

Duckling Runs Away

AUTHOR

MARGARET WILD

ILLUSTRATOR

VIVIENNE TO

SCIS: 5438654

ISBN: 9781761065804



SYNOPSIS

Duckling won't play leapfrog with the lambs or paddle with the piglets—she's running away and never coming back. Until night starts to fall and Duckling realises there is somewhere she'd much rather be. Luckily, a mother's love is never far away.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Margaret Wild is one of Australia's most respected picture book creators whose award-winning children's books are loved by children all over the world. Margaret has published over seventy picture books for young children and she has been the recipient of the Nan Chauncy Award, the Lady Cutler Award and the CBCA Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to Australian children's literature.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Vivienne To is an illustrator and concept artist for publishing and film. She loves drawing animals and creating interesting characters for stories. She has illustrated several books including *The Sloth Who Came to Stay*, written by Margaret Wild, which was shortlisted for the CBCA Award for New Illustrator. Vivienne was born in Melbourne, grew up in Sydney and lives in Wellington, New Zealand. Find out more about Vivienne at www.vivienneto.com.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading *Duckling Runs Away*, examine the book's front cover and title and ask the following questions:
 - How is a 'duckling' different to a 'duck'?
 - What does it mean to 'run away'?
 - What do you think Duckling is feeling about running away?
 - Will this be a funny or sad story?
 - What was it on the cover—title, colours, image or all three—that helped you answer the previous question?
 - What do you think might happen to Duckling in the story?
- Now open the book and read the story through once. After finishing, ask the following questions:
 - Why did Duckling decide to run away?
 - Did Duckling's mother seem worried about her running away?
 - What might Duckling be thinking and feeling when she stomps away?
 - Did her thinking and feelings change as the day progressed?

- Why do you think they might have changed?
- Do you think she might run away again? Why or why not?
- Did you like the story of Duckling? Why or why not?
- The English language is full of words that can mean the same or similar things. Can you come up with different words that mean having an 'argument'? It is a writer's job to come up with the very best word to use to tell their story. In this case, Margaret Wild used the word 'squabble' for the fight between Duckling and her mother because that word tells us that the fight is over something very unimportant.
 - Turn to the pages where Duckling walks past the other farm animals sleeping with their mothers and see if you can explain why Margaret Wild chose to use the words 'nestling', 'nuzzling', 'squashing up to', 'snoozing', 'cuddling' and 'snuggling up to' instead of just the words 'sleeping with'.
- Sometimes, the way words appear on a page also helps tell the story in a more interesting way. Can you see how words, such as 'hide', 'swing', 'paddle', 'leap', 'why', and 'warm wings' are different to all the other words? And sometimes devices such as italics (words that slant) and fonts (the style a word is written) can help us recognise key words in the story. Turn to the page with the words, 'And into the warm wings of her mother' and talk about how colour, italics and font all combine to emphasise the moment that Duckling realises how wonderful her own mother and home are.
- It's always interesting to look very closely at illustrations because background details can expand the story beyond what the words tell us. Re-read the story and see if you can find clues that tell us that Duckling lives on an Australian farm. (Hint: can you find kangaroos, an echidna, a magpie, a wombat, three cockatoos and a possum sitting in a tree?)
- Sometimes the way we use our body can express emotions as well, if not better than, our words. Look closely at the first few images of Duckling and describe how her face and body tell us she is very, very angry. Without using words, how might you show that you were feeling angry? Turn to the page where it is getting dark and Duckling is starting to get a little frightened. How does her body language here show how she is feeling? How might you show that you were feeling the same way? Now turn to the final images of Duckling where she is feeling happy and content and describe her body language. How might you use your face and body to show similar feelings?
 - Write down feelings such as anger, fear, amusement, boredom, love, tiredness and tranquillity on index cards (one card per emotion). Ask students to pick a card and act out the emotion printed on it without using a single word or sound.
- How do you think Duckling's feelings for her mother and home changed after running away? Go back to the beginning of the story and look closely at Duckling's mother. Do you think her feelings have changed at all at the end of the story? What do you think the story tells us about a mother's love?