



TEACHERS' NOTES



ANGELA ROBERTSON-BUCHANAN

# NESTLING COCKATOOS

The story of Squeak and Squawk



# NESTLING COCKATOOS

The story of Squeak and Squawk

## Synopsis

*Nestling Cockatoos* follows the journey of two baby cockatoos named Squeak and Squawk. They are rescued at two weeks of age, and looked after by a wildlife carer until they are old enough to be released into the wild.

## Specifications

**Author** Angela Robertson-  
Buchanan

**ISBN** 9781742036076

**Format** 210mm x 230mm

**Extent** 32pp + cover

**Binding** Hardback

**Reading level** 5+

**Interest level** 5+

**Category** Non-Fiction

## Writing style

*Nestling Cockatoos* uses simple language suitable for early and reluctant readers. The large font size and clean background support readability.

## Photographic style

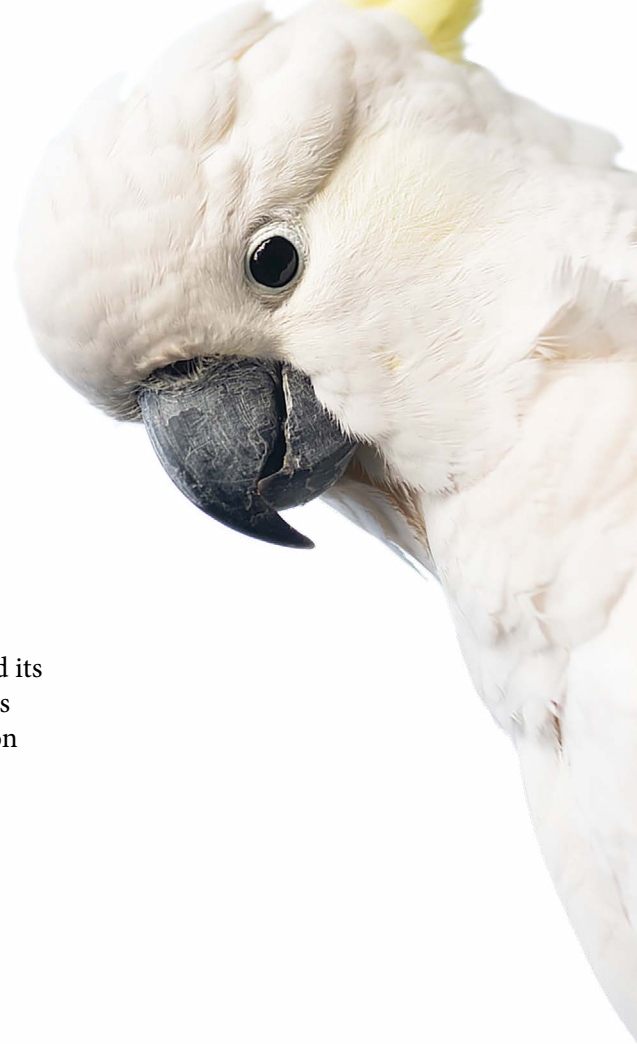
*Nestling Cockatoos* makes use of intimate photographs taken by the author, Angela Robertson-Buchanan. These week-by-week images marry perfectly with the text, and provide a behind-the-scenes look at wildlife conservation.





# NESTLING COCKATOOS

The story of Squeak and Squawk



## Study notes: Themes

- Descriptive words
- Birds
- Growth
- Change over time
- Wildlife conservation
- Human responsibility
- Wild versus domesticated
- Animal lifecycles
- Vulnerable animals
- Climate change
- Urban development and its effect on animal habitats
- Impacts of human action on native wildlife
- Community



## Curriculum link: Literacy

### *Before reading:*

- Before looking at the cover, ask students what they think 'nestling' means.
- Show students the cover and discuss their response to it. What do they think these birds looked like when they were younger?
- Ask students if they have ever found a baby animal on its own in the wild. What type of animal was it? What had happened to the animal's family? Did they do anything about it? Discuss their findings as a group.
- Ask students what they think should be done if they find a wild animal in need of care. Is this the same for pets as it is for wild animals? Should you handle them? Should you leave them? Discuss their findings as a group.
- Create a list that the class comes up with of their ideas and any questions that arise. After reading the book, recheck the list.

### *While reading:*

- Before reading, give each student a few sticky notes. While reading, ask students to note any words they hear or questions they have that they'd like to share or ask. These can be collated and displayed on a noticeboard or poster. Their questions, lists and wonderings are an opportunity to assess current knowledge and will provide direction for discussions, investigations or presentations.

# NESTLING COCKATOOS

The story of Squeak and Squawk



## Curriculum link: Literacy (continued)

### While reading:

- Ask the students to take turns reading a paragraph aloud to the rest of the class. Where appropriate, ask the students what they think certain words may mean.
- Ask the students to note any words or ideas they would like to explore.

## Curriculum link: Critical and Creative Thinking

### After reading:

- Squeak and Squawk became separated from their parents when their tree hollow nest was cut down. Ask students why they think this may have happened.
- What role does urban development play in the habitats of wild animals?
- Ask students to consider the role humans play in looking after wild animals. Why can't they let vulnerable animals fend for themselves? Why do humans have to teach animals how to behave?
- Knowing what to do with a wild animal in need of help can be tricky. Discuss with the class what they think are the right and wrong things that people can do. After the discussion, use advice from the following organisations to further guide the class as to how best help wild animals in need:

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| • <a href="#">Victorian Government</a>               | • <a href="#">WIRES</a>  |
| • <a href="#">WWF</a> (specifically about bushfires) | • <a href="#">FAWNA</a>  |
| • <a href="#">Sydney Wildlife</a>                    | • <a href="#">WReNNZ</a> |



Luckily for them  
they were rescued  
by a wildlife carer.



Once they got to know the local  
visiting flock, they were what  
wildlife carers call "soft released".

This means they live  
in the wild, but are still fed  
until they no longer need help.



# NESTLING COCKATOOS

The story of Squeak and Squawk



## Curriculum link: ICT Capability

### *After reading:*

- Organise the class into small groups. Assign each group an urban bird (aside from sulphur-crested cockatoos) from the [Australian Museum website](https://australianmuseum.net.au/). Each group is to research online and compile a set of pictures charting the growth of their bird, from newborn to adult. Groups should also research and answer questions such as: Where is it found in Australia? What type of habitat does it live in? What does it eat? Does it have predators and/or other threats? Is it endangered?
- Once completed, each group shall create a poster collage of their chosen bird. Ask them to attach the images they found online and to write a short sentence detailing what that image means in relation to their bird. All members of the group then take turns presenting their findings to the rest of the class.

## English, Writing, Creative and Oral Activities

### *After reading:*

- Imagine you are a wild animal and your home is suddenly taken away from you. Write a narrative about your experience.
- Imagine you are a wildlife carer. Write a day-in-the-life narrative of your experience.

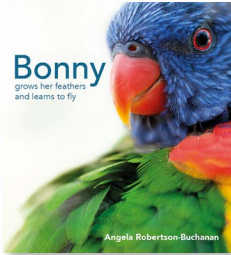


# NESTLING COCKATOOS

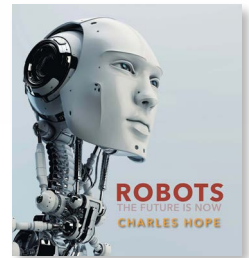
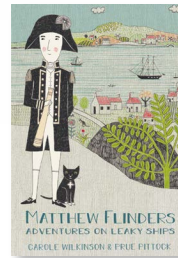
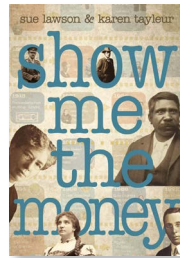
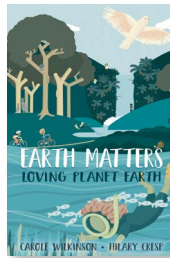
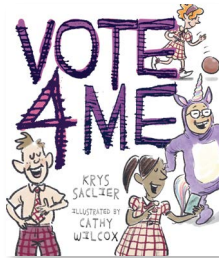
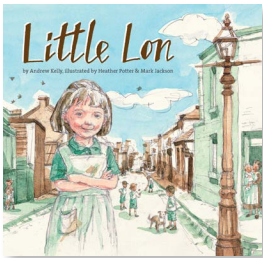
The story of Squeak and Squawk



Also by Angela Robertson-Buchanan



Other titles from Wild Dog



**Wild Dog Books**  
PO Box 135, Fitzroy VIC 3065  
1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford VIC 3067 Australia  
T +61 3 9419 9406 | E [admin@wdog.com.au](mailto:admin@wdog.com.au) | W [www.wdog.com.au](http://www.wdog.com.au)