



wise words

This picture book unit has been developed in the Wise Words section of the NTDLs website. It provides teachers, parents and home tutors with access to shared ideas, teaching and learning tips and some best practice materials to use with your children.

Learning Area : Maths , English, all
Integrated Band Level: Key Growth Point 3 to Band 2.
Developer: Sue Thomson.

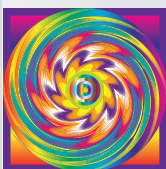


Are we there yet?

by Alison Lester

Overview

Join Grace and her family on their adventurous and sometimes funny expedition. A warm, heartfelt story based on an actual journey undertaken by the much-loved, award-winning author and illustrator, Alison Lester. A great way of looking at a trip around Australia.



Awards



Kids Own Aust Literature Award (KOALA) - Picture Book Short-listed - 2007 for *Are We There Yet?*

Books I Love Best Yearly (BILBY) - QLD - Early Readers Short-listed - 2006 for *Are We There Yet?*

Young Aust Best Book Award (YABBA) - Picture Book Short-listed - 2006 for *Are We There Yet?*

Kids Own Aust Literature Award (KOALA) - Picture Book Winner - 2006 for *Are We There Yet?*

Young Aust Best Book Award (YABBA) - Picture Book Winner - 2006 for *Are We There Yet?*

CBC Book of the Year - Picture Book Winner - 2005 for *Are We There Yet?*

Nielsen BookData Booksellers Choice Award Short-listed - 2004 for *Are We There Yet?*

List from Penguin Australia (January 2009)

This is a fantastic book for fostering a child's interest in the world outside their own community. The point is that this is a family of five that goes out and has an adventure together. In doing this, they are spending time together and discovering more about the country they live in.

There is a lot of information about Australia in the story, taken from a kids-eye-level which engages preschoolers to primary age children.

Young Billy's chant '*Are we there yet?*' is not a yearning for home, rather it's every child's boredom with the seemingly endless driving on a 10,000 km+ road trip around a continent. All children can identify with this!



Learning outcome from NT curriculum framework

Activities

- ◆ Use the completed ***Our Journey map*** on the inside cover. You can discuss **states and territories** with the number of stops the family takes in each one.
- ◆ Make a huge **display** in your class.
- ◆ This is a fabulous way of learning about **Australia**.
- ◆ After studying these places, select groups to present their selected place to the rest of the class. A great way of using **Higher Order Thinking Skills**.
- ◆ Brainstorm a list of **holiday activities**. What are the most popular destinations?
- ◆ This family left behind 3 pets: a cat, a dog and a horse. Conduct a class survey to collect information about pets.
- ◆ In **Alice Springs** the family experienced hot days and freezing nights. Modelling an Internet lesson, you could find out the **temperatures** all year in Alice Springs.
- ◆ The family's car became bogged in the sand in the **Tanami Track**. Where is this? Kids from Alice Springs School of the Air live in this area. Find them all on a map. Discuss **Nth, Sth E & W**.
- ◆ How high would the sand come to on a car for it to become bogged?
- ◆ A football team helped the family. How many are in a football team?
- ◆ At **Mindil Beach markets** they drank mango smoothies. Get kids to research and find their favourite smoothie **recipe**. Make a class **Big Book**.
- ◆ Do a class **survey** for smoothie preferences.
- ◆ At **Kakadu** the family saw some very old cave paintings. Many were handprints. Children can trace around their open and extended **hand**. Determine handspan in centimetres. Also using handspan, children estimate measurements of various lengths around school and class.
- ◆ Look at **lengths** of the Great White Shark, Sperm Whale, Crocodile, and Gecko etc.
- ◆ Trifold an A4 piece of card or paper and make a **travel brochure**.



Additional Ideas

- ◆ Have a **class discussion**. Is it better to travel by car and campervan than by a plane?
- ◆ When looking at the animals in the book (see above), it might be a great learning chance to model a **basic report** on one of them.
- ◆ If you are feeling extra fit. You may like to use the floor plan and **cross section of the camper trailer** and make one in your class????
- ◆ Compare other family holidays in the class. **Make a big book!**
- ◆ **Writing:** look at Alison Lester's writing. Her sentences are far from boring. Instead of using 'and then we went...'; all the time, she uses 'I waved..., we saw... **Brainstorm** all the ones Lester uses in this book plus some others, and display them for your students to use.
- ◆ **Pretend you are Grace** or anyone else on this journey, all the things you have learned about a particular place Uluru, Sydney.
- ◆ Send a **postcard** home to Nanna in Binnum. I have lots of information on the tiny place, as my family lived there for ten years.
- ◆ Use the story as a **scaffold for writing**. Plan around family's journey in your class. Ask questions like: What were the main parts of the journey? Where did it start, end? What happened in the middle? Great for modelled writing.
- ◆ Look at other Alison Lester books. **Great author study!!**

Other holiday books:

Greetings from Sandy Beach by Bob Graham

Maisy goes Camping by Lucy Cousins

At the beach: postcards from Crabby Spit by Roland Harvey

In the beach: Our holiday at Wombat Flat by Roland Harvey

Big Ned by Sofie Laguna

Not a Nibble by Elizabeth Honey

Old Tom goes on holiday by Leigh Hobbs

The Horrible Holiday by Catherine Jinks

Big Ned's Bushwalk by Sofie Laguna

Schnitzel von Krumm-me-not by Lynley Dodd

Going for Oysters by Jeannie Adams

My Mob Going To the Beach by Sylvia Emmerton



Reference

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