



## OMNIBUS BOOKS

Category	Junior Fiction
Title	Flying High
Author	Sally Morgan & Ezekiel Kwaymullina
Illustrator	Craig Smith
Publication date	April 2015
Format	198 x 128 mm
Extent	64 pp
Binding	Paperback
Printing	Mono
ISBN	978 1 74299 070 5

### Previous publications

#### Sally Morgan

*A Feast for Wombat*  
(Omnibus Books, 2014)

#### Sally Morgan & Ezekiel Kwaymullina

*Magpie Learns a Lesson*  
(Omnibus Books, 2015)

*The Memory Shed* (Omnibus Books, 2015)

*One Rule for Jack* (Omnibus Books, 2014)

*Going Bush with Grandpa*  
(Omnibus Books, 2014)

#### Craig Smith

*The Memory Shed* (Omnibus Books, 2015)

*One Rule for Jack* (Omnibus Books, 2014)

*Going Bush with Grandpa*

(Omnibus Books, 2014)

*Bungawitta* (Omnibus Books, 2011)

*Redback on the Toilet Seat*

(Omnibus Books, 2008)

*Just You Wait!* (Omnibus Books, 2004)

*The Monster Fish* (Omnibus Books, 1999)

*I Want Earrings!* (Omnibus Books, 1997)

# Teachers' Notes

## Flying High

Written by Sally Morgan & Ezekiel  
Kwaymullina  
Illustrated by Craig Smith

Teachers' Notes by Rae Carlyle

## Contents

Introduction.....	2
About the Authors .....	2
About the Illustrator.....	2
Activities .....	2

## Introduction

---

Ever since she was tiny, Larni has always wanted to fly, and now, finally, she is getting the chance! Not only will she be visiting her gran, aunts and cousins in distant Port Hedland, but she will get to fly there in an aeroplane, leaving behind the upsets and difficulties of her daily life at school. Larni's holiday brings her more than the chance to spend time with her gran, for just as the land looks different when seen from above, so Larni learns to see herself and her abilities differently. And eventually, she realises that Gran is right when she says 'Larni girl ... You're fantastic at being you!'

## About the Authors

---

Bestselling author and artist Sally Morgan teams with Ezekiel Kwaymullina to produce the latest of a series of chapter books based on Indigenous children, country and family. Sally Morgan is an Australian Aboriginal author, dramatist and artist, widely known for her first book, *My Place*. Her artwork is represented in many collections in Australia and overseas. Her son Ezekiel Kwaymullina has written fantasy for young readers and collaborated with Sally on this and other stories. He has also written a picture book, *The Two-hearted Numbat*, which was illustrated by his sister Ambelin Kwaymullina. Sally and her family live in Perth.

## About the Illustrator

---

Craig Smith is one of Australia's busiest illustrators, and has illustrated hundreds of educational and other books since the 1970s, when he began his career. Early picture books include the classics *Whistle up the Chimney* by Nan Hunt and *Black Dog* by Christobel Mattingley. He has illustrated many picture books and junior novels for Omnibus Books, more recently the award-winning *Bungawitta* by Emily Rodda. He now combines illustrating with delivering talks and drawing workshops in schools around Australia. He lives in Melbourne.

## Activities

---

### English

In *Flying High*, Larni flies high above the countryside in an aeroplane. The authors also use 'flying high' to describe Larni succeeding at things, and feeling good about herself. This is an example of figurative language, and Larni is metaphorically flying, rather than really flying.

Some other phrases in the story that use the idea of flying to describe Larni's feelings are: *taking off, floating on air, flying high, over the moon, fly away.*

- As a class discuss the various meanings of the phrase 'flying high' and why you think the authors chose this as the title of the story.
- As a class brainstorm and make a list of as many different words and phrases related to flying as you can. Discuss how these can be used to talk about how someone is thinking, feeling, or acting.
- Individually, write a short story that uses some of the flying-related words that your class brainstormed, as well as some of the ones used in *Flying High*.

Larni sometimes reads or writes words backwards. This is not something she does on purpose, and she is upset when her classmates make fun of her for it. To cheer her up her big brother thinks of several words that are spelt the same backwards as they are forwards. A word (or phrase) that is the same backwards and forwards is called a palindrome. The palindromes that Ty thinks of in the story are *wow, racecar, and poop*.

- In pairs or small groups, think of as many other palindromes as you can.
- As a class, share all the palindromes you have thought of to make a class list.
- For a challenge, try to write a phrase that is a palindrome. (Hint: it might help if you first think of words that spell a different word backwards, like *was* and *saw*, that can be used in your phrase.)

## Creative Activities

- Larni saw patterns and shapes in the land below when she was in the plane. Look at an aerial photograph of Australian countryside, and see what patterns and shapes you can find.
  - Use the shapes you see in the land as inspiration for a drawing or painting of an Australian animal. Be sure to choose your palette of paints or pencils from the colours you see in the land.
  - Research Indigenous Australian paintings in the library or online. Create an artwork of your own in the traditional style, using the patterns and shapes you see in the aerial photographs for inspiration.
- Larni created a kangaroo sculpture using a wire base. Create your own sculpture of an Australian native animal using materials that you have available to you. You may choose to use clay and sticks, plasticine, or wire, paper, and cloth.

- Imagine that you are going on a plane trip all by yourself to visit friends and family.
  - Write a short descriptive passage focusing on your feelings about the trip before you leave.
  - If you were going on a two-week trip and could only take one small suitcase, what would you pack? Make a list of the things that you think you would need. Draw, or cut out from old magazines, pictures of the things that you would like to pack in your suitcase, and make a collage by glueing them inside and around a picture of an open suitcase.
  
- If you could fly on a plane to anywhere in the world where would you choose to go, and why?
  - Write a persuasive text sharing your reasons for wanting to go to your chosen destination.
  - Create a visual presentation using PowerPoint slides, photographs, or posters to share information about your chosen destination.
  - As a class share your persuasive text and visual presentation with each other.
  
- As a class, host a formal debate on whether or not it would be more enjoyable to stay in a hotel or with family for a holiday. Divide the class into six small groups. Each group is randomly assigned to team 'hotel' or team 'family'. In groups think of as many arguments in favour of your team's position as possible. The teacher appoints one member of each group as the spokesperson for the debate, and taking turns, the six spokespeople present their group's arguments to the class. Ask another class or teacher to judge whose arguments are the most persuasive.

## Geography

When Larni looks out of the window of the plane, the world below looks very different than it does from ground level. Not everyone can fly in a plane, but aerial photographs and satellite imagery mean that we can all get some idea of what our world looks like from above.

- Search online or in the library for an aerial photograph of your local area. If you can't find an actual photograph, you should be able to find images if you click on the 'satellite view' option at <https://maps.google.com.au/> and search for your local area.
  
- As a class, or in small groups, look at the aerial view on the largest screens you can. Try to identify local places such as your school, your home, or the local shops.
  
- Compare the aerial view to a map of the same area. (If you are using google maps you can change between satellite view and map view).

- Discuss the differences between the aerial view and the map. Which one is easier to locate places on? Which one would be more useful if you are trying to drive somewhere you have never been? What about if you are walking somewhere? What are the different sorts of information that you get from the two different ways of showing the land from above?
- Use the aerial view of your local area to help you create a map of your own showing your home and school. Mark on the map your route to school, and write a set of directions that match your route. Swap directions with one of your classmates and see if you can use them to trace out each other's routes on your maps. If they get lost you might need to make your directions clearer!

Compare the aerial view of your local area to the aerial view of a different part of Australia. Choose an area that is different from your home in terms of both population and climate – e.g. if you live in a city, choose a rural area, if you live in the south, choose somewhere in the far north, if you live inland, choose a coastal region. Write a paragraph describing the main differences that you can see between the aerial views of your home area and the other area. Share your paragraph and the aerial views with your class.

## Health

Larni says that *Every kid knows there are good laughs and bad laughs. I'm sick of the bad laughs.* As a class discuss this statement. Some questions you might want to think about are:

- What does Larni mean by *good laughs* and *bad laughs*?
- How can we tell the difference between the two kinds of laughing?
- How does it feel to laugh? Does it feel different if you are doing a *good* laugh than if you are doing a *bad* laugh?
- How does it make you feel when someone else laughs because of something you've done?
- We all have things that we find difficult to do, and we all make mistakes sometimes. How do you feel when you make a mistake? Does everyone feel exactly the same?
- When someone makes a mistake, what are some of the things we can do or say to help them feel better about it?
- Larni thinks that because she finds school difficult, that she is no good at anything. Is this true?
- What does Larni's gran say to her that helps her feel better about herself?

## Maths and Technology

It takes Larni two hours on a plane to fly from Perth to Port Hedland. Look at a map of Australia, and see how far apart the two places are. As a class discuss:

- Where could you fly to from your home in two hours?
- How long would it take to drive there?
- How long do you think it would take if you had to walk?
- Survey your class, and in small groups make several graphs showing how many people in your class have ever flown on a plane, where they went, and how long the flight took.
  - You may need more than one graph, and you will have to work out which sort of graphs show the different information the most clearly. For instance, if you want to show all three things on the one graph, a bar graph with colour-coded segments of each bar might be useful, but if you want to use separate graphs then a series of pie charts or line graphs might be easier to interpret.
  - As a class look at the different graphs you and your classmates have made using the same data, and discuss which ones are easiest to understand, and which ones have the most information on them. When you present your graph/s to the class remember to share your reasons for choosing that particular format.