

PAMELA FREEMAN AND LIZ ANELLI

SEED to SKY

Life in the
Daintree

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WALKER BOOKS

TEACHER NOTES

Teacher Notes by Belinda Bolliger

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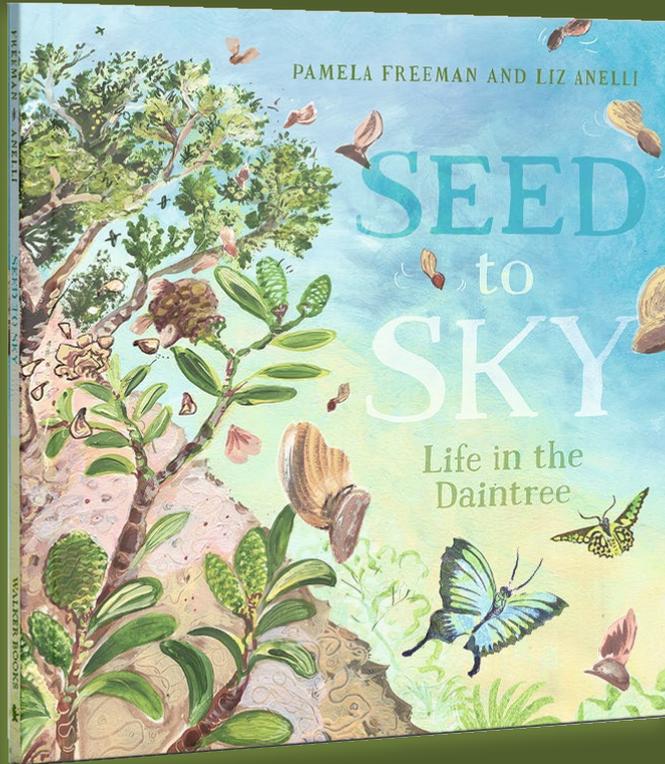
ABOUT THE BOOK

SEED TO SKY: LIFE IN THE DAINTREE

CREATORS: PAMELA FREEMAN & LIZ ANELLI (ILLUSTRATOR)

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In the oldest rainforest on Earth, on the oldest continent, a seed falls to the ground. Over hundreds of years, the seed will grow into a sapling reaching for the sunlight, to become a tree towering above the rainforest canopy.

Generations of insects, butterflies, bird, lizards, snakes and an abundance of native wildlife will bear witness to the magnificent Bull Kauri pine...

About the Author

Pamela Freeman is an award-winning children's author who has also worked as a freelance business and technical writer. Pamela's work ranges from picture books to young adult novels and she is best known for her *Floramonde* series of fantasy novels which include *The Willow Tree's Daughter*, *Windrider* and *The Centre of Magic*. The Castings Trilogy is Pamela's highly successful fantasy series for adults published by Hachette Australia. In addition to this, she teaches creative writing to adults at the Sydney Writers' Centre. *Victor's Challenge* won the 2009 Aurealis Award for Best Children's Short Fiction/Illustrated Work/Picture Book and was a Notable Book in the Younger Readers Category, Children's Book Council of Australia Awards, 2010. For more information about Pamela and her books, please visit her website: www.pamelafreemanbooks.com

About the Illustrator

Liz Anelli once had a job dusting dinosaurs at London's Natural History Museum. Nowadays she draws every day and illustrates picture books; combining collage, printmaking and paint into digitally composed artworks. These have collected numerous shortlistings and awards. In between books, she creates quirky illustrated maps. Having spent ten glorious years in Australia she and her husband are now living in Cambridge, England. Liz loves sharing her passion for making pictures at festivals, libraries and schools around the world. She is represented by Fiona Kenshole at Transatlantic Literary Agency USA and can be found at <https://lizanelli-illustration.com>, Liz Anelli on Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook and [@lizillustrator](https://twitter.com/lizillustrator) on Twitter.

About the Teacher Notes Author

Belinda Bolliger worked as an editor and publisher of children's books for over twenty-five years. She was the Children's Publisher at Hodder Headline (now Hachette Australia) and Children's Commissioning Editor and Publisher for ABC Books/HarperCollins. She has worked with many award-winning authors and illustrators, including Libby Hathorn, Garry Disher, Frances Watts, Judith Rossell and Matt Ottley. Belinda was editorial manager for Australian Standing Orders (Scholastic) for over 11 years, reviewing and selecting the most suitable new releases from Australian publishers to send to schools around the country. Belinda now works as an associate agent at Key People Literary Management and as a freelance children's editor and project manager.

CURRICULUM LINKS

English • Science • Geography • Humanities and Social Sciences • The Arts
• Health and Physical Education

CROSS-CURRICULUM PRIORITIES

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures
• Sustainability

TEACHER NOTES

INTRODUCTION

- Look at a map of Australia. Do you know where the Daintree Rainforest can be found? Mark this on the map.
 - 'The Daintree Rainforest is a tropical forest, 16 degrees south of the Equator.' (p 11). On a map of the world or a globe, find the Equator and mark 16 degrees south of it. What is the climate like close to the Equator? What is the climate like further away from the Equator? Which is the furthest from the Equator? What countries are closest to the Equator? Discuss how being close to the Equator affects the temperature and weather patterns in the Daintree Rainforest.
 - Use Google Earth to get a bird's-eye view of the Daintree. Can you see any other rainforests in Australia that are as large as the Daintree?
 - Discuss the meaning of the term 'tropical forest'. Research other types of forests that can be found in Australia (e.g. temperate rainforests, mangrove forests, eucalyptus forests). Discover the main features of each. Choose four types of forest and mark where they can be found on a map of Australia.
- What would our Earth be like without trees?
 - Creative writing: Imagine a world where there is only one tree left standing. Write a poem from the point of view of the tree.
 - On p 5, the author tells us that fully grown bull kauri trees can be up to 600 years old. Write a story from the point of view of an ancient bull kauri. What do you think the tree has seen over 600 years?

LIFECYCLES

- *Seed to Sky* takes the reader through the lifecycle of a bull kauri tree. On a sheet of paper, draw a diagram that shows the lifecycle of the kauri. What does the tree need at each stage of its life (water, sunlight, soil, etc)?
- Activity: plant a seed in a pot. (You might like to decorate your pot first.) Take it home or leave it in the classroom and watch it grow. Start a Seed Diary and make notes about the different stages of growth you observe. Draw a diagram that shows the lifecycle of your seed.

CREATURES OF THE DAINTREE

- There are many extraordinary creatures living in the Daintree (some of them with extraordinary names!): the Four O'clock moth, the Mouth Almighty, the Rhinoceros beetle, swordtails and so on. Choose one of the creatures mentioned in the book that you haven't heard of before and use the internet to find out more about it. Create a poster about your chosen creature and include pictures, diagrams and text. Swap posters with one of your classmates who has chosen a different creature to you so you can find out all about it too. Display everyone's posters in your classroom.

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE ... TREES

- Brainstorm all the reasons why trees are important. Think about the following and explain how trees contribute to each:
 - Climate
 - Oxygen
 - Homes for animals
 - Ecosystems
 - Industry
 - Health and wellbeing

RAINFOREST LAYERS

- Talk about the different layers of the rainforest described in the story. Which types of animals and plants are found in each layer? Write a short story about exploring one of the layers. You might like to write the story from your point of view or from the point of view of one of the creatures that live in the Daintree.

BIODIVERSITY AND INTERDEPENDENCE

- **Biodiversity** means the variety of all living things in a place. **Interdependence** is when these living things depend on each other to survive and grow. Discuss how the living things in the Daintree depend on each other. Why is biodiversity important to the Daintree?

TRADITIONAL OWNERSHIP

In September 2021, the Queensland government returned ownership of Daintree National Park to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji, an Indigenous group that has had a presence in Australia's rainforests for at least 50,000 years. Daintree, Ngalba-bulal, Kalkajaka and the Hope Islands national parks are managed jointly by the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people and the Queensland Government since the handover. (<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/149124/a-rainforest-like-no-other>)

- Discuss the importance of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people managing Daintree National Park.
- Research First Nations peoples' connection to Country. What does the phrase 'environmental stewardship' mean?
- Which other significant Australian landmarks and areas have been returned to the Traditional Owners to manage?

- How can learning about the traditions and knowledge of First Nations peoples help in the conservation of national parks?
- Break into small groups and use the internet to find out more about Eastern Kuku Yalanji culture and the other national parks mentioned in the quote above. Each group can then present what they've learned to the rest of the class.

CONSERVATION

- Discuss the meaning of the word conservation. Why is it important to protect places like the oldest rainforest on Earth?
- What are some small things you can do every day to help protect the environment?
- Why do certain animals live in the rainforest and nowhere else? What would happen if their habitat were destroyed?
- 'No one knows how the Daintree will respond to climate change, however, over the (at least) 130 million years of its life, there have been many periods where temperatures and conditions have changed.' (p 31) As a class, brainstorm ways the Daintree may respond to climate change. Do you think there may be positive changes as well as negative changes?

THE LUNGS OF THE EARTH

- What do your lungs do? Why do you think rainforests are called the 'lungs of the Earth'?
- What important job do rainforest trees do for our air (think about carbon dioxide – 'bad air' – and oxygen – 'good air')?
- What do you think might happen if too many rainforest trees are cut down?
- Explore the ways that rainforests affect our climate and weather patterns.

EXPLORATION

Imagine you are an explorer entering an ancient rainforest for the first time. What do you see? What do you discover? In small groups, write a short play about your exploration and perform it for the rest of the class.

ACTIVITIES

- Provide printed images of the Daintree Rainforest and colour and label different features, such as rivers, mountains and plant and animal species.
- Take a nature walk outside to observe the flora and fauna in your area. How does it differ from the rainforest flora and fauna you've read about in *Seed to Sky*? Is any of it the same?
- Create a rainforest mural: You will need large rolls of paper, paint, crayons, textas, glue, scissors and magazines for cutting out images of rainforest animals and plants. Spread the rolls of paper on the floor and create a rainforest scene. Draw or paste animals and plants onto your scene. Add labels for the names of the flora and fauna. Attach your rainforest mural to the walls of your classroom.
- Create a rainforest soundscape: You will need various musical instruments and everyday objects that can be used to create sound and recordings of rainforest sounds. After listening to recordings of rainforest sounds, discuss what might be making the sounds. Find ways to recreate these sounds using your instruments and objects.
- Recycled Art: Choose one of the animals or plants in *Seed to Sky* and turn it into a piece of art using only recycled materials. Why is it important to recycle? How can it help to make a difference in the preservation of natural habitats such as rainforests?

FURTHER READING

Where the Forest Meets the Sea by Jeannie Baker (Walker Books)

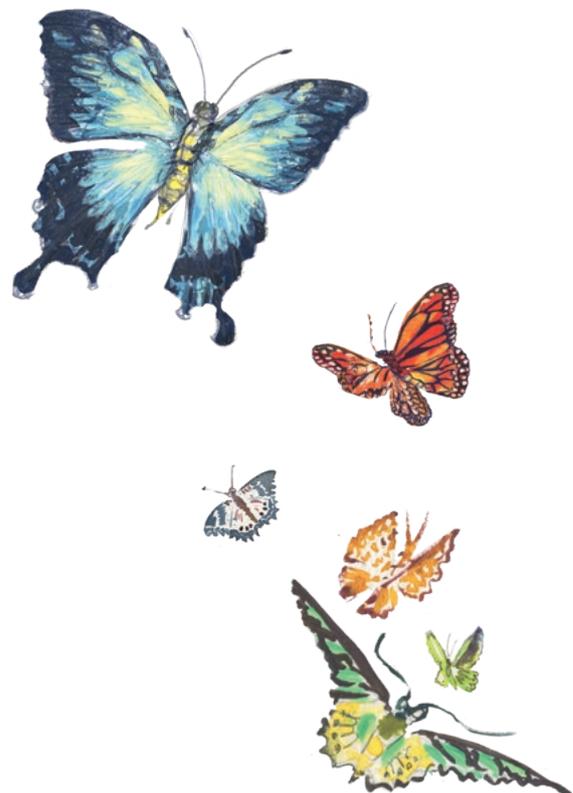
Welcome to Country by Aunty Joy Murphy and Lisa Kennedy (Black Dog Books)

Wilam: A Birrarung Story by Aunty Joy Murphy, Andrew Kelly and Lisa Kennedy (Black Dog Books)

Wildlife of the Australian Rainforests (Australian Geographic)

Somebody's Land by Adam Goodes, Ellie Laing and David Hardy (Allen & Unwin)

Other books in the *Nature Storybooks* series published by Walker Books (<https://www.walkerbooks.com.au/resource/nature-storybooks-book-list/>)





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