

# Walking Together

AUTHOR

**CORAL VASS**

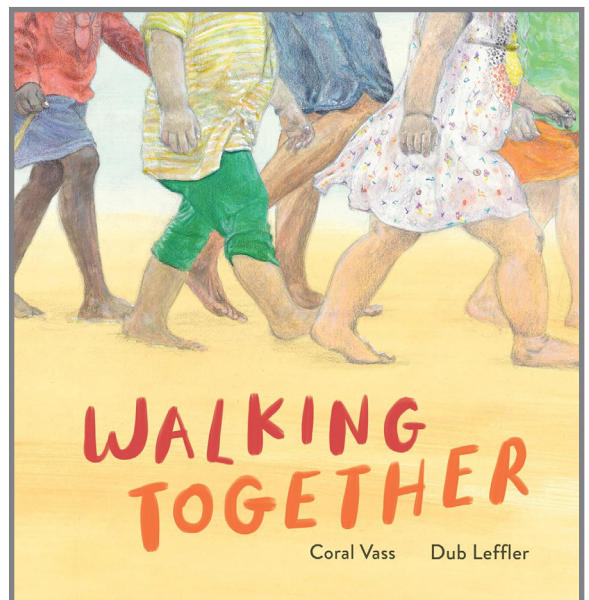
ILLUSTRATOR

**DUB LEFFLER**

SCIS: 5492146

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**RECOMMENDED FOR:** Lower Primary



## SYNOPSIS

'We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future . . .'

—EXTRACT FROM THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART—

A stunning new picture book from award-winning creative duo Coral Vass and Bigambul man Dub Leffler.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Coral Vass is an award-winning Australian children's author. Her titles include the bestselling *Goodnight Possum* and the 2019 CBCA Book of the Year Eve Pownall winner, *Sorry Day* (illustrated by Dub Leffler). Coral is an ambassador for Reading Out of Poverty and is passionate about giving all children an equal opportunity to read.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Dub Leffler is a descendent from the Bigambul people of South-West Queensland. He is one of Australia's most awarded and in-demand illustrators of children's literature.

## STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the story, as a class, discuss the book cover and title. Something that you might wish to include in your discussion could be:
  - What can you see happening on the cover of this story?
  - What does it mean to 'walk together' with someone?
  - Who do you think is pictured on the cover of this book?
  - Where do you think the people on the cover of this book are walking to? Why do you think this?
  - Read the back cover of the book. What does it say and what do you think this means? How does reading this sentence make you feel?
- Where are all the different places mentioned in this story? On a map of Australia, mark down all the places mentioned.
  - Why do you think so many different places are mentioned in this story? What does the fact that so many are mentioned tell us about the size and diversity of Australia, and the Australian people?
- Individually or in pairs, research one of the places mentioned in the story, and locate some basic information about it, and some photographs or pictures of it. Print out, or photocopy, two to four different pictures that you feel

capture something important about the unique nature of the place you have researched, caption them, and attach them to a large map of Australia on or near the relevant location. As a class, discuss the different imagery located and chosen by class members, and what it tells us about the different locations. Which place do you think you would most like to visit and why?

- As a class, go for a walk around your local area, paying attention to where you travel and what you see on your walk. After returning to class, discuss where you went and what you saw on your walk. Talk about both the natural environment and the built environment, and recall all the different types of terrain that you walked upon as you went. How does walking around your local area feel in comparison to when you walk around an unfamiliar place? Using the artwork in the story for inspiration, paint a picture of your class on your walk.
- What are the different meanings of the phrase 'Walking Together'? What does it mean when we say someone 'Walks Alone'? Having read the story, what do you see as being the figurative meanings of the phrase 'Walking Together', and how might it be possible to see what it embodies actualised in reality?
- Look carefully at all the different illustrations within the story, and discuss some of the symbolism. Some of the things you might like to include in your discussion might be:
  - How many different types of footwear can you identify in the story as a whole?
  - What do you think the different types of footwear represent?
  - Which of the types of footwear shown in the story look like ones which you might wear?
  - Why do you think so many of the people in this book have bare feet?
  - What activities are all the different people in this story doing, and why do you think the illustrator has chosen these activities to represent some of the different experiences that can come with being Australian?
  - What do you believe the illustration of the half-built wall represents?
  - Why do you think the artist has used the tiny beetle as a recurring motif within the illustrations? What concepts do you think it could be seen to embody?
  - What do you see being represented by the artwork towards the end of the book, that shows the two children climbing a set of stairs?
  - Why do you think that the artist has chosen to not include faces in most of the illustrations, and instead has focused on legs and feet, for the most part?
  - Why do some illustrations also include the pictured person's face? Why might these illustrations differ from the others?
  - What is happening on the pages where a map is shown? Why do you think the artist chose to overlay these different images, and what might they represent?
- As a class, read the Uluru Statement From The Heart. After reading it discuss what you have learnt, and what you would like to learn in the future, based on these words. Some important things to consider during the course of your discussion are:
  - Who are the authors of the Uluru statement from the heart?
  - When was this written?
  - Why was it necessary for it to be written?
  - Why is it so important that all Australians listen to what it says?
  - How does the book resonate with and exemplify the statement?
  - Why do you think the author chose the final sentence of the statement for the cover of this book?
- Having read the Uluru Statement From The Heart, create an artwork that you feel embodies a concept, idea, or section of it, just as *Walking Together* embodies the final sentence.
- As a class, discuss all the different ways in which we can 'Walk Together', both as a collection of individuals and as a wider community. What are the ways that you as a class can 'Walk Together', and how do you see this translating to your local community, and to Australian society as a whole? What are specific actions, behaviours, and attitudes that we can all practice to increase the amount of 'Walking Together' that we all do?
- As a class, read and discuss the quote from Lee Joachim, Yorta Yorta man, at the very start of the book. Do you think that this quote says the same thing as the main story in this book? Why/why not and in what ways?
- What do you see as the most important message that *Walking Together* is conveying? If you had to condense the

story into a single sentence, what would that sentence be? Write out your sentence in a large bold font in the centre of an A4 piece of paper, and using pencil and watercolour, create a background artwork that incorporates imagery that you feel is representative of the message you are trying to convey.

AUTHOR OF NOTES  
**RAE CARLYLE**