

Where the Lyrebird Lives

AUTHOR

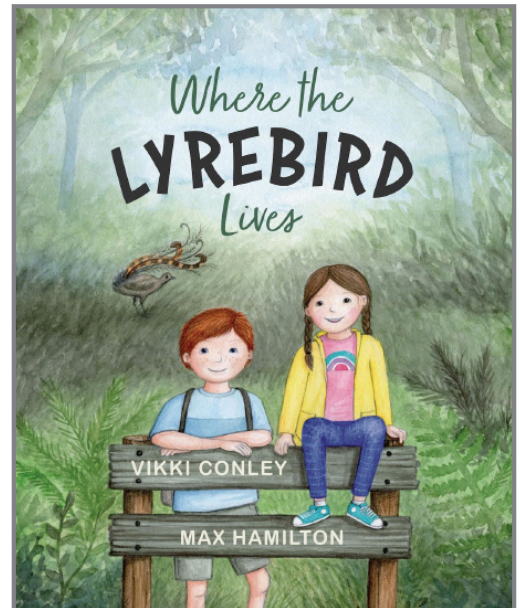
VIKKI CONLEY

ILLUSTRATOR

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SYNOPSIS

High in the mountains through the sleepy clouds. Deep in the forest past the chiming birds. Will we see the lyrebird? I don't know. Tip-toe, tip-toe. The beauty of the Australian rainforest and the magic of family-time come together in this lyrical and delightful story of intergenerational connection, habitat and adventure.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vikki Conley is a CBCA shortlisted author with nine internationally published picture books. She has worked as a professional writer, photographer and marketer, with diverse communities across three continents, for over 20 years.

She is a nature lover, intrepid traveller and passionate spotter of rarely sighted animals like lyrebirds, platypus and bower birds. She writes children's stories that celebrate the spirit of wonder, adventure and freedom that she wishes every child could enjoy.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Max Hamilton is an award-winning illustrator, graphic designer and most enthusiastically a maker of children's books. She enjoys noticing the little details in things, loves to get lost in the world of illustration and stories, and through her art, aims to raise awareness of the importance of protecting our Australian fauna. Max lives in Sydney with her partner, two daughters, a couple of guinea pigs named Dumpling and Noodles and a very cuddly dog.

STUDY NOTES

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 throughout 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 a 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?

Comprehension 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

ENGLISH

- The below words appear in the story. See if you can figure out what they mean or use a dictionary to help you find their definitions:
 - Mimicry: Imitating the sound or action of something

- Onomatopoeia: Making a word that sounds like the noise it is describing, eg. 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.
- Looking at the language the author uses such as 'wisha-wisha trees', go on a class walk and come up with a list of words to describe the sounds of nature.
- Can you come up with a similar story about going on a walk and looking for something that may be hidden?

ACTIVITIES

- The lyrebird is very clever at copying noises. 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.
 - Can you use instruments to mimic noises? If you don't have any instruments, have a go making your own!
- Using found natural objects such as leaves or feathers can you create a collage forest scene?