

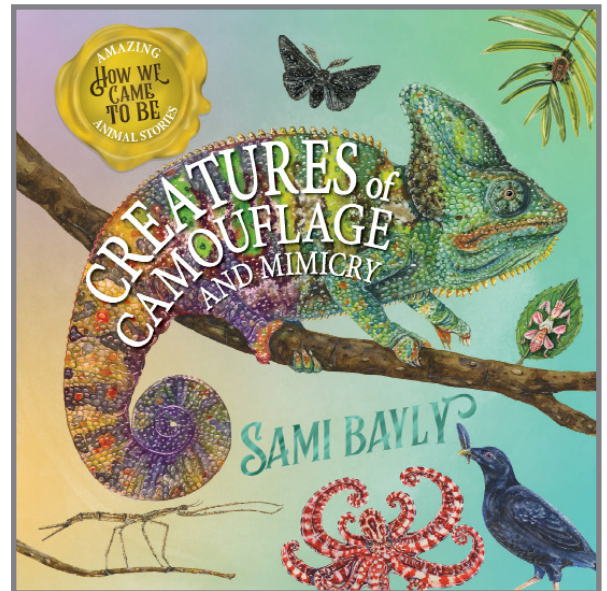
How We Came to Be: Creatures of Camouflage and Mimicry

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
SAMI BAYLY

SCIS: 5461641

ISBN: 9780734421371

RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid to Upper Primary



SYNOPSIS

Discover the secrets behind some of the natural world's most unusual creatures of camouflage and mimicry. Find out about the chameleon who changes colour to communicate with its friends, the burrowing owl who copies the sound of a fiercer animal to protect itself from threats, and the harlequin filefish that has come to smell like coral to blend in with its surroundings.

You'll be amazed by how these clever creatures use disguise and imitation to find food, send out warning signals and, most of all, avoid predators!

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Sami Bayly is a natural history illustrator based in Newcastle, NSW, who loves all things weird and wonderful. She finds the beauty and importance of all animals regardless of their appearance, and hopes to share her appreciation with others.

Sami's first book, *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Ugly Animals*, won the Children's Indie Book of the Year Award and the Australian Book Design Award for Younger Readers. It was a CBCA Honour Book and was shortlisted for an ABIA Book of the Year for Younger Children and longlisted for the ABA Booksellers' Choice 2020 Book of the Year Awards. Her second book, *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Dangerous Animals*, was a CBCA Honour Book, an ABIA Book of the Year for Younger Children, won an Australian Book Design Award for Younger Readers and was shortlisted for the Children's Indie Book of the Year 2020. Sami's most recent book, *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Peculiar Pairs in Nature*, was shortlisted for the CBCA Eve Pownall Award and longlisted for Children's Indie Book of the Year Award. Sami's most recent book is *How We Came to Be: Surprising Sea Creatures*.

Follow Sami on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/samibayly/> and at her website: <http://www.samibayly.com/>.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF NOTES

Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright AM operates justified text writing and publishing consultancy services, and is widely published on children's literature, publishing history and Australian fiction. In 2011 she was the recipient of the CBCA (Qld Branch) Dame Annabelle Rankin Award for Distinguished Services to Children's Literature in Queensland, and in 2012 the CBCA (National) Nan Chauncy Award for Distinguished Services to Children's Literature in Australia, and in 2014, the QWC's Johnno Award. In 2021 she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia.

STUDY NOTES**SCIENCE**

- Camouflage or mimicry is used by each of the creatures in this book. The creator, Sami Bayly, outlines how creatures may use ‘appearance, smell, sound, behaviour, and their location to camouflage’ (p 5). And as she explores, we meet creatures who use these various forms of camouflage. Apply what you have learned to your observation of other creatures.
- The buff-tip moth camouflages itself to look like the birch tree where it lives, in order to avoid predators. Study how different creatures employ unique survival skills in order to avoid predators, or to be predators themselves.
- Study the life cycles and evolution of any of the creatures in this book. For example, the orchid mantis, and how over time the females of this creature developed pink and white patterns to mimic an orchid.

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS)

- Read about some of the threats to creatures and then discuss the decline or endangered status of any creature mentioned in this book.
- Discuss the impact of forest clearing, wildlife trade and other threats which are depleting many species.
- Research climate change in relation to any of the creatures included in this book, and write an essay outlining your findings.
- Climate change is a global issue. How should our government be responding to climate change in order to combat it? Examine such initiatives as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) <<https://www.ipcc.ch>> in order to respond to this question.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

- The facts on each surprising sea creature are written in third person, as an expository text. There are also two texts in first-person narrative—one by the creature itself, and one by the narrator, Sami Bayly, who also addresses questions to the creature and appears in some images as well.
 - Invite students to write an expository text about any other creature that doesn’t feature in this book. (There are different types of expository writing, eg. descriptive, sequential, cause/effect etc.) Then write a first-person narrative ‘speech bubble’ by the creature explaining more about its life cycle.
- Humour is another device used in this series—some of the comments made by the creatures are very funny. Which did you think was the funniest?
- Test your students’ comprehension by asking them the following questions about the text:
 - Why does the veiled chameleon change colour?
 - The ladybird mimic spider is an example of Batesian Mimicry? What does this mean?
 - What is unique about the mimic octopus?
 - The harlequin filefish uses chemical crypsis? What is this?
 - What do the burrowing owl and the northern flicker chick have in common?
 - Orchid mantises disguise themselves as flowers to trick their prey. What sort of mimicry is this?
 - The bagworm is neither a bag nor a worm. What is it?
 - What rather odd mimicry do the bird-dropping spider and the bird poo frog engage in?
 - What does the dead leaf butterfly mimic?
 - What is evolution by natural selection?
- Invite students to write an acrostic poem using the letters in CHAMELEON.
- Discover the collective nouns for the following creatures:
 - Buff-tip moth (Answer: eclipse)
 - Ladybird mimic spider (Answer: cluster or clutter)
 - Mimic octopus (Answer: consortium)
 - Meerkat (Answer: mob)
 - Fork-tailed drongo (Answer: bunch)
 - Dead leaf butterfly (Answer: kaleidoscope or flutter)

- Harlequin filefish (Answer: shoal, school or run.)

VISUAL LITERACY

- The images in this book have been created by a highly skilled natural history illustrator and she combines them with her written text to illustrate features of the various creatures described. However, it is the designer who created the speech bubbles, and selected the fonts, and the overall design of the text. How does this design complement the illustration?
- The cover of the book depicts a number of creatures. Invite students to identify them. What does this cover suggest to you about the book's content? Create another cover depicting other creatures that employ camouflage or mimicry.
- The title page contains a veiled chameleon. Draw another appropriate image to adorn this page.
- The endpapers of the book feature ten extra images of creatures, including the bridal veil stinkhorn and the door head ant, and each one has a written explanation in a circle next to it. Create another endpaper featuring five creatures you have discovered in your research.
- Encourage students to use critical literacy skills to unearth further meaning in this text by looking closely at the images, explaining what they see and then what the text says, and how the two texts add meaning to each other.
- Make a dead leaf butterfly. Fold a piece of paper in half and then open again and paint one wing, then fold it so that the paint imprints on the other half of the page to create another wing. Allow it to dry and then glue to craft paper and hang up your creations.

AUTHOR OF NOTES

DR ROBYN SHEAHAN-BRIGHT AM