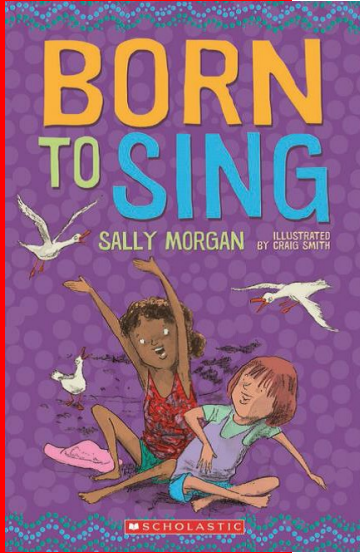


BORN TO SING

SALLY MORGAN | CRAIG SMITH (Illustrator)



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Maddie loves to sing. She also loves listening to her CD of humpback whales singing. Maddie is stoked when she's told that Mum, Nan and her are going to Shark Bay to see – and *hear* – the real deal.

And so they set off on their road trip, with their car and wonky caravan – and Maddie just can't stop thinking about her beloved whales as they travel. But then there are a few hiccups in their plan and Maddie really begins to worry she won't get her chance to meet the singing creatures.

STUDY NOTES

- Maddie really likes singing. Do you do anything as often as Maddie sings? Why do you do/like your activity?
- The boys in the family go to Tasmania to see penguins. How do you imagine their trip went? Describe what you think they might have seen and heard?
- 'The chance of Dad's news being great is a big fat zero. Last holidays we hung around the house.' (p 5) Divide the class into groups. Each group is to come up with ideas for a guide to spending holidays at home. Students can be creative brainstorming a list of games, activities, pastimes, arts and crafts etc. They are to pick the best few ideas and create pages for them as they would appear in a guide book.
- What are the literary devices used in Maddie's song (p 18)?

Study notes written by
Chrysoula Aiello

 SCHOLASTIC

- As a class, watch a video and listen to some whale song (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WabT1L-nN-E>). What other animals sing that students are aware of? See if you can find sound clips and/or videos of these animals singing.
- Using a map of Australia, see if students know where the places mentioned in **Born to Sing** are, then mark each spot with a push pin. Are there any other places that students have been to? How did they go there: by car, train or plane? What do students remember about their trip and/or what is the place they visited known for? Place push pins on these places too.
- At the end of the book Maddie says 'it was the best day ever!' What was your best day ever? Write a recount of your best day ever explaining the highlights.
- Describe Craig Smith's illustration style. What media do you think he has used to achieve such effects? How do the pictures add to the story beyond what is already in the text?
- What other facts could Maddie have shared about whales with her family in the car? Students are to research whales and compile their findings in a whale fact file.
- We learn about whales spyhopping and people watching. What other behaviours are typical of whales? Do you know what they are called? Can you think of any other animals that have characteristic behaviours? What are they?
- What function does song have in Maddie's and her family's life? Are songs always an expression of a happy mood for Maddie? What different moods and events do you know of for which song is used as a form of expression?

