

In the land of long, white clouds and snowy peaks, a little girl is born. Her name is Dorothy, but her family calls her Dorrie.

When Dorrie moves to a land of flat red deserts and squeaky beaches, a koala appears in a gumtree outside her window. This lovable larrikin brings a bundle of mischief ... and changes Dorrie's life forever.

From the award-winning creator of *Mamie*, *Dorrie* celebrates the beloved and talented Dorothy Wall, and her treasured Australian icon, Blinky Bill.

Specific Curriculum links - Foundation, 1-2

English

[AC9E1LA08](#) compare how **images** in different **types of texts** contribute to meaning

[AC9E2LA08](#) understand that **images** add to or multiply the meanings of a **text**

[AC9EFLE02](#) respond to stories and share feelings and thoughts about their events and characters

[AC9E1LE01](#) discuss how language and **images** are used to **create** characters, settings and events in literature by First Nations Australian, and wide-ranging Australian and world **authors** and illustrators

[AC9E2LE01](#) discuss how characters and settings are connected in literature created by First Nations Australian, and wide-ranging Australian and world **authors** and illustrators

[AC9EFLE03](#) recognise different types of **literary texts** and identify features including events, characters, and beginnings and endings

[AC9E1LE02](#) discuss **literary texts** and share responses by making connections with students' own experiences

[AC9E2LE02](#) identify features of **literary texts**, such as characters and settings, and give reasons for personal preferences

HASS

[AC9HS1K02](#) continuity and change between aspects of their daily lives and their parents' and grandparents' childhoods

[AC9HS2K01](#) a local individual, group, place or building and the reasons for their importance, including social, **cultural** or spiritual significance

[AC9HSFS01](#) pose questions about familiar objects, people, places and events

[AC9HS1S01](#) develop questions about objects, people, places and events in the past and present

[AC9HSFS05](#) share narratives and observations, using sources and terms about the past and places

- Particularly good fit for [Year 1 'Then and Now'](#): [Year 2 History 'Then and Now'](#)

Before reading:

- Show children the image of Blinky Bill from the animated TV series or the movie version, and ask who recognises the character?



- Generate class discussion on what they know of the character/s and story
- Show them the original Blinky Bill and invite comments





About the author

- [Tania McCartney](#) has had many jobs in her life but her favourite has been writing and illustrating children's books. She has won many awards and been shortlisted for others for many of her books.
- Visit your school library and borrow as many of Tania's books as you can. Which ones do you already know?
- As well as writing and illustrating, Tania loves to craft amazing and beautiful things. What do you like to make? Craft a koala to decorate the classroom. There are many ideas and templates on the internet.
- She has also put together some fantastic themed birthday parties. What theme would you choose for your birthday? Write a list of what you would like or draw what it might look like.

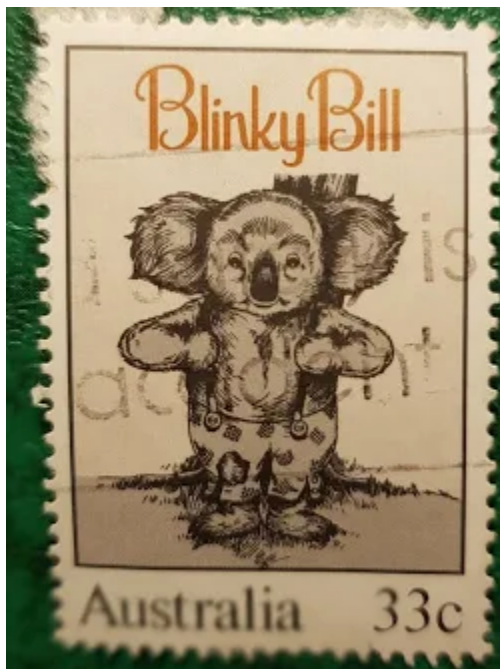
During reading

- Dorothy's family call her Dorrie, a short version of her name which is like a nickname. What nickname does your family have for you?
- Dorrie was born in New Zealand but came to live in Australia. Look at some photos of New Zealand and think about how it might be different to Australia - animals, plants, weather, places. Tania mentions some differences - what others can you find? There are also things that are alike. Use a Venn diagram to record your thinking.
- Dorrie was born over 100 years ago in 1894 and moved to Sydney in 1914 when that city, as well as clothes, homes and furniture would have looked very different indeed to the ones illustrated in the book. Why do you think Tania has chosen to show Dorrie in this more modern setting? As a class make a list of all the 'modern' items you can find in the illustrations.
- Tania has used a colour palette for Dorrie's life in Australia particularly that uses a lot of the colours we see in our landscape, the greens and greys of the bush, the teal and aqua of the sea and the ochre red of our soil. Using a similar range of colours, create your

own landscape that could be somewhere Blinky Bill and his friends might live.

After reading

- Why do you think Blinky Bill and his friends are still so loved after so many years? What do you enjoy about their stories?
- As a class, write a new story for Blinky Bill and illustrate in a similar style to Tania's illustrations.
- IN 1985 the Blinky Bill postage stamp, which Tania included in one of her illustrations, was issued as part of a series on Australian children's classics.



Choose your own favourite Australian book character and design another stamp.

Images retrieved 7/02/2023

https://blinkycbill.fandom.com/wiki/Blinky_Bill

<https://tinyurl.com/5heas6de>

<https://tinyurl.com/2b5zfwc2>

<https://tinyurl.com/msmr6af3>

<https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/get-involved/original-blinky-bill-illustrations>

Visit [State Library of Victoria](#) to see more of the Blinky Bill Collection held in trust.

Notes compiled by Sue Warren

Teacher Librarian

Just So Stories: <http://losangzopa.wordpress.com>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Lossie56>

Pinterest: <http://www.pinterest.com/losangz/>