Create your own illustrated story based on celebrating your pet's birthday. Include details that help readers to understand your pet's personality and nature.

## ABOUT THE CREATORS

Jackie French AM is an award-winning writer, wombat negotiator, the 2014–2015 Australian Children's Laureate and the 2015 Senior Australian of the Year. In 2016 Jackie became a Member of the Order of Australia for her contribution to children's literature and her advocacy for youth literacy. She is regarded as one of Australia's most popular children's authors and writes across all genres — from picture books, history, fantasy, ecology and sci-fi to her much loved historical fiction for a variety of age groups. 'Share a Story' was the primary philosophy behind Jackie's two-year term as Laureate. [jackiefrench.com](http://jackiefrench.com)

Bruce Whatley is one of Australia's most highly regarded and talented authors and illustrators for children, both here and internationally. Since 1992 Bruce has written and/or illustrated over 90 picture books. In 2002 he paired with author Jackie French and illustrated *Diary of a Wombat*, which was the start of an extraordinary creative collaboration. [www.brucewhatley.com](http://www.brucewhatley.com)