

Larry the Kingfisher



Author: Jack Gray
School: Narrabri Public School



Enviro-Stories Education Program

Enviro-Stories is a competition based education program for Primary Schools that was developed by Peekdesigns.

www.envirostories.com.au



This program provides an education experience for kids through learning about the environment. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

In 2011, the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, in partnership with the Central West Catchment Management Authority, provided local kids with the opportunity to join in on this exciting and innovative competition.

Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC is an industry partnership leading research, education and commercialisation in the Australian cotton industry. The Cotton CRC aims to provide innovative knowledge to stimulate economic, social and environmental outcomes at farm, regional and national levels.

www.cottoncrc.org.au

Central West Catchment Management Authority

The Central West Catchment is committed to work with the community to conserve, improve and manage natural and cultural resources. The catchment is located in central western New South Wales, flanked by the Barwon and Darling Catchments to the north and west, Lachlan to the south and the Sydney/Shoalhaven Basin to the east.

www.cw.cma.nsw.gov.au

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Author: Jack Gray
Teacher: Lindy White
School: Narrabri Public School

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC 2011 “An Aussie Bush Tale” Enviro-Stories Competition consists of the following books:

- Larry the Kingfisher
- Pilliga Scrubs Dark November
- The Dilemma
- Information on Australian Animals
- The Monster in the Garden
- Noises in the Night
- Pigs in the Dam
- Where am I?
- The Little Village

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Enviro-Stories is a PeekKdesigns program.

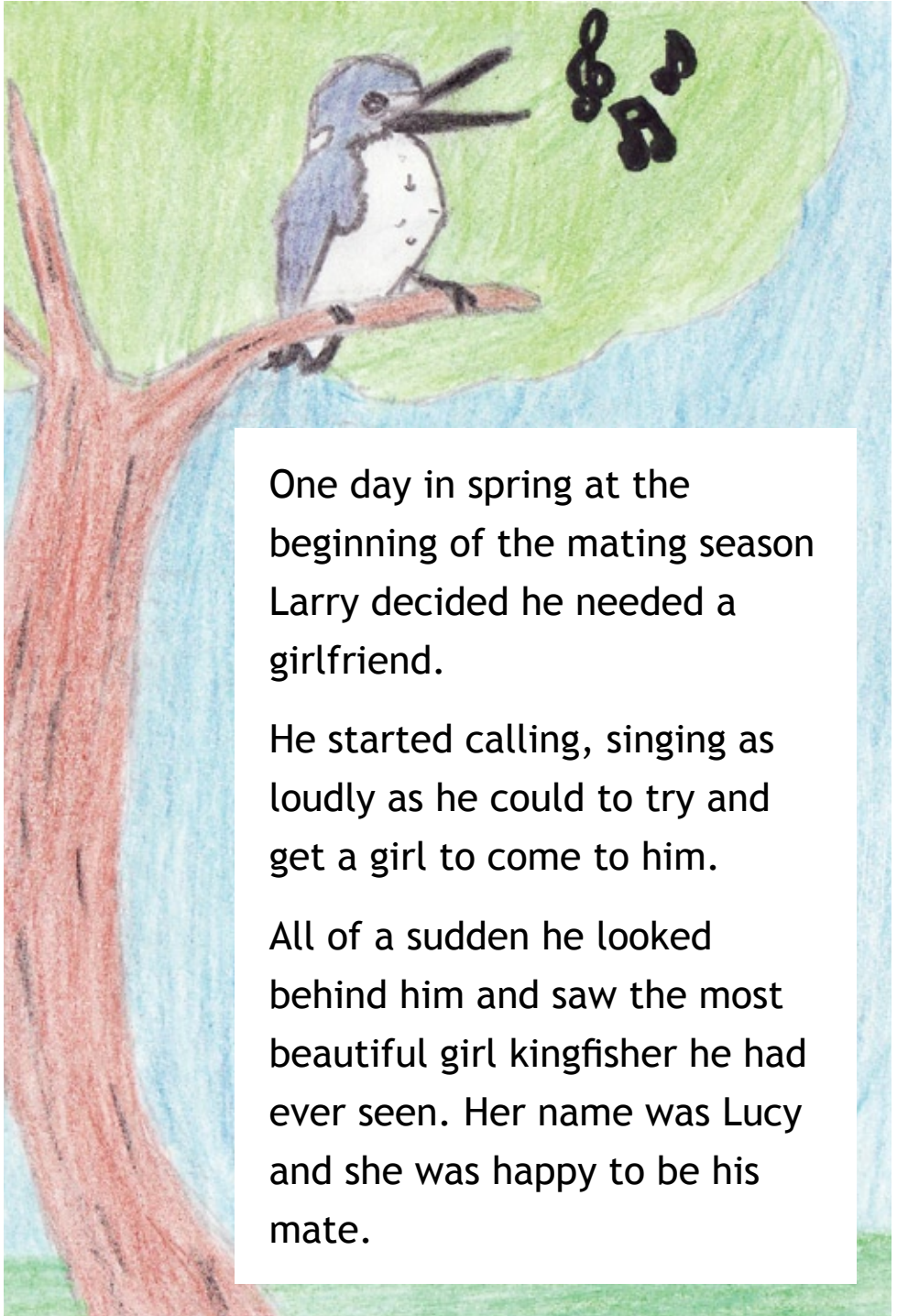
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Once upon a time there lived a little kingfisher named Larry. He lived in the Daintree rainforest just above the understory.



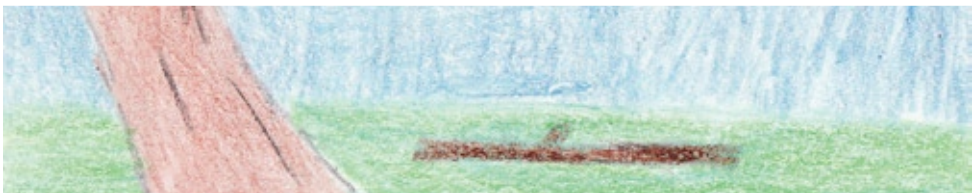
One day in spring at the beginning of the mating season Larry decided he needed a girlfriend.

He started calling, singing as loudly as he could to try and get a girl to come to him.

All of a sudden he looked behind him and saw the most beautiful girl kingfisher he had ever seen. Her name was Lucy and she was happy to be his mate.



To be able to have baby Kingfishers they needed materials to build their nest. Larry and Lucy looked high and low to find sticks, leaves and mud. It took them all day and night, but they finally finished building their nest.





Larry and Lucy had created a lovely home to raise a family. They were very hungry so they flew off to find some food.





When they were out finding something to eat a big green tree snake destroyed their nest.

Larry said to a very upset Lucy, “We will need to find a much safer place to live.”



They went exploring, searching for a much safer place to live.

In amongst the mangroves they found a very sheltered and protected place.

Lucy looked at Larry, smiled and said, “This is a perfect place to live.”





Larry returned to their old nest to retrieve any useful bits and pieces that they could use to build a new nest.

On his arrival Larry was shocked to find the snake still there waiting for the birds to return. He decided to go somewhere else to get the sticks, leaves and mud he would need to make the nest.

He eventually returned to Lucy with all the materials. After some hard work they were finally finished making the nest.

Lucy looked around and exclaimed, “This is beautiful!”





Larry and Lucy were cautious when they next went to find some food to eat.

The decision was made that Lucy would stay home while Larry went to find something delicious to eat.

After a few hours Larry returned with some yummy fish.

They lived happily in their nest and a few weeks later Lucy laid five eggs.



One morning, when Larry and Lucy were guarding their nest, they saw something moving through the water below.

They stared at the object moving in the water wondering what it was.

Larry finally figured out what it was. It was a crocodile. Lucy started to scream and squawk.

“Shhhh you’ll bring him closer,” said Larry.
“Stay here I’ve got a plan.”





Larry flew to the edge of the river and pretended to limp. The crocodile watched him closely and started to follow him.



The crocodile kept following him as Larry led him away. In the distance Larry saw farmer Phil out hunting.

Larry started squawking to attract Phil's attention, "Farmer Phil, Farmer Phil."



Farmer Phil turned around and saw Larry being chased by the big crocodile. So he pointed his gun near the crocodile and fired some warning shots as Larry flew into the air.

The crocodile got scared by the gunfire and left the waterhole. There was nothing that frightened crocodiles more than guns.



Larry flew back home to his lovely wife Lucy. He told her the story about what happened and that the crocodile had left the waterhole forever.

A week later the five eggs hatched. They had two boys and three girls.

Larry and Lucy had learnt that to be good parents they needed to protect their nest by any manner possible.

It also helps to be very tricky and cunning.





Jack Gray
Narrabri Public School, Grade 6 2011



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