

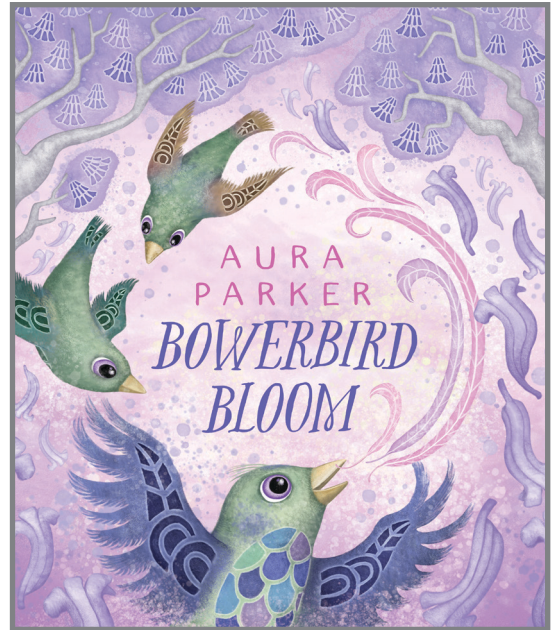
Bowerbird Bloom

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

I am a dancer.

Flitting,

floating,

in the purple rain.

Growing,

changing,

and collecting blue.

But what happens when you want too much?

Join the bowerbird chicks in this tale of family and forgiveness, from the best-selling author of *Bowerbird Blues*.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Aura Parker is an illustrator, designer and writer, creating bodies of work including textile designs, prints and picture books. Her work is joyful, imaginative and brimming with details to explore. She works from a studio in Sydney and this is her fifth picture book with Scholastic Press. The best-selling *Bowerbird Blues* was selected as ALIA's National Simultaneous Storytime book for 2024, read live to over two million children.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the story, discuss what you can learn about it from the cover artwork and the title. Some things you might like to include in your discussion could be:
 - What is a bowerbird, and what do you know about them?
 - Has anyone in the class read *Bowerbird Blues*? If so, what can you remember about the story and what happens in it? Share your recollections with the rest of the class.
 - What are the bowerbirds on the front cover doing?
 - What are the bowerbirds on the back cover doing?
 - What do you predict is likely to happen in this story? Why do you predict this?
 - Where are the bowerbirds on the cover?
 - What can you see in the background of the cover art?

- What tree do you think the bowerbirds are sitting in, and what makes you think it is this type of tree?
- Read the text on the back cover of the book. Do you want to change your predictions as to what is likely to happen in the story? Why/why not and if so in what way?
- What are bowerbirds known for? In small groups, or as a class, look online or in the library for more information about bowerbirds.
- Look online for videos of bowerbirds singing, dancing and building their bowers. See if you can find a video filmed and posted by the author of this book! After watching the video/s, discuss what you saw the real life bowerbird doing, and try to spot as many of the different real life behaviours that also appear in this story.
- At the beginning of the story, the blue-winged bowerbird says that they are a dancer. In small groups, invent a one minute long bowerbird-themed dance of your own to perform for the rest of the class. As a class, discuss the ways that bowerbirds can move through space that people can't, and different ways that we can show this type of airborne movements. Try to incorporate a sense of motion, flight, and working together in your dance.
 - Look carefully at the pictures where the three birds are dancing together to help inspire your choreography. As a class, perform your different dances for another class or at an assembly. You might want to look online for an instrumental track to perform your dance to, and make bowerbird costumes to wear.
- The blue-winged bowerbird gets great joy from spending time with their siblings when they visit. Why did their brother and sister stop visiting them?
- How do you think the brother and sister bowerbirds might have felt when the blue-winged bird stole their treasure? How would you feel if someone close to you stole something precious of yours?
- Why do you think the blue-winged bowerbird stole their siblings' treasures? What were they thinking and feeling when they did so?
- What did the blue-winged bowerbird do to try to make up for their earlier mistakes? Did it work? Why/why not?
- How did reading this story make you feel?
- What is your favourite part of this book, and why do you like it the best?
- What is your favourite illustration in this book? What do you like most about it?
- In pairs or small groups, try to meet the challenge posed in the end pages, and find all the different items and creatures mentioned in the illustrations.
- Blue is a bowerbird's favourite colour, and they will usually collect blue items where they can. What is your favourite colour?
- Individually or in pairs, go on a colour-coded bowerbird treasure hunt in your classroom and/or playground.
 - How many different five-item single-colour mini collections can you make in half an hour?
 - Each mini collection should have five different items in it, with all of them being the same colour.
 - There should be no duplicate items—you can't just collect identical blue paperclips, or borrow all the blue pencils you can find. You need to make sure that you have the owner's permission to use something that belongs to someone else.
 - Carefully arrange all your different collections on your desk to make pleasing patterns.
 - When the activity is over, walk around the classroom admiring everyone else's collections as well as your own. Take a photo of your collections, before returning all the items to their proper places. Use everyone's photos to make a whole-class wall display of colourful collections.
- Where do you think this story takes place? What clues are there in the illustrations that tell us about where these bowerbirds live?
- Write a haiku about a bowerbird.
- Paint a picture using different shades of a single colour. You can either use coloured card in your chosen colour to paint on, or you can paint in acrylic on white paper or card. Your artwork can be abstract, or it can feature an animal, person, or entire scene. You might also like to create a mixed-media artwork using pencil, crayon, oil pastels, and paint as well as collage. The only limitation is that everything needs to be a various shade of your chosen colour.
 - Look carefully at the illustrations in the story for inspiration on how to create a picture using contrasting shades of the the same colour.
 - Display your finished artworks on a hallway wall for everyone to admire.

AUTHOR OF NOTES
RAE CARLYLE