



Teachers' Notes
written by Suzie Hicks

Mission Fox: Snake Escape by Justin D'Ath

The *Mission Fox* series take the reader on a journey into the lives and interests of Jordan and Harry Fox. Nine year old twin boys, Jordan and Harry are obsessed with animals - all animals from dangerous wild Pandas to newborn possums. Harry and Jordan's creative and energetic personalities, along with their faith in popular fictional characters such as 'Captain Amazing' lead them to create a secret business called 'Mission Fox' and go on risky animal rescue missions.

Mission Fox has three agents – Agent J (Jordan), Agent H (Harry) and Agent M (the boys' pet dog Myrtle, an enormous Great-Dane-Newfoundland cross). Their motto is '*Mission Fox Animal Rescue Service. We rescue animals in danger and find lost pets*' and they take their missions very seriously.

After canvassing their local community with leaflets that advertise their services Jordan and Harry receive calls day and night from locals requiring pet rescue. Their secret business is a success, except they don't take payment for their services - they '*do it for the animals*'.

Between this and various unplanned encounters with lost or escaped animals; Jordan and Harry's adventures are exciting, fun and clever and model great problem solving strategies, cooperation and inventiveness that should appeal greatly to young boys and girls.

This first instalment of the Mission Fox series of books is an introduction to the twin brothers Jordan and Harry, their interests and home life. This mission has the twins attempting to recapture a Scrub Python for an old lady whose grandson left the cage door open. Jordan and Harry think on their feet, draw inspiration from texts they like and each other and experience many near misses as they attempt to recapture the snake.

The attached work sheets are in line with the Australian National Curriculum Grade 3. The worksheets focus on specific skills from the English, Mathematics, Integrated Studies and ICT Learning Areas. The AC number that appears in brackets under the title of each worksheet corresponds to a specific Learning Area General Capability.

English General Capabilities

Text structure and organisation

- ACELA1478
- ACELA1479

Language variation and change

- ACELA1475

Text in context

- ACELY1675

Responding to literature

- ACELT1596

Interpreting, analysing and evaluating (*Information and Communication Technology link*)

- ACELY1680

Creating text (*Information and Communication Technology link*)

- ACELY1682
- ACELY1685
- ACELY1683

Mathematics General Capabilities

Location and transformation

- ACMMG065

Money and financial mathematics

- ACMNA059

Activities:

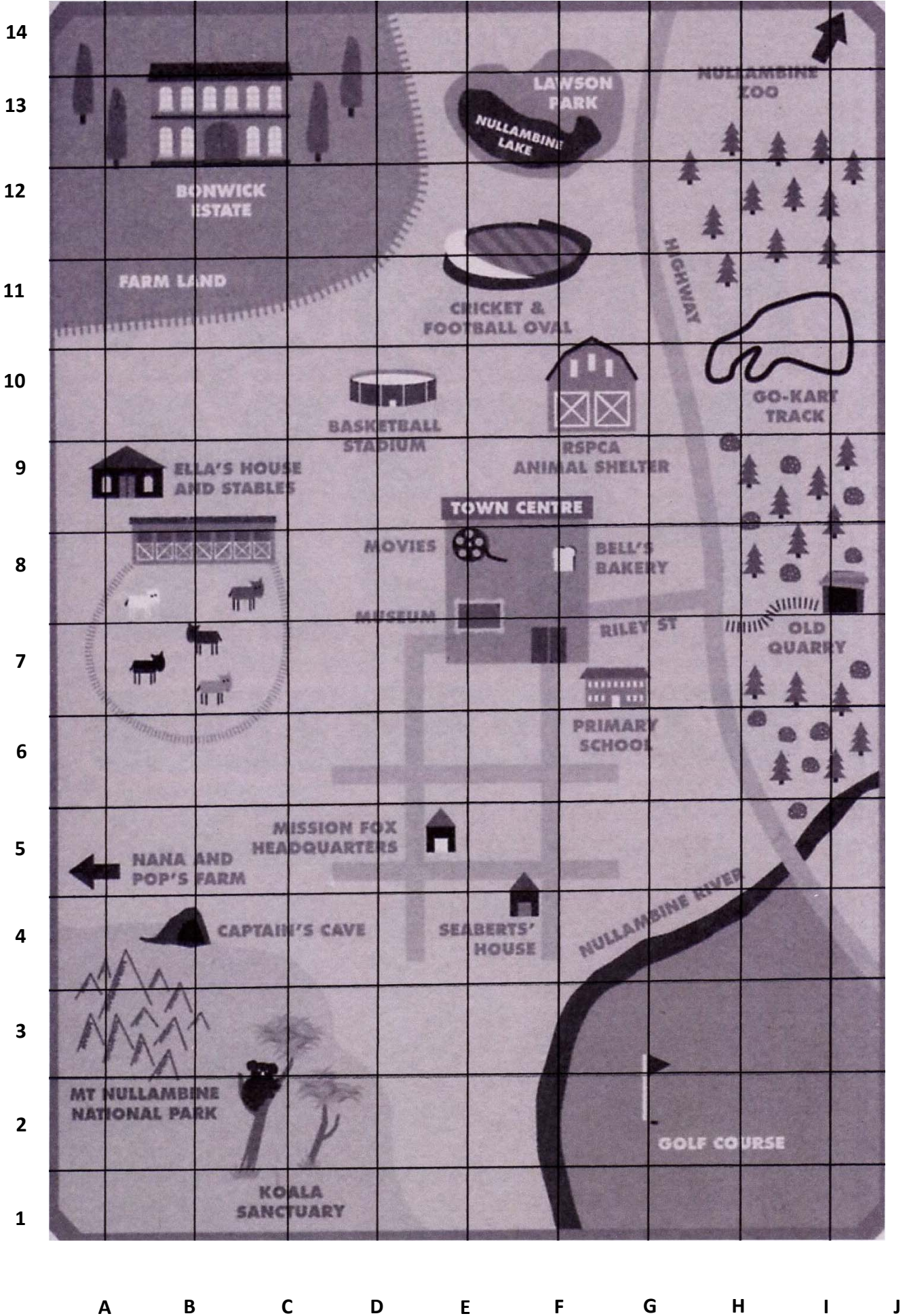
ACELY1685, ACELY1683, ACELA1479,

1. Look at the illustration on page 12 of the text. This shows the contents of the 'Foxpack' that the twins carry the 'essentials' for animal rescue in.
 - a. Design (draw and label) your own pack that you would carry if you were a member of Mission Fox. Remember that everything you pack must be things you can find at home either inside, outside or in the garage or shed. Keep in mind that you have to be able to fit everything into the pack and it must not be too heavy to carry.
 - b. Write an explanation of your 'Foxpack'. Be sure to explain why you have packed each item. For example, what can you use each item for?
2. Plan and write a persuasive argument for or against keeping wild animals such as snakes as pets.
 - a. Remember to support all arguments with evidence or examples.
 - b. Make sure you write in paragraphs.
 - c. Make sure you edit your writing as you write and again when you have finished.
 - d. Publish your work on computer.
 - e. Remember that illustrations often help support your argument.

Gridding

ACMMG065

Answer the questions below using the grid references provided.



Mission Fox

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(ANC - ACMMG065)

Gridding

Write the coordinates for the following places. For example, the Captain's Cave is D2.

- 1) The old Quarry:

- 2) Mission Fox Headquarters:

- 3) The white horse:

- 4) The RSPCA Animal Shelter:

- 5) The Museum:

Write the names down for the following coordinates.

- 1) What is at D6?

- 2) What is at I4?

- 3) What is at H6?

- 4) What is at F7?

- 5) What is at M6?

ANC - ACMMG065

Gridding Challenge

Imagine you live in the same town as Jordan and Harry and your pet is trapped somewhere in the town. Draw a path through the town on your copy of the Mission Fox map. Then write down instructions for a friend to follow to see if they can follow your path. Use coordinates to show direction as well as left and right and North, South, East and West.

Remember to go around buildings and follow roads as much as you can.

Mathematics - Money
(ANC - ACELA1475, ACMNA059)

Jordan and Harry have created a 'Mission Code' poster that describes the danger levels of different missions.

MISSION FOX DANGER CODES	
CODE BLUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• budgies that won't go back into their cages• goldfish stuck in drains• baby animals that need help
CODE YELLOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lost or escaped pets that aren't goldfish or little birds or baby animals or snakes• pets and animals that are sick or hurt. ^{not snakes}
CODE ORANGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• animals that are sick or hurt (not scary ones)• not for wild animals
CODE RED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• wild animals that are sick or hurt• wild animals that are lost• scary animals that are sick or hurt or lost
CODE BRIGHT RED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• zoo break outs• crocodiles in people's swimming pools• poachers and bad guys doing mean stuff to animals

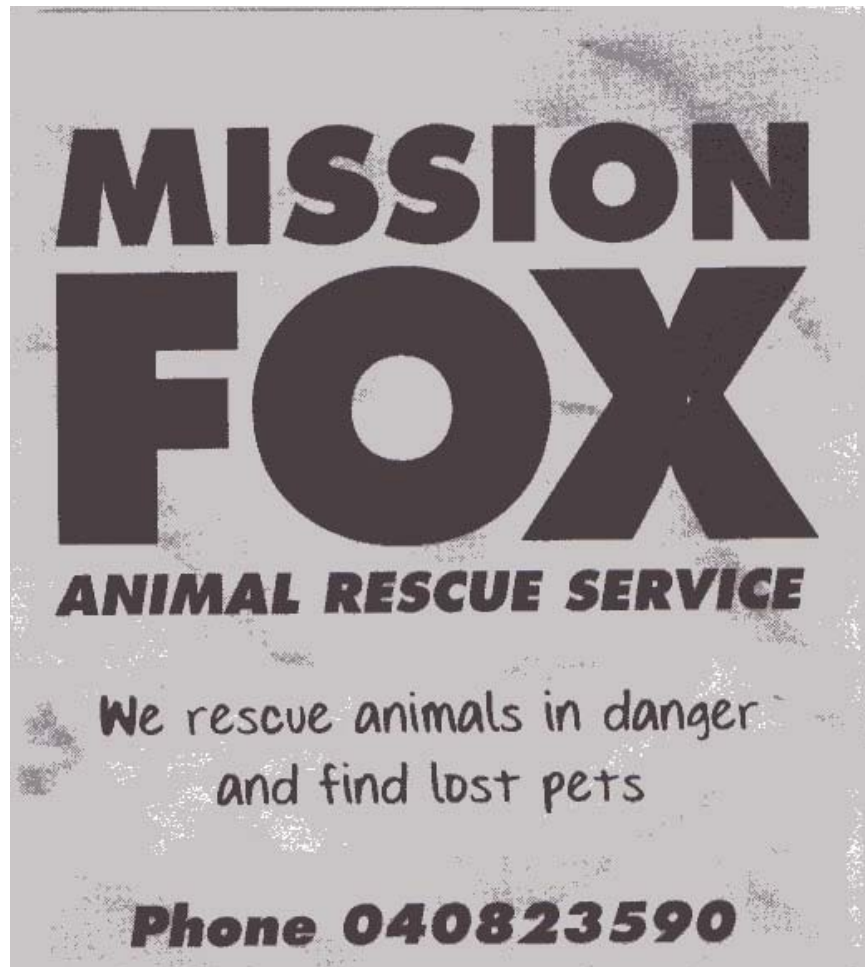
Create a 'Mission Code' poster and attach a price to each type of rescue. Remember to consider what people are paying for and if you charge too much people won't want to hire you.

Please include illustrations to make the poster easier to read when Jordan and Harry are in a hurry.

Persuasive Writing

(ANC - ACELA1475, ACELY1675, ACELA1478)

Jordan and Harry have created their own flyers and pinned them up around their local area.



The twins would like to expand their business and have asked you to design a new poster that advertises Mission Fox.

The twins have asked you to create a poster that:

- Is easy to read.
- Can be seen from far away and read quickly when people walk past in a hurry.
- Is colourful.
- Includes information about the type of rescues they do.
- Includes information about the type of animals they work with.
- Only uses their code names and identities.

Jordan and Harry would like you to include some information about the types of rescues and captures they have successfully completed.

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Persuasive Writing

(ANC - ACELA1478, ACELA1475, ACELY1675)

Scrub pythons eat possums, birds, wallabies and small kangaroos, and could be dangerous to small children.



Jordan and Harry have promised to protect all animals. Write five arguments for and five arguments against keeping Scrub Pythons as pets.

Why Scrub Pythons make good pets.	Why Scrub Pythons do not make good pets.

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Persuasive Writing

ANC - ACELA1478, ACELA1475, ACELY1675

The bite of an Australian tarantula is painful and can cause illness, nausea and vomiting.



Harry Fox has a pet Australian tarantula that Jordan is scared of. Many people are scared of spiders and many spiders are venomous.

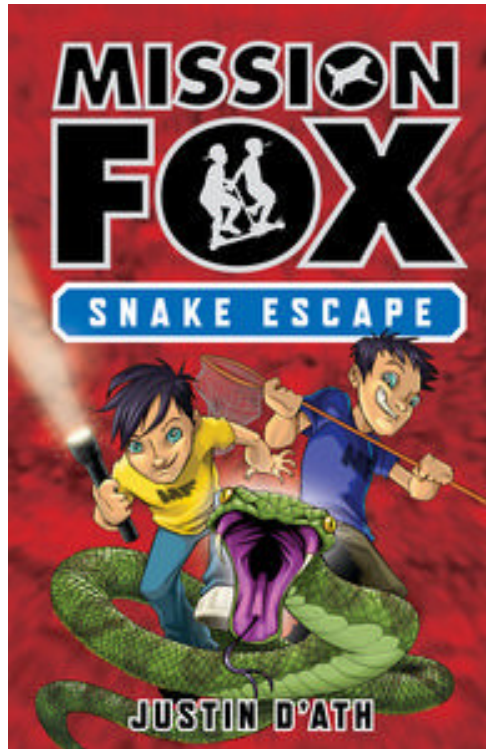
Write arguments for and against killing spiders in our houses.

We should kill spiders when we find them in our house.

We should not kill spiders when we find them in our house.

(ACN - ACELA1475)

Prediction



In sentences, write a prediction about this book using the illustration and title of the book pictured above. Include the evidence you have based your prediction on.

I predict that...

The evidence I based my prediction on is...

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Information Search

(ANC – ACELY1680)

Jordan and Harry use an App on their mobile phone called 'Brain' to quickly find information about different species of animals and insects. Use Google to find the following information about the animals featured in this book.

Animal	Looks like	Habitat	Dangers

Text to Self Connections

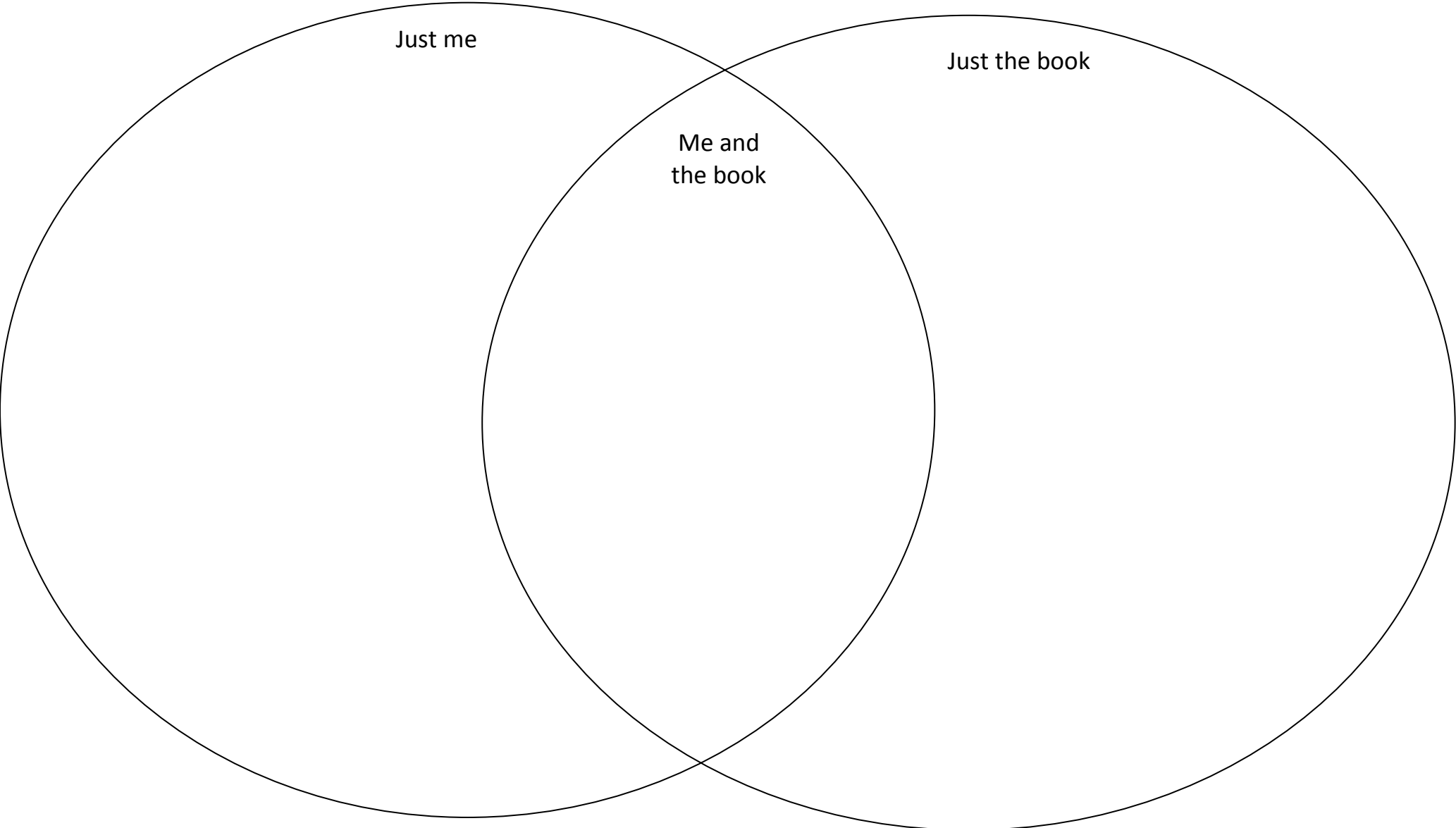
Me and Mission Fox

(ACELT1596)

Just me

Just the book

Me and
the book

A Venn diagram consisting of two overlapping circles. The left circle is labeled 'Just me' and the right circle is labeled 'Just the book'. The overlapping area in the center is labeled 'Me and the book'. The circles are empty, intended for students to write their own connections.