



The Adventures of the Superb Parrots of Savernake

Year 5/6 Class

Savernake Public School





Enviro-Stories is an environmental education program that has been developed by PeeKdesigns.



www.envirostories.com.au

This program provides an education and learning experience for kids through their active engagement with natural resource and catchment management issues. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

The Adventures of the Superb Parrots of Savernake

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“Biodiversity of the Murray Catchment” Enviro-Stories Education Program

In 2012, the Creative Catchment Kids program delivered the “Biodiversity of the Murray Catchment” Enviro-Stories Education Program. The project was initiated by the Murray Darling Association and Burrumbuttock Public School. It was generously funded by the Murray and Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authorities, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Teys Australia, Wagga. Additional support came from the Wirraminna and Riverina Environmental Education Centres.



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High in the hollow of an old skeleton gum tree lived a pair of Superb parrots. They were part of an extended family of many, who flew from ground to tree foraging for seeds from the flat, grassy paddocks that surrounded their home.

They enjoyed the warmth that the climate of Savernake provided during the warmer months of the year. When it turned cold, they flew north to the Tottenham region.

Their Savernake home overlooked the busy playground of the local school, busy with games of chasey, dodge ball, sand-pit constructions and ‘families’ in the cubby. The noise of the children was comforting to the pair as they went about their daily nesting chores. But life wasn’t always so idyllic for these feathered friends.



The north-westerly wind was blowing and the heat from the bare paddocks reflected onto all the birds and animals in the area. The hollow of the tree gave some protection from the wind, but the heat was searing, constant. Sitting still, silently, was the only way to combat the scorching heat.



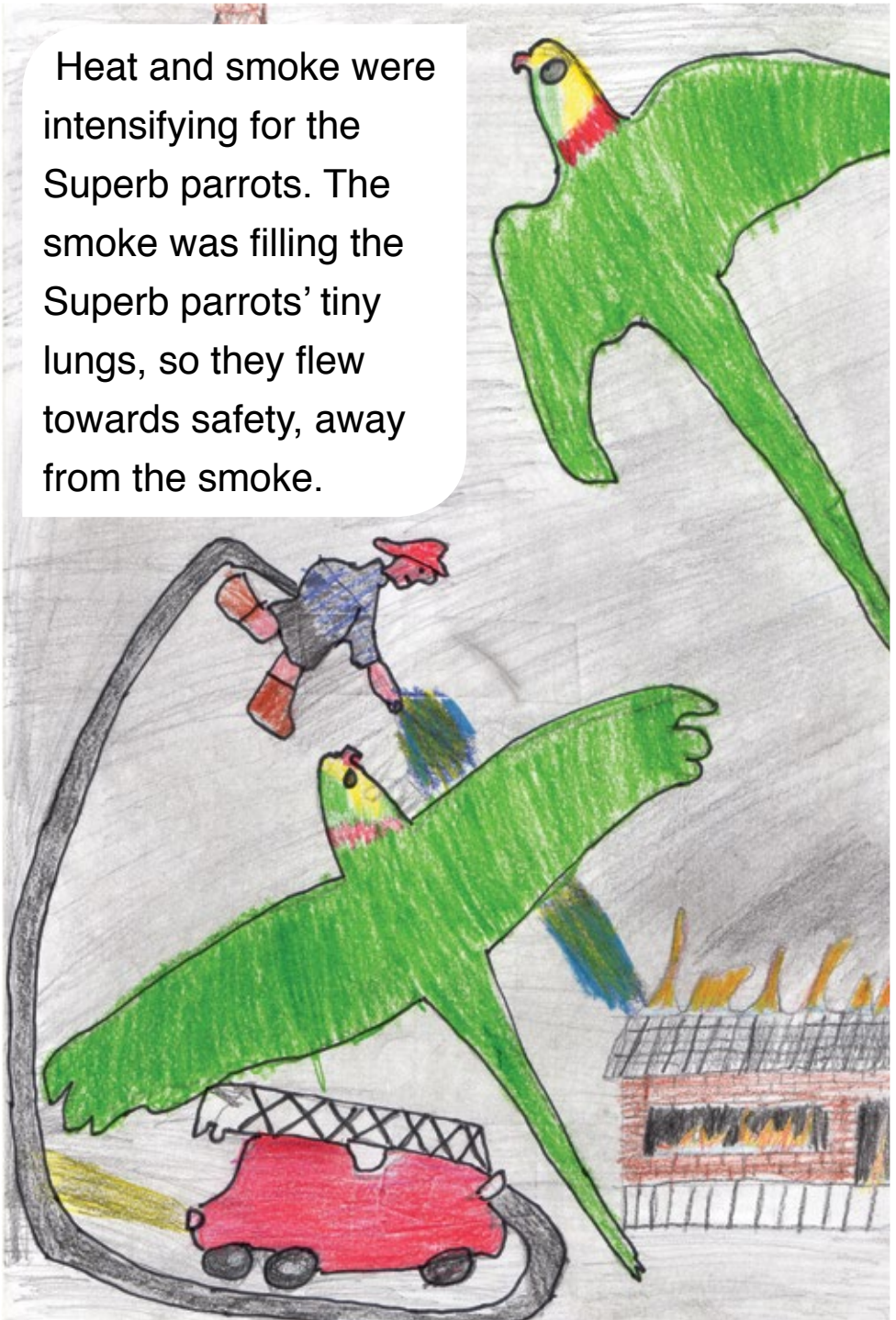


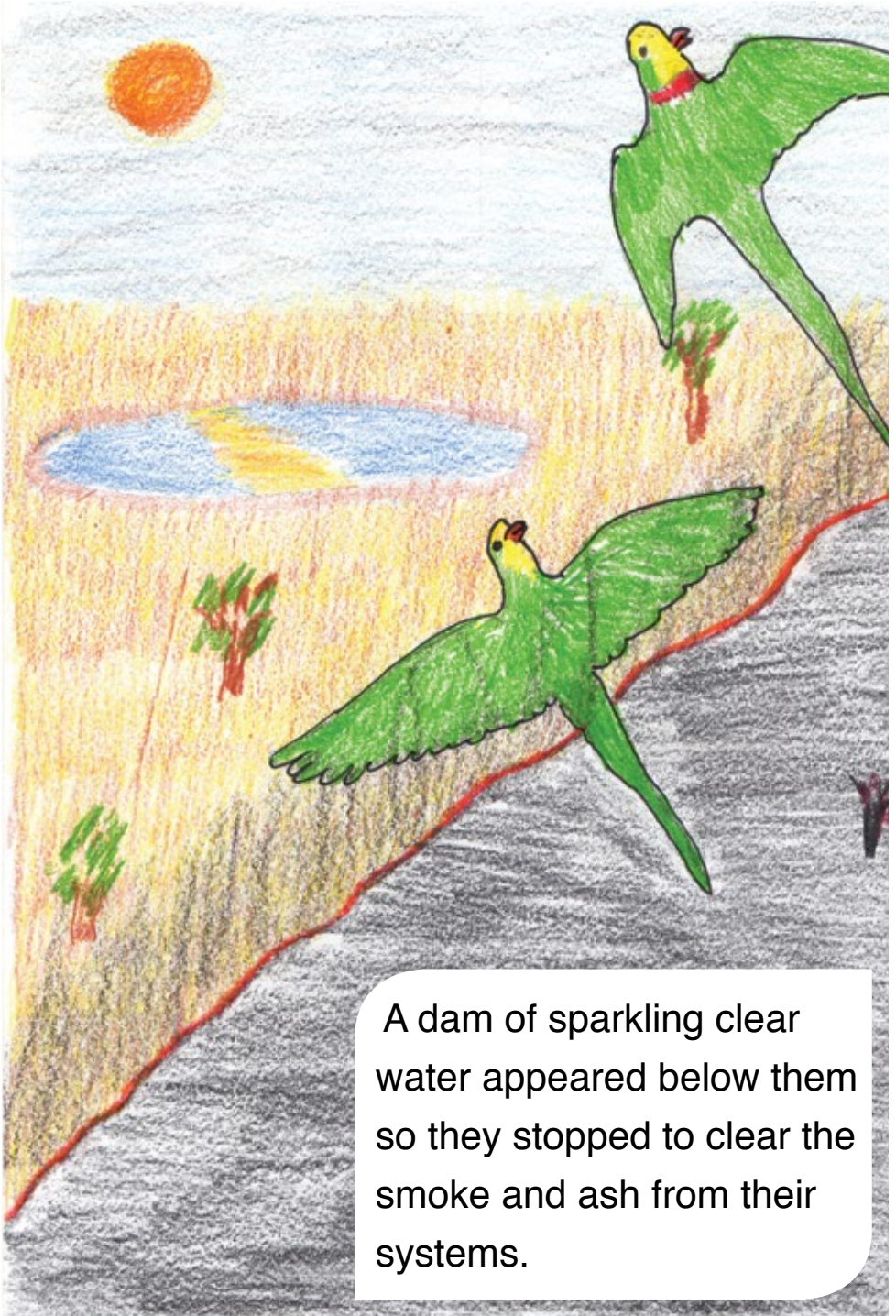
The air became heavy, and a strange smell gradually wafted towards the Superb parrots' nesting home. What was that strange smell?

The phones of the school were ringing, many times more than usual. Teachers and the students were busy collecting their belongings and climbing onto the buses to be taken to safety.



Heat and smoke were intensifying for the Superb parrots. The smoke was filling the Superb parrots' tiny lungs, so they flew towards safety, away from the smoke.





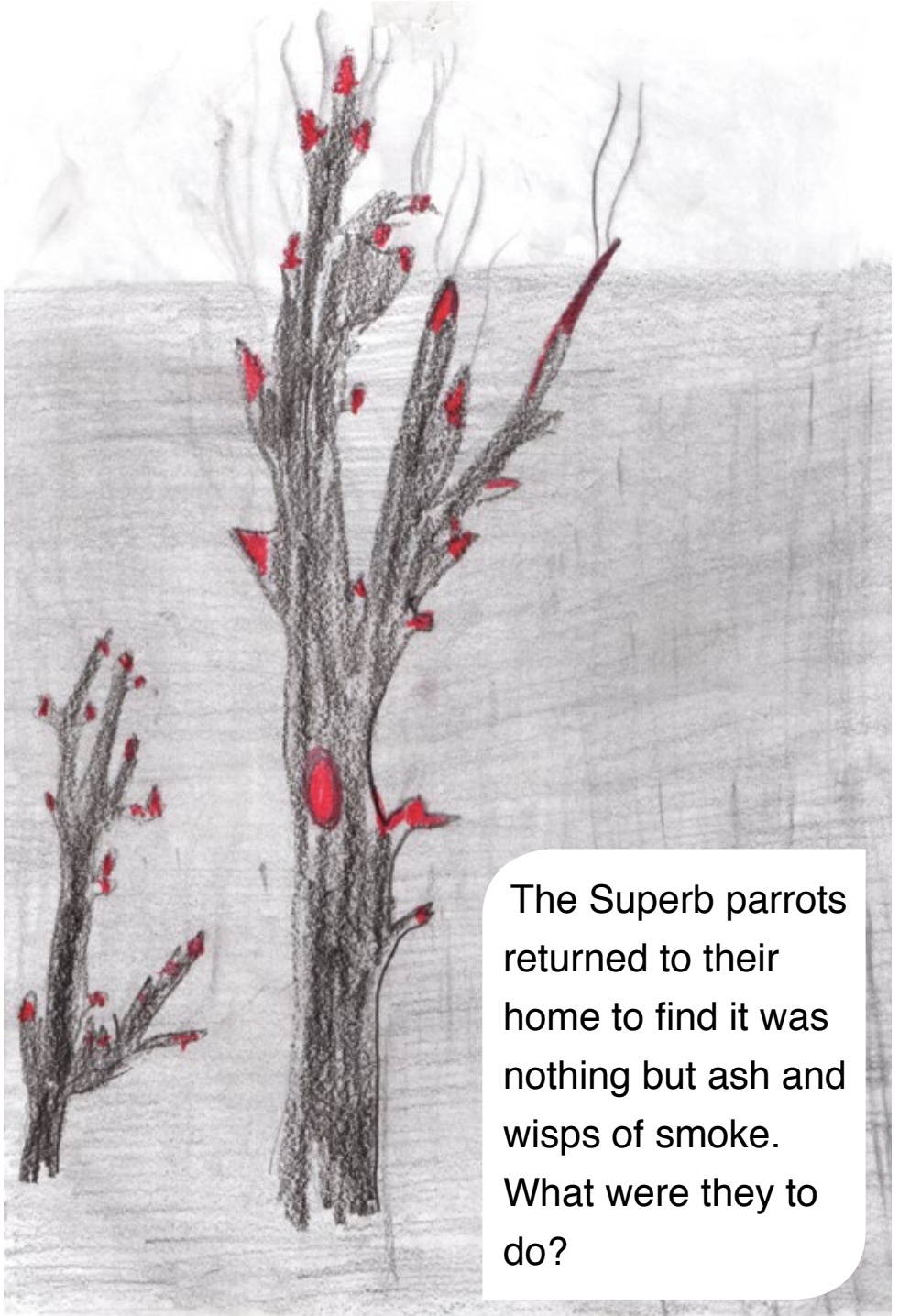
A dam of sparkling clear water appeared below them so they stopped to clear the smoke and ash from their systems.



Meanwhile the flames grew higher, stronger and hotter as they descended on the school and its surroundings. There was little the firefighters could do to defend against the fiery rage.

The people in the community were very sad that their school had been burnt down and that the surrounding environment was just charred ash and blackened sticks.





The Superb parrots returned to their home to find it was nothing but ash and wisps of smoke. What were they to do?



Not so far from the school, the parrots found a hollow tree where they were able to rebuild their home. This habitat included water close by, some untouched by fire, vegetation with plenty of seeds for their diet and shelter from rain and wind. This home was high in the tree away from foxes and feral cats, their main predators.

The Superb parrots were happy in their new home, and soon the time came for them to lay eggs and begin a new generation of Superb parrots.





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