

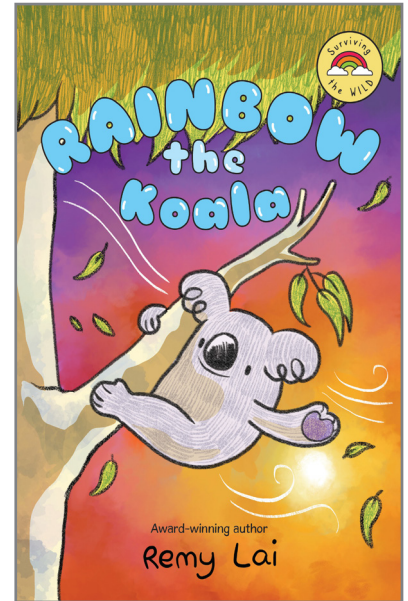
Surviving the Wild #1: Rainbow the Koala

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SCIS: 5397676

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

Hi! I'm Rainbow and I'm a koala. My mum says it's time for me to go out and find a new home to call my own. But life in the bush can be scary! It's hard to find the perfect tree. A kookaburra keeps laughing at me. It's hot and I'm thirsty and... do I smell smoke?

A heartfelt and hopeful early reader graphic novel series featuring adorable animals surviving in the wilderness despite the perils of climate change, from the award-winning creator of *Pawcasso*.

CREATOR BACKGROUND

Remy Lai was born in Indonesia, grew up in Singapore and currently lives in Brisbane, where she writes and draws stories for kids with her two dogs by her side. She is also the award-winning creator of *Pie in the Sky*, *Fly on the Wall* and *Pawcasso*. Find out more about Remy at www.remylai.com

BEFORE READING

- Hold up the cover of *Rainbow the Koala*, while masking the book's title with your hand. Now ask the following questions:
 - What kind of animal is Rainbow? [Reveal the title once it is established that Rainbow is a koala.] Where might we find Rainbow? What would Rainbow eat? Is Rainbow a marsupial?
 - Explain to students that this is the first story in a series called 'Surviving the Wild'. [Point to the logo in the upper right-hand corner and ask questions, such as] What sort of dangers do you think Rainbow might face living in the wild? What can we do to keep creatures like Rainbow safe in the wild?

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- According to Rainbow's mum, where should koalas go if in danger? (pp 10–11)
- Why are all the animals in the bush thirsty? (p 33)
- What has happened to the creek? (pp 36–37)
- What dangers do humans pose to animals like Rainbow? [Hint: think about Rainbow stopping on the road and falling in the family's pool.]
- Where do animals hide during bushfires? (pp 60–66)
- Where does Rainbow go to recover after the bushfire? (pp 90 and 101)

- Do you think the story has a happy ending when Rainbow and Rainbow’s mum see the flowers in the bush?
- Humans and dogs posed dangers to Rainbow early in the story but how did both help Rainbow return to the bush?
- List three things you learned about koalas (pp 102–103) and three things about eucalyptus trees. (pp 104–105)
- Name three things you can do at school to use less energy and help slow down climate change. (pp 106–107)

GRAPHIC NOVEL EXERCISES

- Graphic novels show you how a character is feeling. Rainbow sometimes feels angry, scared and exhausted in *Rainbow the Koala*. Can you find images of Rainbow feeling these emotions in the story and explain what it was in each image that helped you recognise that feeling?
- Onomatopoeia is when words sound like their meanings—for example words such as boom, crash or bounce. Graphic novels often feature lots of onomatopoeic words—and these are often handwritten in special lettering, so the word also looks like its meaning! Turn to p 22 of *Rainbow the Koala* and look at the words CHOMP and OW! What is it about these words that tell us that the mean koala is threatening to bite Rainbow? And sometimes words aren’t necessary at all. Look at the following page and discuss how Remy Lai shows the mean koala still trying to bite Rainbow all the way down the tree.
- The term panel is used in graphic novels to describe each sequential image and its accompanying words. Panels are often similar in size but can be bigger or smaller at points as a special way to tell the story.
 - Turn to the first double-page spread in the story, featuring the words ‘That’s my mum high up in a gum tree.’ and discuss why Remy Lai decided to place two smaller panels next to the large image of Rainbow’s mum sitting in the tree. [Hint: did the size of the images suggest to you that the bush is big and Rainbow’s mum’s pouch is small and snug?]
 - Can you find other examples in *Rainbow the Koala* where changing the size or shape of panels helped tell the story?