

# The Wild Life #2: A Line in the Sand

AUTHOR

**LAURA BUNTING**

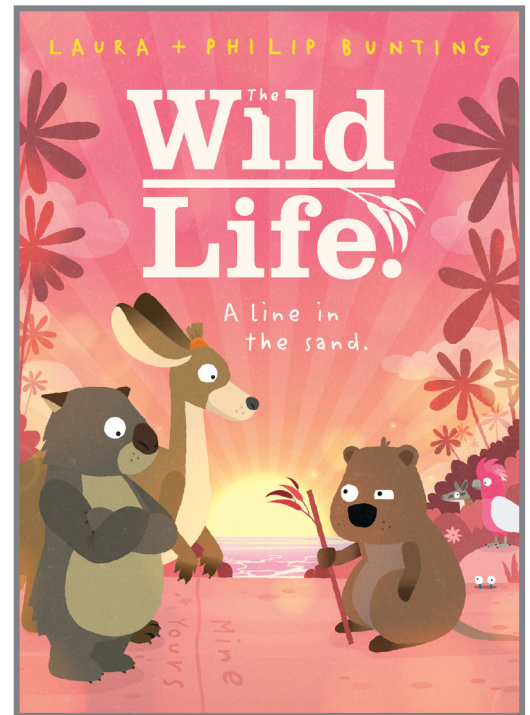
ILLUSTRATOR

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## SYNOPSIS

In the paw-sizzling heat of summer, Wombat and Roo need to cool their toasted toes. They find themselves on a beautiful beach with more than enough ocean for everyone. But there is one very little problem...Quokka thinks he owns the beach. And he is not in the mood for sharing.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Laura Bunting (nee Venuto) is a features writer and sub editor by trade, having spent over 10 years in print and digital magazine publishing, under titles such as *SBS Feast*, *Mindfood*, *Time Out*, *Notebook/HomeLife*, and many more. She is the author of picture book favourites, *Koalas Eat Gum Leaves*, *Kookaburras Love to Laugh* and *Liarbird* all illustrated by her husband, Philip Bunting.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Philip Bunting is an author and illustrator. His books have been translated into multiple languages, and published in over 25 countries around the world. Since his first book was published in 2017, Philip has received multiple accolades, including Honours from the Children's Book Council of Australia, and making the list for the Kate Greenaway Medal in 2018.

## STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the story, as a class discuss the book cover and title. Some things to include in your discussion could be:
  - Who has read the first book in this series? What happened in it?
  - What can you see happening on the cover of this book?
  - Who do you think the main character in this book might be?
  - Where do you think this book could be set?
  - What does 'A Line in the Sand' usually mean?
  - What do you think is something that might happen in this book and why?
- Wombat dreams of swimming in the ocean, and then he actually gets to go swimming with Roo. Do wombats really swim? Why/why not? How can you find out?
- Paint an ocean scene inspired by the picture of Wombat's ocean dream.
- When Wombat lists off his life goals he comes up with 'more burrows to burrow, more grass to gobble' and then runs

out of ideas. What are some of your life goals?

- Create a poster showcasing at least five life goals of yours. Be as imaginative and ambitious as you can, and include at least two things that you suspect might not actually be possible, as well as at least one or two more realistic life goals. Write a brief description of each goal, and illustrate your different goals next to the listed description.
- When Quokka realises that he has defeated Roo and Wombat and successfully intimidated them into trying to leave his beach, he feels a mix of emotions that in the book are called 'misery soup'. Write a recipe of your own for a different mix of feelings that result in another type of emotional soup, or possibly a stew or casserole. Some emotional states of being that you might like to describe a recipe for could be:
  - Excitement
  - Happiness
  - Trepidation
  - Boredom
  - Resentfulness
  - Clarity
  - Calmness
  - Enthusiasm
  - Hopefulness.
- Wombat says that Quokka's way of sharing the beach is very 'unfair sharing'. As a class, discuss the concept of unfair sharing and see how many examples you can think of from your own lives. What is the problem with unfair sharing and why can it cause more problems than not sharing at all in the first place? How does it make the other person feel when you practise unfair sharing yourself? What is the easiest way to tell if you are accidentally practising unfair sharing?
- Roo and Wombat have very different approaches to dealing with Quokka's bad behaviour. Wombat wants to get even while Roo wants to ignore the unfairness and get on with enjoying what they do have. Which do you think is the better response and why? What do you think might have happened if Roo followed along with Wombat's ideas? Write a scene set in a slightly different reality where Roo didn't stop Wombat from throwing the coconut at Quokka. After writing your scene compare how everything ended and how much Roo and Wombat enjoyed their day in comparison to what did occur in the story.
- Wombat and Roo build a huge sandcastle on their patch of beach. In pairs or small groups, build sandcastles in the school playground if you have a sandpit, or at a local park or preschool with a sandpit, or at the beach if you live near one. If there is enough space you can even have a sandcastle competition and see who can build the tallest, sturdiest, prettiest or most interesting sandcastle in an allotted time.
- Quokka is confused about the difference between respect and fear. Reread the section where Roo explains to him what respect actually means, and then as a class, discuss all the different ways in which we can show respect for and to each other. Some things you might like to address in your discussion could be:
  - Think of someone you respect. What type of person are they? How would you describe them?
  - What are some of the things that you respect in others?
  - What is the meaning of self-respect, and how do you make sure that you have it/don't lose it?
  - When you are scared of someone, do you also respect them? Why/why not?
  - How can we behave in a way that encourages others to respect us?
  - Why is respect important?
- When Wombat drew lots of lines in the sand, what was he actually doing? Look closely at the last scene in the book to discover what he did.
- Looking at the map of the Gumshine Coast in the back of the book, can you work out where each scene in the story happened? Where would you like to see Roo and Wombat travel to on their next adventure together? Choose one of the places on the map where they haven't been yet, and draw a picture of what you think it might look like and some of the things that they might find there.