

TEACHER'S NOTES



Come with us on a bushwalk to search for the lyrebird. He's very shy so we will have to be quiet. Listen to the sounds of the forest with us as we try to find him. Listen can you hear? Is that his sound?

FROM THE AUTHOR

When I was a little girl, one of my favourite things to do was to visit the rainforest. We lived on a farm at the foothills of the Strzelecki Ranges in South Gippsland, Victoria. It was a short drive, through the windy hills that transformed from paddocks to eucalyptus forest, to lacy tree ferns, as we drove up higher and higher. The Tarra Valley rainforest was like a fairyland. We'd dip out toes in the babbling mountain streams, inspect the frog green moss growing like galaxies on the forest floor, and gaze up through the iridescent green canopy formed by ancient ferns, mountain ash trees and myrtle beeches.

My grandmother was a wildflower watercolour artist, and my father was a naturalist. Between the two, we'd have a guided tour of the intricacies of the forest life and landscape. I'd search for fairies under the ferns and in the hollow trunks of old trees, and of course, together we would search for lyrebirds! The surprise and joy of spotting a rarely sighted animal in the wild is spine-tingling. And the intrigue of hearing a lyrebird trilling to itself is equally special.

Where The Lyrebird Lives is a celebration of my life-long love of animals that are rare and elusive. I have seen lyrebirds in the wild four times in my life. On one occasion we witnessed a lyrebird dancing and singing to itself for over 10 minutes before it spotted us spying through the ferns and scurried away. It was a beautiful experience, and one that I hope all children feel the magic of as they read *Where the Lyrebird Lives*.

FROM THE ILLUSTRATOR

When illustrating *Where the Lyrebird Lives*, I wanted to give the reader a sense of being in the gully that the story is set in. I hopefully achieved this by including spreads where the characters are quite small in comparison to the environment, conveying the wonder and magnificence of tall, old growth rainforests.

There are little glimpses of the lyrebird hidden like a pantomime throughout the story. I wanted to give reader the cheeky challenge of spotting the lyrebird amongst the vegetation as he tricks the family into thinking he is other species of Australian birds with his array of bird call and sound mimicking.

I also wanted to give the reader a sense of the family connections and memories that can be made while sharing an experience in nature and spotting wildlife along a walk. To achieve this, I decided to use watercolour with some additional coloured pencil details to illustrate this book. I love the softness, warmth and magical forest atmosphere that the watercolours bring to the family's adventure, hopefully illustrated as if it is already a cherished family memory.



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THEMES/EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Where the Lyrebird Lives is a sweet, lyrical journey about a family's bushwalking search for the Lyrebird, one of Australia's most iconic and amazing birds. Through delightful onomatopoeia and beautifully classic illustrations, the story invites children into the magic and fun of the great outdoors. It encourages children to play, to examine the world around them thoughtfully and to always keep their ears open for call of the elusive lyrebird.

Before reading

- Show the children the book cover, can they spot the lyrebird?
- What colour are the lyrebird's feathers? Why do you think they look like this?
- What makes the lyrebird different from other birds?
- Does anyone know where lyrebirds like to live? Why might they like to live there?
- What kinds of sounds do you hear in the forest?
- Can you spot the lyrebirds thorough the book? How many can you see?

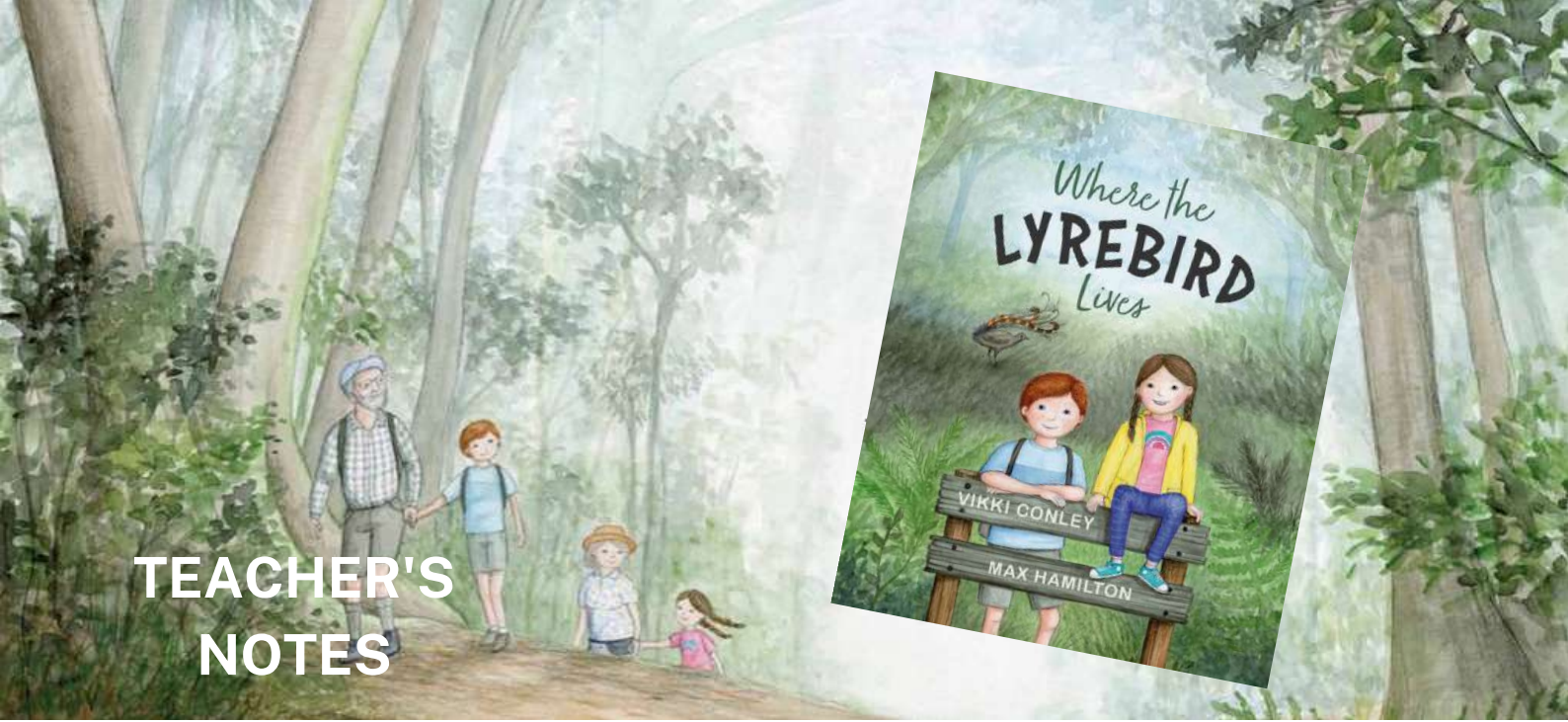
After reading

- Are there any sounds that you can mimic like a lyrebird?
- Has anybody been bushwalking before? Who did you go on your walk with, and did you see any animals?
- When we go into forest looking for lyrebirds, what are some things we can do to make sure we keep it clean?
- Sometimes you can only hear things if you stay very, very quiet. When else is it important to be quiet and listen hard?
- Close your eyes and listen closely. What are three sounds you can hear right now? Can you describe the noises?

Quiz

1. Why are the lyrebird's feathers brown?
 - a) So he can hide beneath the fallen leaves
 - b) To impress people walking past
 - c) Because he is colour-blind
2. What does the word mimicry mean?
 - a) Dancing in a circle
 - b) Imitating something else
 - c) Listening very hard
3. When we're walking in nature, we should always try to:
 - a) Stay on the path
 - b) Drop our rubbish on the ground
 - c) Take things home with us
4. Rainforests are very big, how much of Australia do they cover?
 - a) 10%
 - b) 30%
 - c) 80%
5. Which of these sounds is the lyrebird able to make? (trick question in that all answers are true)
 - a) Chainsaw
 - b) Phone notification
 - c) Car alarm
6. What kind of things does the lyrebird like to eat?
 - a) Plants and leaves
 - b) Crumbs left behind by bush walkers
 - c) Bugs and grubs
7. How far can a lyrebird fly?
 - a) They can fly a very long way
 - b) Not far, but they can use their wings to hop around
 - c) They can't fly at all





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VOCAB

- WMimicry: Imitating the sound or action something
- Onomatopoeia: Making a word that sounds like the noise it is describing, e.g. bang, pitter-patter, shhh
- Elusive: Something that is shy and difficult to see
- Rainforest: A dense forest where it rains a lot and is very green
- Investigate: To watch or look for something carefully
- Trilling: To make a wavering or warbling sound
- Gully: A long valley with steep sides
- Vegetation: All the plants that are found in a particular area

LISTENING ACTIVITY

Think about some of the sounds you might hear at certain times of the day. Write them down and have a go trying to mimic them like a lyrebird.

MUSIC AND CRAFT

- Using found natural objects such as leaves or feathers can you create a collage forest scene?
- The lyrebird is very clever at copying noises. Can you use instruments to mimic noises? If you don't have any instruments, have a go making your own! You might like to try and mimic some of the sounds you have listed in your sound/listening activity.

WRITING

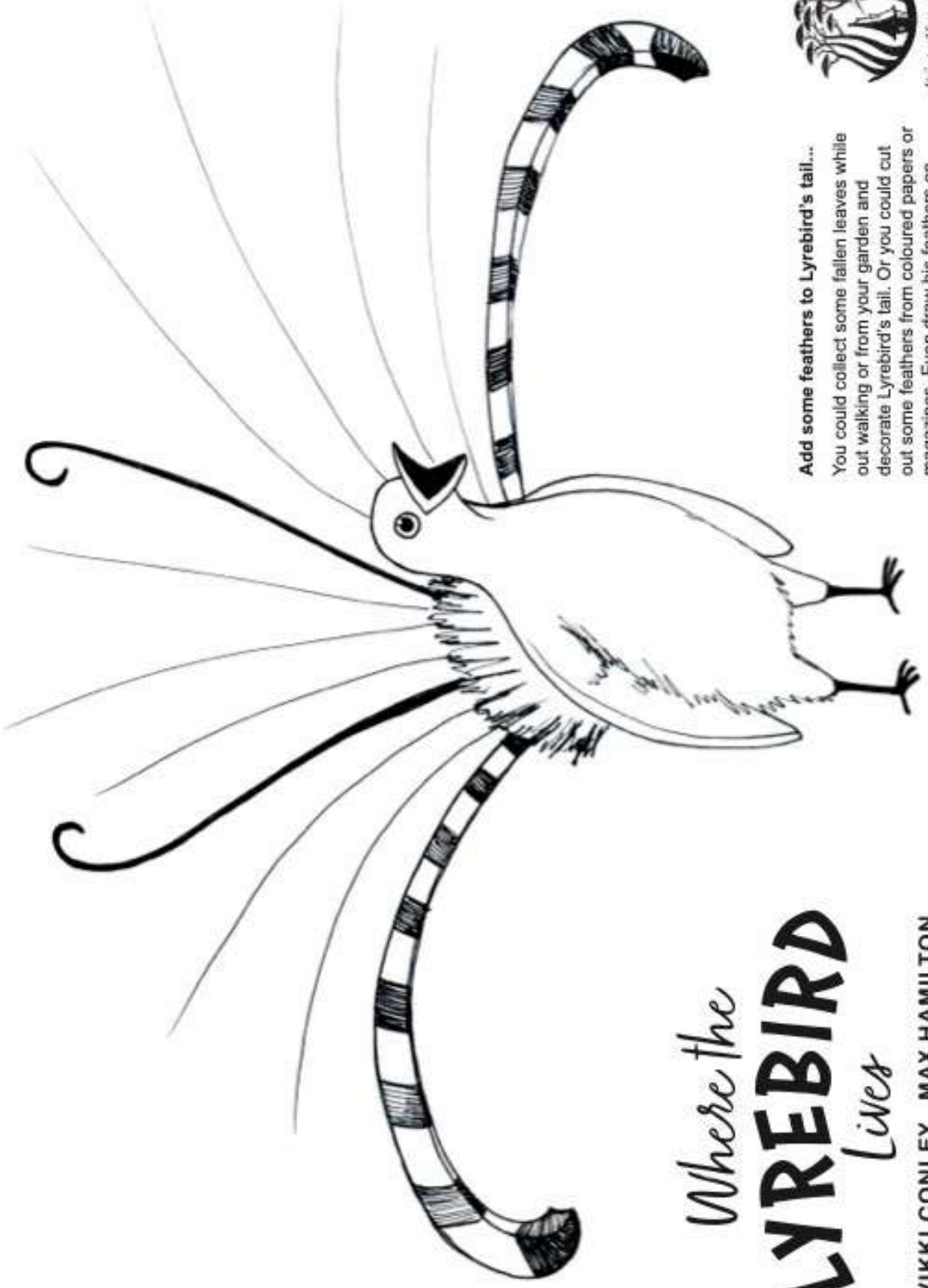
Looking at the language the author uses such as 'wisha-wisha trees', can you go on a class walk and come up with a list of words to describe the sounds of nature.

Can you come up with similar story about going on a walk and looking for something that may be hidden.?



LYREBIRD ACTIVITY

Using the template provided, add some feathers to the Lyrebird's tail.
How magnificent can you make him look?



Where the
LYREBIRD
Lives

VIKKI CONLEY MAX HAMILTON

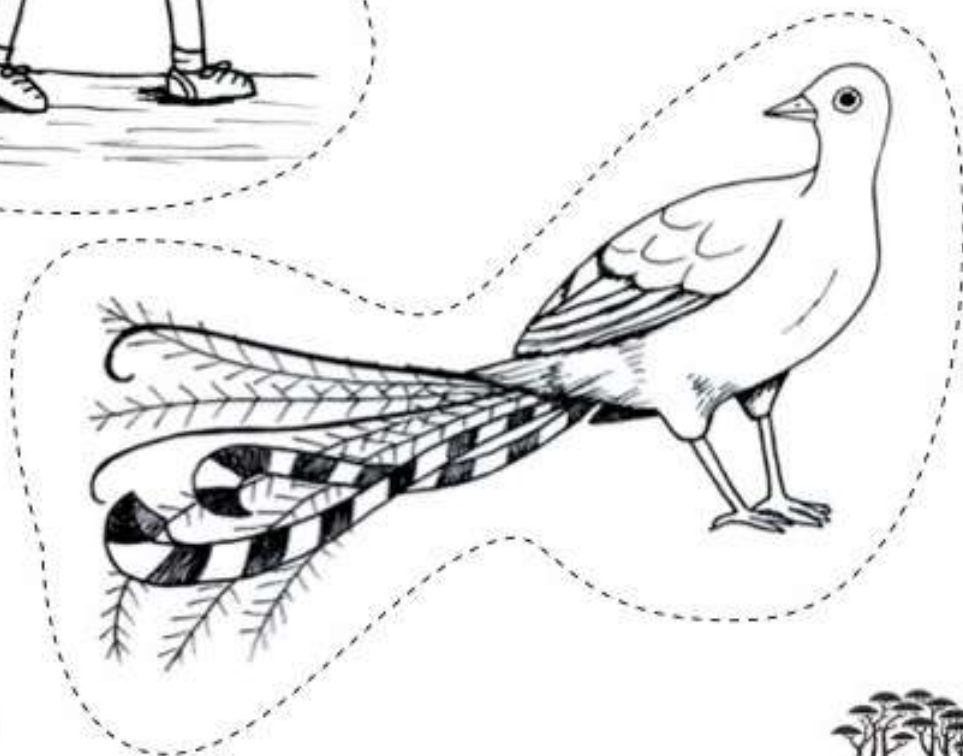


Hourly Hallow Birds

Add some feathers to Lyrebird's tail...
You could collect some fallen leaves while out walking or from your garden and decorate Lyrebird's tail. Or you could cut out some feathers from coloured papers or magazines. Even draw his feathers on.

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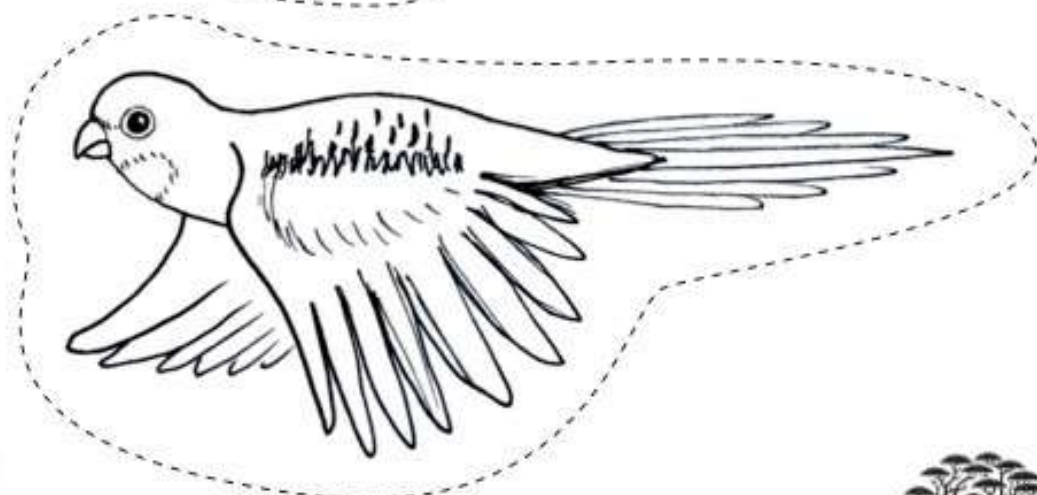
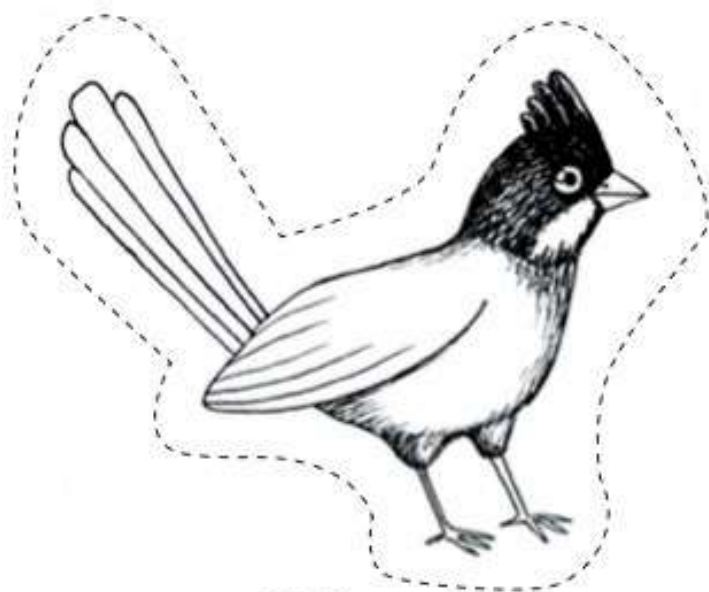
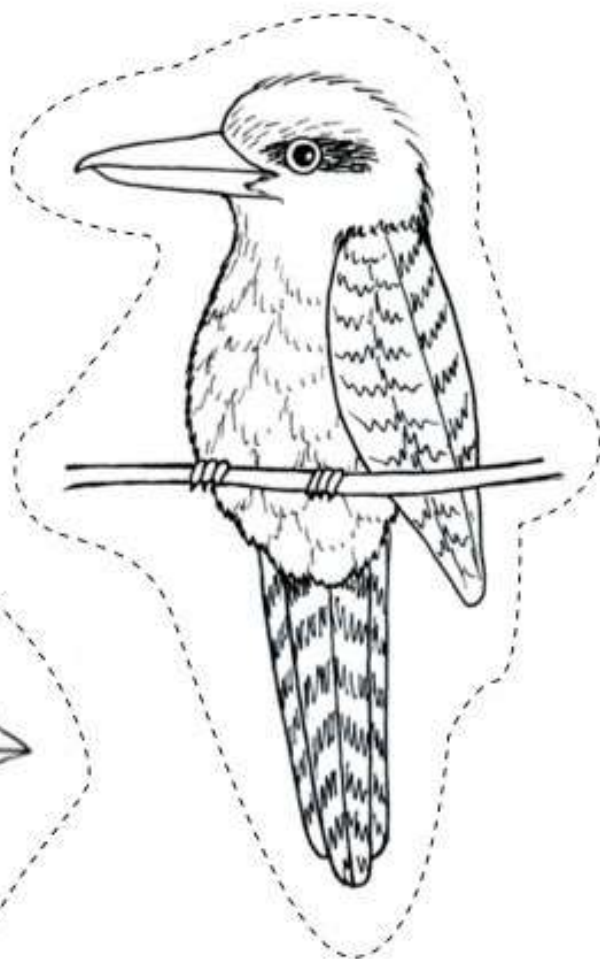
Colour in the characters, cut them out along the dotted lines
and stick a paddle pop stick to the back to create your puppets.



Windy Hillside Books

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