

Miimi Marraal Mother Earth

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
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SYNOPSIS

*Miimi Marraal, she created us,
you and me...*

From Gumbaynggirr artist Melissa Greenwood, of mother-daughter art and design label Miimi and Jiinda, comes a deeply felt and heart-stirring picture book about the connection between mothers, babies and Miimi Marraal, Mother Earth.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Melissa Greenwood was born on her Gumbaynggirr jagun (homelands) in Coffs Harbour and raised between both Gumbaynggirr and Bundjalung nations.

On Melissa's matriarchal side, she is a Gumbaynggirr custodian with strong ties to Bundjalung and Dunghutti. Her father's side has English and Welsh heritage. Melissa was raised by her single Aboriginal mother so identifies strongly with her Aboriginal heritage and is a miimi (mum) of two beautiful giibarrin (boys).

From a very young age Melissa has been passionate about creating change for her people. Melissa completed both an Associate Diploma in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and a Bachelor of Justice Studies majoring in Critical Criminology. Melissa has used her skills to work tirelessly for the Indigenous community for over a decade running National Projects, Aboriginal Youth Programs and supporting survivors of the Stolen Generation.

Melissa is the founder and director of Miimi and Jiinda, a thriving Australian art business. Melissa has just launched a sister brand called Ochre by Miimi and Jiinda which is her fashion and homewares label. Melissa's dream is to create a platform that not only supports her people but provides opportunities for them for employment and avenues for growth and self-determination.

Learn more at www.miimiandjiinda.com.

STUDY NOTES

- Melissa Greenwood, the creator of *Miimi Marraal Mother Earth* is a Gumbaynggirr custodian which means her family are the traditional owners of the land on which she is from. Who are the traditional custodians of the land on which you live?

- What language is spoken by these traditional custodians?
- Are there any words from this language that would be familiar to the wider Australian community (for example, the word 'koala' comes from the Dharug word 'gula' meaning no drink), or that you think should be more widely known and used (for example, the word 'baagu' means canoe because back in the old days canoes were made from bark)?
- Many cultures have stories around the creation of the earth, is there a story that you're familiar with? Research another First Nations creation story, and create a short picture book telling that story to the rest of your class.
- The image of a mother and child can be symbolic of other relationships. Can you identify other relationships that Melissa Greenwood might be referring to?
- *Miimi Marraal Mother Earth* emphasises the importance of looking after Mother Earth, because she looks after us. Identify all the natural elements that are mentioned in the book. For three of these elements, outline what they give to us, and what we can do to help them.