

Noises in the Night



Author: Mya Theodore
School: Moura State 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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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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There once was a little girl who lived in the Aussie bush on a property with her grandfather.

She especially enjoyed being able to ride her pony through the green grass. She loved to stop for a snack and rest under a bush plum tree in the late afternoon.



She sat under the bush plum tree most afternoons. She enjoyed listening to the song of the birds, while she nibbled on a crunchy apple from the orchard. It was her favourite thing to do.





At dusk she always made sure she was indoors. She did not like the large black shadows that glided by in the evening sky. They would land in the tall palm tree outside her window.

Their noise frightened her!



She did not dare go near the window to take a look at them.

Instead she lay in bed with her pillow over her head to silence their eerie shrieking.

She had never liked the bats and they gave her nightmares. Each night grandfather found her with her pillow over her head.

Instead of reading her a storybook one evening he told her a different story.



Grandfather explained to the little girl she shouldn't fear bats as they were very important to the land and in fact made her life better. The little girl could not imagine that this was true.



He told her the many beautiful gums, figs and palm trees on their property grew there because bats ate their fruit and then spread the seed all over the place.

Even her favourite bush plum tree probably grew there from a seed a bat had dropped long ago.

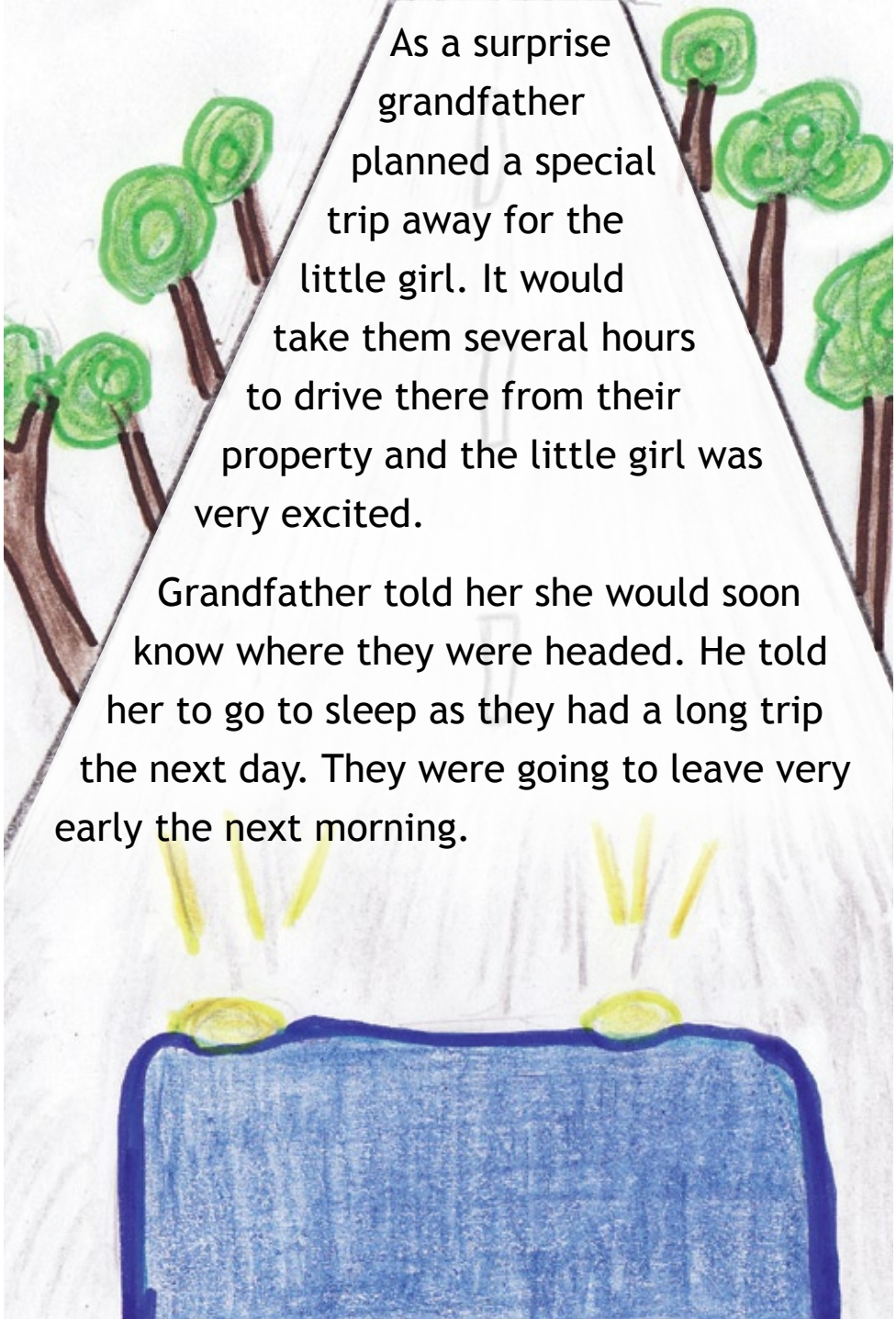


He also explained that bats lived in large colonies or families and they were noisy when they ate. They were nocturnal foragers or night feeders. The sounds the little girl heard at night were only the bats eating their dinner.



The little girl listened and came to realize that bats weren't terrifying. The bats were hard workers for the environment by fertilizing plants and carrying seeds long distances. It was because of bats that plants were able to grow in areas they had never grown before.





As a surprise grandfather planned a special trip away for the little girl. It would take them several hours to drive there from their property and the little girl was very excited.

Grandfather told her she would soon know where they were headed. He told her to go to sleep as they had a long trip the next day. They were going to leave very early the next morning.

After many hours on the road they arrived at their destination. The little girl had always wanted to go to Australia Zoo.





Grandfather told her she no longer needed to be afraid of bats, their noise and how they looked. There were some animals that looked frightening and made unusual noises, and some that were very cute, but all of them in some way were important in nature.



At the bat enclosure the little girl found she wasn't afraid at all as she watched the zoo keepers feed and handle the bats without any fear. It made her feel silly that she had found them so frightening.



After spending the whole day wandering the zoo patting, feeding and watching the many animals the little girl was exhausted but very happy. As an extra treat Grandfather allowed her to choose a gift from the zoo shop.

Grandfather was delighted to see the little girl that night fast asleep happily cuddling her soft bat toy without a pillow over her head.





Mya Theodore
Moura State School, Grade 3 2011

