

Night Watch

AUTHOR

JODI TOERING

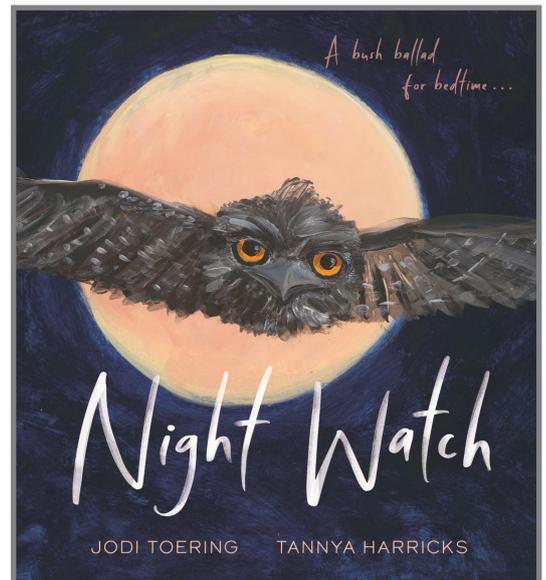
ILLUSTRATOR

TANNYA HARRICKS

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Sunset beckons. Moon appears, and Tawny Frogmouth stirs. She begins her nightly flight, watching over all the animals nestled down to sleep in the burrows and branches of the beautiful Australian bush.

Australia's native Tawny Frogmouths are often mistaken for owls, as like owls, they are also nocturnal.

This beautiful bedtime book follows the journey of the Tawny Frogmouths as they soar through the skies and through the night . . . keeping watch over native fauna as they settle in for their safe slumber.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jodi was born in the Mallee at Hopetoun and grew up on a wheat farm outside a small town called Beulah. As a child, she was fascinated with stories, reading on her own well before she went to school. When she didn't have her nose in a book, Jodi spent her time drawing or writing. She had two dreams: becoming an English teacher and writing picture books for children.

Fast forward several decades, we now find Jodi juggling the roles of full time teacher, mother and performer. This might seem more than enough for some, but not for Jodi, recently adding one more string to her bow and following her childhood dream of becoming an author.

In her spare time, Jodi loves creating artworks and spending time on her bush block with her husband, her two beautiful children and the ever-growing menagerie of chickens, ducks, dogs and rabbits that share their home.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Tanya Harricks's award-winning art practice draws on her experience in graphic design, illustration, life drawing and textile design. Her oil paintings, for which she has been awarded the Waverley and Hornsby Art Prizes, have been exhibited in Sydney, New Zealand and Florence. She has also been a finalist in many prominent Australian art awards including the Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize, Gallipoli Art Prize and the Gold Coast Art Prize. She has previously illustrated *Dingo* by Claire Saxby and *Mallee Sky* by Jodi Toering for the Walker Books list. *Dingo* was joint winner of the Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature at the NSW Premier's Literary Award (2019); won the Royal Zoological Society of NSW's Whitley Award (2018); and was shortlisted in 2019 for the CBCA New Illustrator Award, and Best Picture Book in the Educational Publishing Awards.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author/illustrator
 - The publisher
 - The blurb.
- What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only?
- Look at the front cover, read the blurb on the back to gather clues and use any prior knowledge you may have to predict some events that might happen in this story.
- Write your own story using the title of the picture book.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attentions and give them some idea of what the book is about.

WHILE READING

Exploring the Text

- Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?
- Is the book an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?
- Literary techniques allow a writer to convey a deeper meaning in their text. What techniques can you find in *Night Watch*, then practise writing your own.
 - Read the following quote and discuss what literary technique is used. 'Dawn whispers softly, gently rousing Day, painting watercolour light across the land.'
- What deeper meaning can you draw from the text?

Exploring the Illustrations

- How do the illustrations add to the story?
- Do you think the illustrator has effectively told the story visually?
- Cover the text in the book and write your own story following the illustrations.
- Choose one of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following illustration decisions:
 - How do you think the people are feeling? What clues might there be in the pictures?
 - Is there a main colour in this spread? How does it make you feel?
 - Do the colours change from spread to spread? Why might that be?
 - Do the pictures take up the whole page, or are they framed?
 - Are any of the words bigger on the page than the others? Why could that be?

AFTER READING

- What did you know about nocturnal animals and their habitats before reading *Night Watch*? What do you know now?
- Notice the descriptive words and language used throughout the text. List some of the descriptive words and phrases. How do they make you feel? Why do you think the author used those words in the book?
- Find objects in *Night Watch* that feature different shapes, eg. trees, river, logs, burrows, nest, moon, etc.
 - Draw the shapes. Label the shapes. How many sides does each shape have? How many corners?