

Boogie Woogie Bird



Curlew's lonely shrieking frazzles his friends. They beg him to try fancy dancing to woo a mate, sending him to the best birdy dancers in the bush. But clumsy Curlew can't find his groove - until the right bird comes along...

TITLE:

Boogie Woogie Bird

PUBLICATION DATE:

March 2022

AUTHOR:

Alison Stegert & Sandra Severgnini

ISBN:

978-1-922322-93-7

PRICE:

\$24.99

FORMAT:

Hardback, 230 x 240mm

EXTENT:

32 pages

SUBJECT AREA:

Picture Books

AGE:

5+

BIC/CBMC:

YNM/B3M79





THE ILLUSTRATOR

SANDRA SEVERGNINI

Sandra Severgnini is an illustrator of award winning books. She has a background in botanical illustration, and ran a botanical art gallery in Melbourne for 10 years. Her passion now is for picture book illustration, especially dealing with environmental and nature subjects.

A fascination for the amazing world around us inspires her words and brings sensitivity and humour to her illustrations.

OTHER BOOKS by Sandra Severgnini

Meet Mim (author/illustrator) -2023
 GRUB (author/illustrator) -2022
 Tree Beings (illustrator) - 2020
 The Christmas Garden (illustrator) - 2019
 Government House Florilegium, Victoria (contributor) -2010

AWARDS

TREE BEINGS (ILLUSTRATOR) - 2020
 - 2020 Indie Book Awards: Finalist: Children's/Juvenile (Non-Fiction)
 - 2021 Environment Award for Children's Literature: Winner: Nonfiction category

WHERE'S LUCKY (ILLUSTRATOR) - 2019
 - 2019 Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards: Shortlisted

IN THE SHADOW OF AN ELEPHANT (ILLUSTRATOR) - 2019
 - 2020 Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards: Shortlisted
 - 2019 International Book Awards: Finalist: Children's Picture Book: Hardcover Fiction
 - 2020 Society of Women Writers NSW Book Awards: Shortlisted

THE AUTHOR

ALISON STEGERT

In 1976, an eleven-year-old girl finished reading a book called *The Secret Garden*. She hugged it against her chest. Emotions swirled inside her – happiness and hope, longing and sadness. “One day,” she whispered to herself, “I’ll write stories that make children feel this way.”

That girl was me, Alison Stegert. Today, I write children’s books with the hope of sparking a love of reading. My life is filled with laughter and smiles thanks to my funny husband, Paul; two snorty dogs, Huckleberry and Fink; and three grownup daughters. Born and raised in the US, I’ve long called Australia home. I live in Gabbi Gabbi Country, the beautiful Sunshine Coast.





THE STORY

Curlew tries and tries to find a mate, but all the birds he meets in the forest have nothing but criticism for the way he looks, sounds and dances.

His song is a screech, his dance looks a mess, and his feathers can't match the elegant beauty of the lyrebird. He is sad and lonely.

Then curlew finds another curlew. She loves the way he sings, dances and looks. Curlew's heart soars as he realises he isn't a misfit at all.

The author and illustrator have used their careful observation of the curlew to produce a picture book about the sadness and trials of trying to fit in. We see many other forest birds, frogs and insects too, giving the reader an unusual insight into the behaviour of shy forest creatures in the Australian bush.

The last page is a celebration of bird dances, with descriptions of this avian art for birds from around the world.



AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM TOPICS

BIOLOGY

Habitats
Adaptations
Features and body parts of birds

H&PE

Inclusion and exclusion
Identifying one's own strengths
Understanding emotions, feelings and body language
Understanding movement

ENGLISH

Using images in narratives to expand the story
Practise phonetic sounds
Repetition of sounds

THE PICTURES

Sandra Severgnini's artwork brings the animals to life. They flit, fly, crawl and jump across the pages, singing and calling as they go.

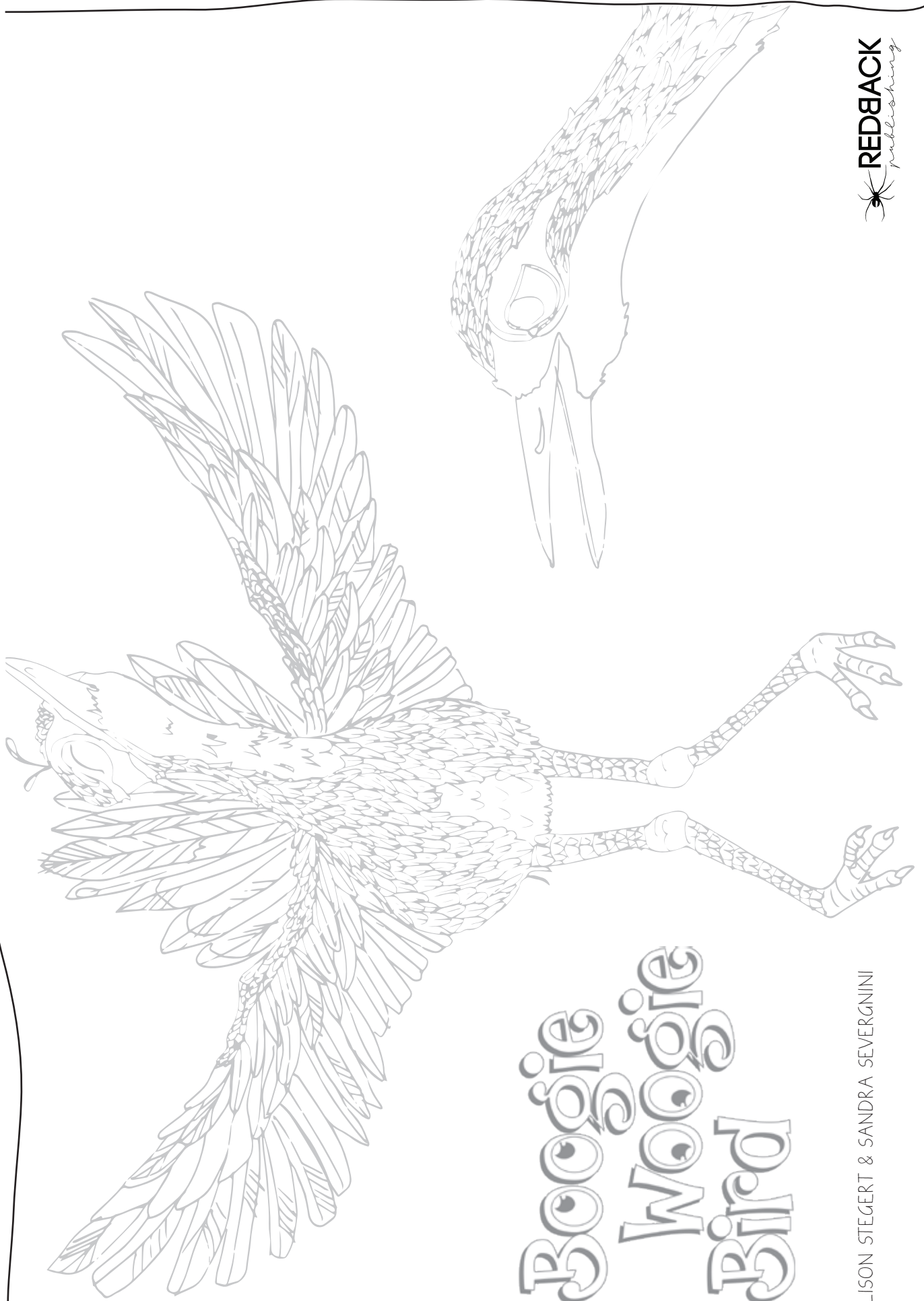
Children can see all the details of each bird's feathers, and they can also search for tiny, half hidden creatures on the forest floor, or clinging to a leaf.

Curlew looks sad, tries hard, falls over and eventually becomes the happiest bird in the forest. It is easy to like him and understand his emotional journey, due to the clever presentation of emotion by the artist.



CLASSROOM DISCUSSION IDEAS

- Ask the class what they think the story is really about. Is it just about Curlew, or is there something deeper in the meaning?
- Find the ladybird, the butterfly or the frog on each page.
- How does the class feel when they see Curlew falling over as he tries so hard to be like the other birds?
- The other birds think Curlew does not know how to dance, but the girl curlew he meets has a completely different opinion of him. What can this tell us about listening to other people who tell us we are not any good at doing something?
- Pick one bird that criticises Curlew. Was there anything more helpful it could have said to Curlew?
- How does the artist show that Curlew is sad at the beginning of the book, and then happy at the end?
- Which parts of the story would really happen, and which parts are made-up.
- Pick out some words that are not real words. They are letters that represent the sounds the birds are making.



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REDBACK
publishing



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Help Boogie Woogie Bird
boogie his way
through the maze!



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