

# Nedingar: Ancestors

AUTHOR

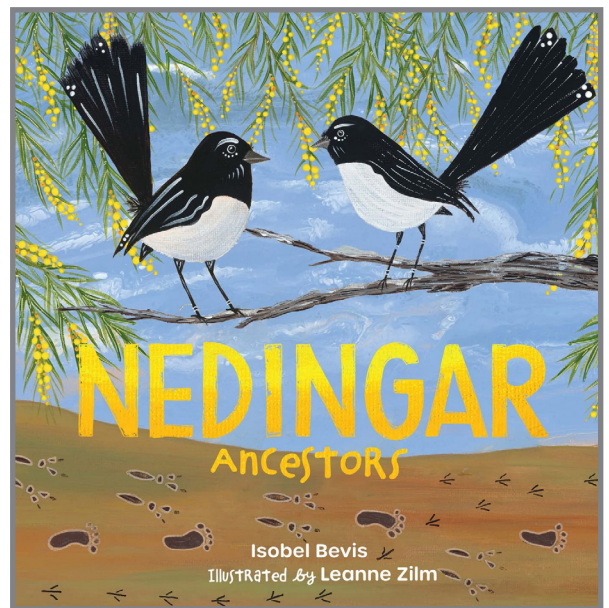
**ISOBEL BEVIS**

ILLUSTRATOR

**LEANNE ZILM**

SCIS: 5461624

ISBN: 9781760992712



## SYNOPSIS

*'Please Mum, I want to meet my ancestors, I want to learn from them so I know who I am.'*

Inspired by traditional Indigenous teachings, every family will relate to this beautiful bilingual picture book as brought to life by Noongar storytellers Isobel Bevis and Leanne Zilm highlighting the rich cultural heritage we all share. The book features gorgeously hand painted images of Australian flora and fauna.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Isobel Bevis is a Wilman, Noongar and Ballardong woman, she grew up in a large Noongar family, living on Wilman Boodja. Isobel is a teacher with a Masters of Indigenous Languages Education, and is passionate about education and supporting Aboriginal students and families. She started writing to stay connected to family and culture, with her strength and knowledge coming from the matriarchs in her family, and she has loving memories of listening to her Nana's stories

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Leanne Zilm is a descendant of the Wudjari and Goreng Noongar tribal groups. Leanne started painting in 2016 when her mother, who was a landscape artist, encouraged her to take up art. Leanne works with acrylics, and the backgrounds of her paintings are created using an acrylic pour technique. Her art is inspired by the natural environment in the South West of Western Australia.

## THEMES

- Identity and belonging
- Family
- ATSI cultures and stories
- Native animals
- Country

## STUDY NOTES

- Before reading, consider the front cover.
  - Where do you think the story is set?
  - What plants and animals can you identify?

- Who do you think made the footprints?
- What do you think the story will be about?
- What was your favourite part of the story?
- Which is your favourite illustration?
- Watch the recording of author Isobel Bevis reading the story in Noongar, the language of her ancestors. Why do you think the author chose to include both the Noongar and English versions of the story?
- How has the publisher made the text in each language look different? Why do you think they did this?
- Ancestors are very important in Noongar culture. How do you think the Ancestors provide spirit and strength to the younger generations?
- Do you know any stories about your ancestors?
- The story starts and ends with a djidi djidi/willie wagtail family, but other animal families feature on other pages. What does this suggest about the different families?
- Can you think of a word that rhymes with each of these words from the story:
  - meet
  - know
  - go
  - trees
  - day
  - you
  - me.
- What do you think is the main message of this story?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why?

### CREATIVE WRITING

- According to the story, 'You hear [Ancestors] through the trees, in the whistling of the leaves . . . You talk to them when you listen to the birds, the animals and the plants.' (pp 20–23) Sit outside quietly and observe what you hear. Write a poem about your observations.
- Write three questions you would like to ask your ancestors.

### HASS

- English and Noongar are two languages spoken in Australia. Do you or your family speak another language? Survey people in your family, school or community to collect data on the languages spoken. Create a bar graph to display your findings.
- Make a list of words and phrases from the story that indicate time (eg. 'From when I was a baby' and 'tomorrow'). How do the illustrations indicate time? (eg. darker colours and nocturnal animals indicate night-time.)

### SCIENCE

- Choose an animal from the story and find out three facts about it, such as where the animal lives or what it eats. Create an informative poster to share your information, as well as an illustration of the animal. If you can, find out the Noongar name for the animal.
- Identify Noongar Country on a map. Are the animals that feature in the story found in the same region?
- List the ways the mother emu and baby emus look the same and how they look different.

### VISUAL ART

- Choose three words to describe the illustrations.
- Draw or paint your favourite part of the story.
- Animal tracks can be seen in the illustrations. Create your own artwork using animal tracks to tell a story.
- Collect some gum leaves, flowers and grasses, like those seen in the illustrations. Create a collage or rubbing. Remember to respect nature and other people's property when collecting.