

CROW AND THE WATERHOLE

AMBELIN KWAYMULLINA

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YEAR LEVEL: Y1–2

ABOUT THE BOOK

From the award-winning author–illustrator Ambelin Kwaymullina comes an uplifting tale about self-worth.

There was once a crow who lived in a tree by a waterhole. Each morning, she stared into the water and saw another crow staring back. Crow thought Crow-in-the-waterhole was the most wonderful bird she had ever seen.

Crow and the Waterhole is an inspiring picture book for younger readers about how we perceive ourselves and others.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ambelin Kwaymullina is an Aboriginal writer and illustrator who comes from the Palyku people of the Pilbara region of Western Australia. She is the author and illustrator of a number of award-winning picture books as well as a YA dystopian series. Her books have been published in the United States, South Korea and China. Ambelin is a prolific commentator on diversity in children's literature and a law academic at the University of Western Australia.

THEMES

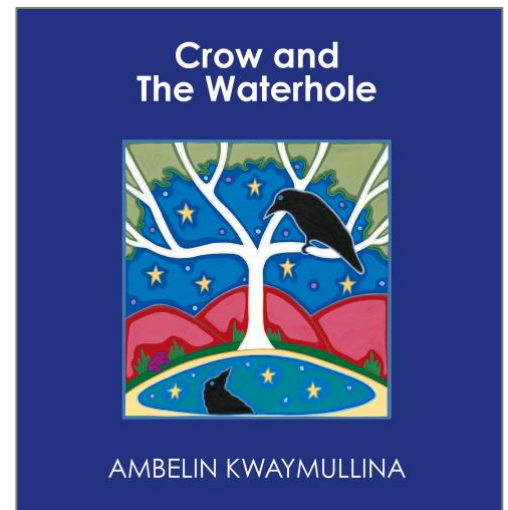
- Self-worth
- Self-perception
- Confidence
- Friendship
- Helping others
- Discovering your inner strengths

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

USEFUL WEBSITES

- Author's website: akauthor.com.au



CLASSROOM IDEAS

Discussion Questions

1. After reading, think about the story of *Crow and the Waterhole*.
 - a. Think of an alternative title for the book. Write your own blurb.
 - b. In groups, act out the story.
 - c. Substitute the crow for another animal. Does it change the meaning of the book?
2. The illustrations are very brightly coloured and made up of simple shapes without black outlines.
 - a. Paint a picture using similar techniques. It could be your own version of a scene from the book or your own original painting.
 - b. Discuss the importance of illustrations to the story. Would the story work just as well with different illustrations? Why or why not?
3. Crow is a type of bird and there are many things to learn about them.
 - a. Research different species of Australian birds. How many different kinds can you find out about? How do they look different?
 - b. What is the difference between a crow and a raven?
 - c. Write a poem or song about one of the birds you discovered.
 - d. Draw a picture of this bird and colour it in.
4. Find the frog in each illustration.
5. Go on an excursion to a local park, wildlife park or an aviary. Sketch or watch a particular bird.
6. Research issues affecting local birdlife – reduced habitat, water resources, feral species. Research the effects of bushfires on native vegetation and wildlife.
7. Discuss the nature of reflections. Is a mirror image the same as a positive image? How might they differ?
8. Investigate what other surfaces are reflective and why.
9. Make a list of the things you like about yourself and/or about someone else.
10. Discuss the role of teaching stories. Do other cultures use teaching stories? Do you know any other teaching stories?
11. Locate the Pilbara on a map of Australia. Find out more about the Palyku people and/or the First Nations people(s) from your area. Invite a spokesperson from your local community to speak to the class.
12. Write to the author of your favourite book or of this book (if to Ambelin Kwaymullina, send the letter to c/o Fremantle Press) describing what you did and didn't like.