

The Home Hunt



Millicent Bruce
Narrabri Public School



Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by Peekdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

www.envirostories.com.au

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The Home Hunt

Author: Millicent Bruce

Teacher: Mrs. Allison

School: Narrabri Public School

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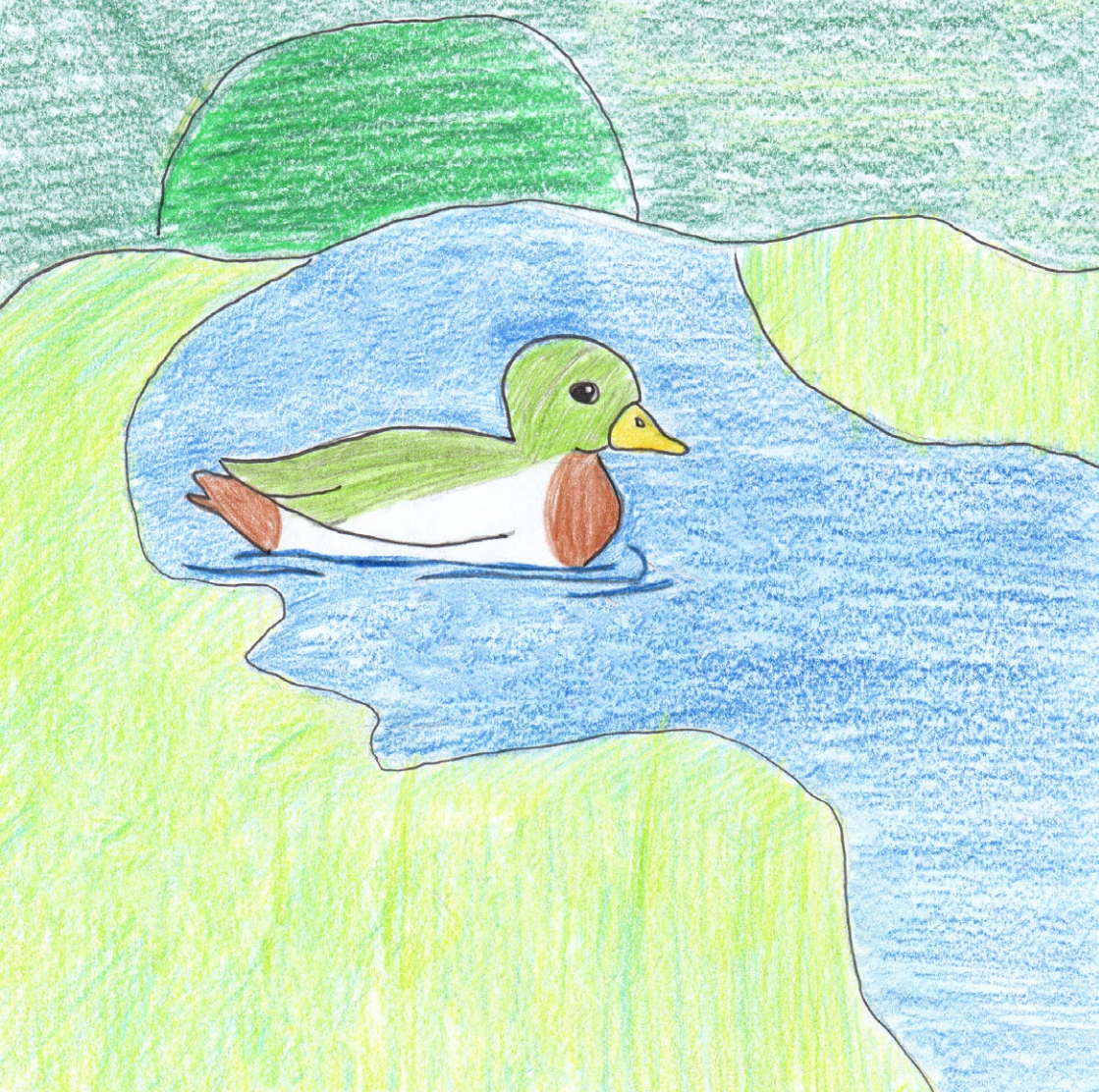
Bruce, M. 2016. *The Home Hunt*. Cotton Research and Development Corporation, NSW.





Once there were two ducks called Henry and Ary. They lived in the reeds along the Narrabri Creek.

Henry and Ary were very excited. Ary had laid an egg and they were waiting for their new duckling to hatch.



Sadly, their home wasn't a nice place to live anymore. It hadn't rained for a long time, so the creek was very low and it had a lot of green algae growing on it. They found it difficult to find enough food for their growing family.



Ary knew that her egg would be hatching soon and that if the drought didn't break they would have to find a new place to live. They needed somewhere they could find clean water, food and good shelter.



Henry had an idea. He thought that the best way to find a new home was to see where other animals were happy living. He flew to the Pilliga to find their friends and to check out their homes.



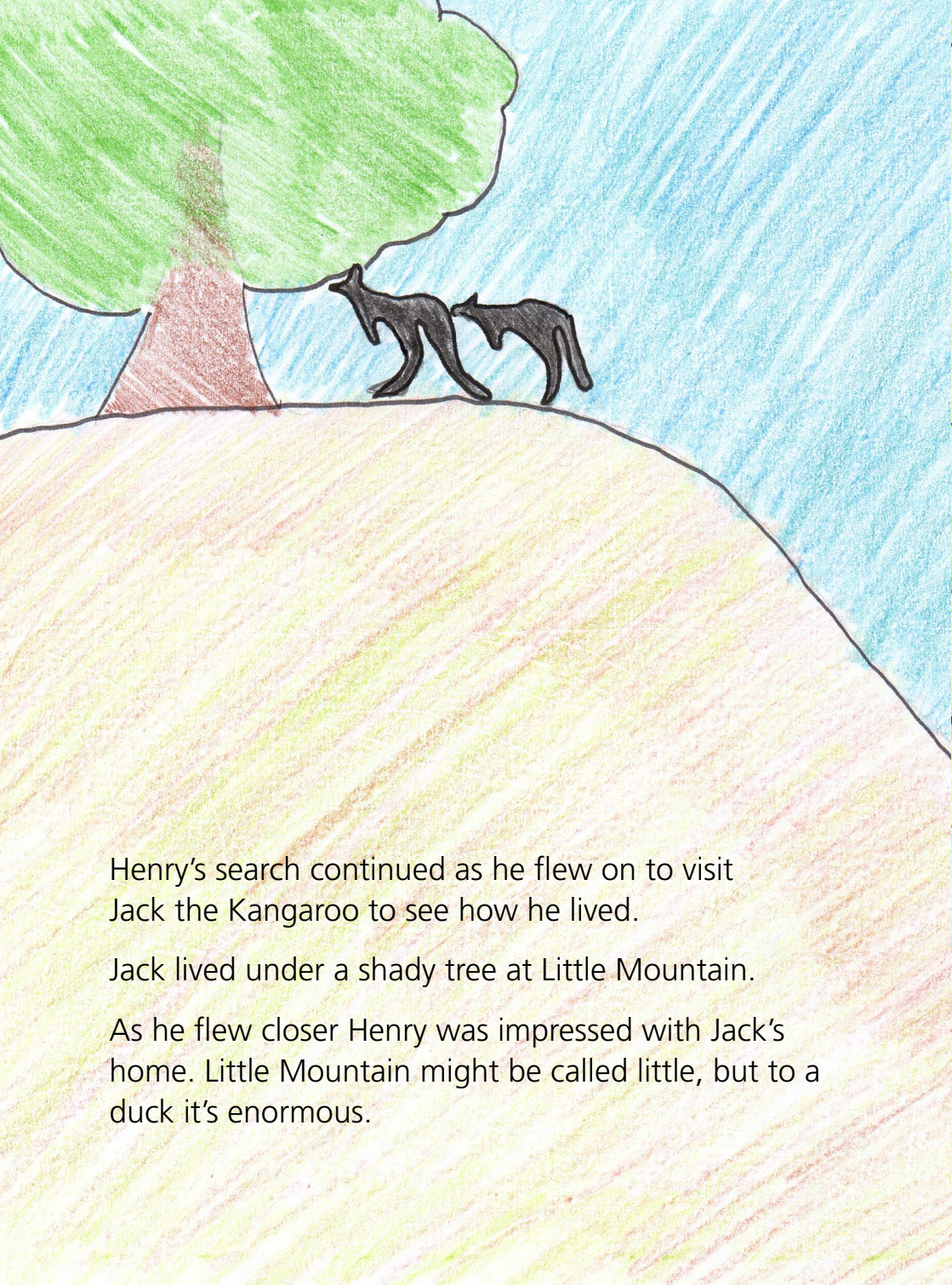
Henry visited Karen the Koala.

Karen lived in a tree in the
middle of the Pilliga.



Karen lived up a tree, slept all day and was awake all night. She ate *Eucalyptus* leaves and worst of all, there wasn't much water anywhere.

Not the best place for ducks!



Henry's search continued as he flew on to visit Jack the Kangaroo to see how he lived.

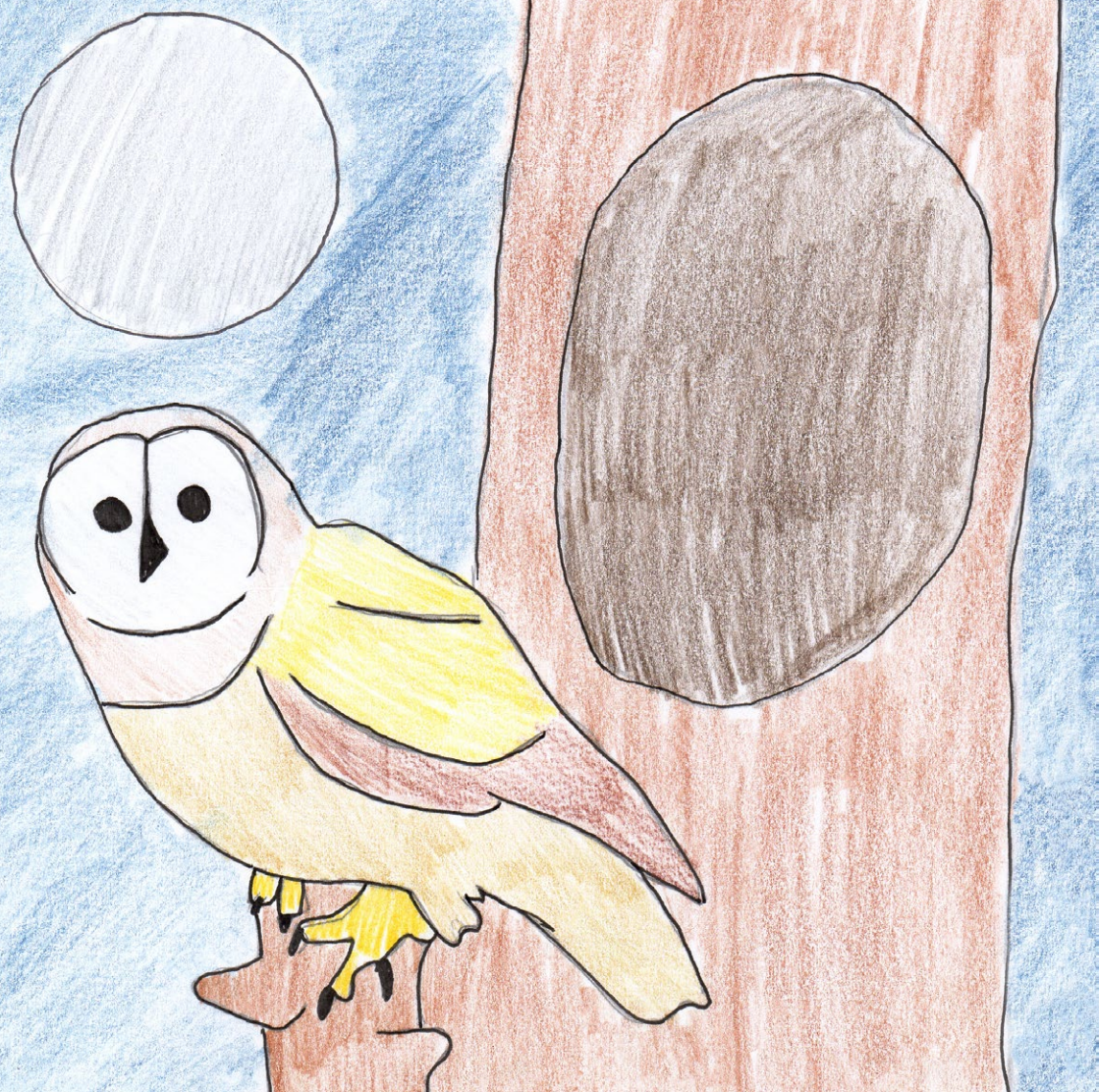
Jack lived under a shady tree at Little Mountain.

As he flew closer Henry was impressed with Jack's home. Little Mountain might be called little, but to a duck it's enormous.



Jack and his family travelled a lot. They had to move around each day to find enough food and water.

Not a great life for ducks!



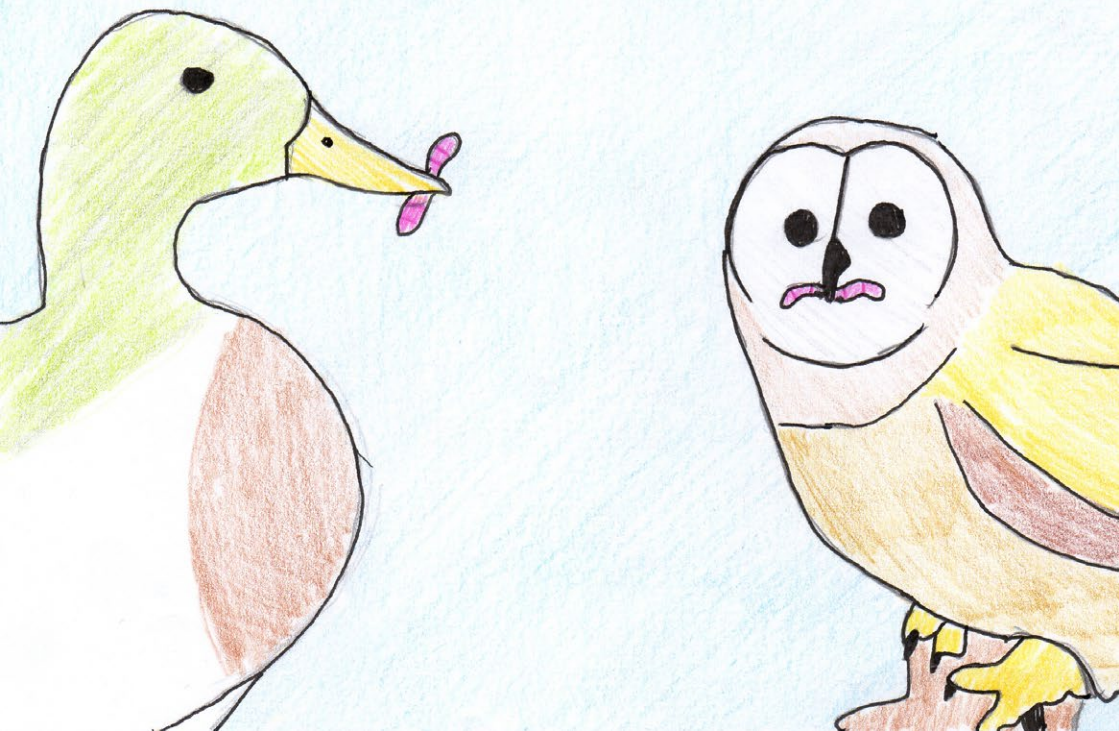
On went the search for a new home as Henry flew to visit Owen the owl.

He lived in a nice hollow in a tree at Mount Kaputar. Owen was very quiet and didn't say much at all.

Owen was nocturnal. He was always asleep during the day and awake all night. At least sometimes Owen said he ate worms, which Henry thought sounded not too bad.

The country around Mount Kaputar was dry and rocky. It too was affected by the drought.

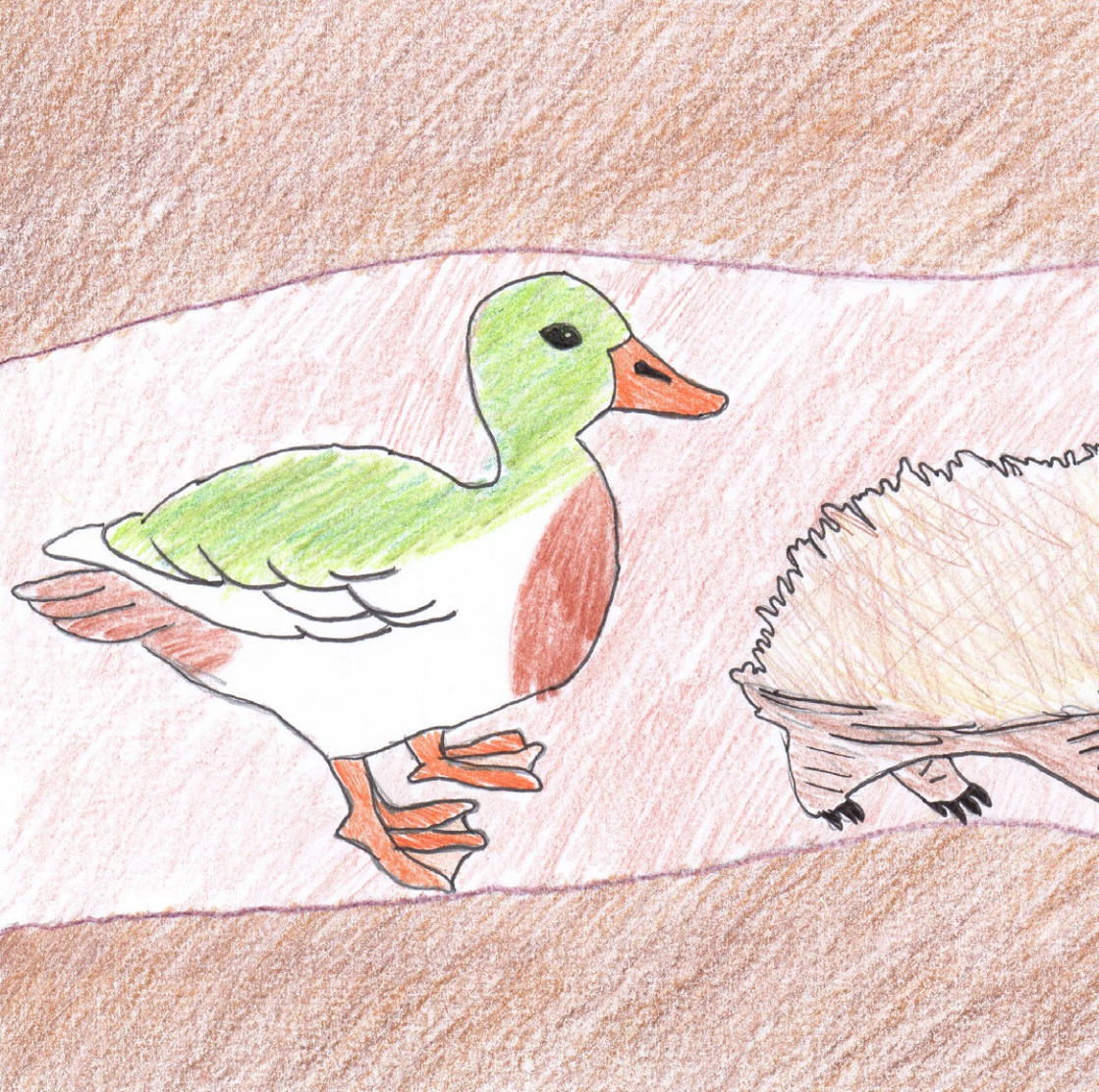
Not a great place for ducks!





The next stop on his home hunt was
for Henry to visit Elli the Echidna.

Elli lived around the Namoi River.



Elli ate ants and lived down a hole. It really hurt when you bumped into her in the confined space. Henry didn't like the thought of living down a hole.

Not a suitable place for ducks!

The word "BANG" is written in large, bold, hand-drawn letters. Each letter is filled with a different color: 'B' is pink, 'A' is orange, 'N' is yellow, and 'G' is green. The letters have thick black outlines and are set against a white background with a wavy, hand-drawn border. The background of the entire page is a textured, reddish-pink color.The word "CRASH" is written in large, bold, hand-drawn letters. Each letter is filled with a different color: 'C' is light blue, 'R' is purple, 'A' is lavender, 'S' is pink, and 'H' is orange. The letters have thick black outlines and are set against a white background with a wavy, hand-drawn border. The background of the entire page is a textured, reddish-pink color.

It was hopeless. All their friends were too different and their homes were not right for a family of ducks.

As he was leaving Elli's home, Henry heard a huge bang and then an enormous crash.

They looked outside and saw flashes of lightning, heard rolling thunder and then it started to rain. Henry was hopeful that it would pour down so Narrabri Creek would begin to flow. If the creek started running, then the ducks home would be saved, the green algae would wash away and they could find food again.

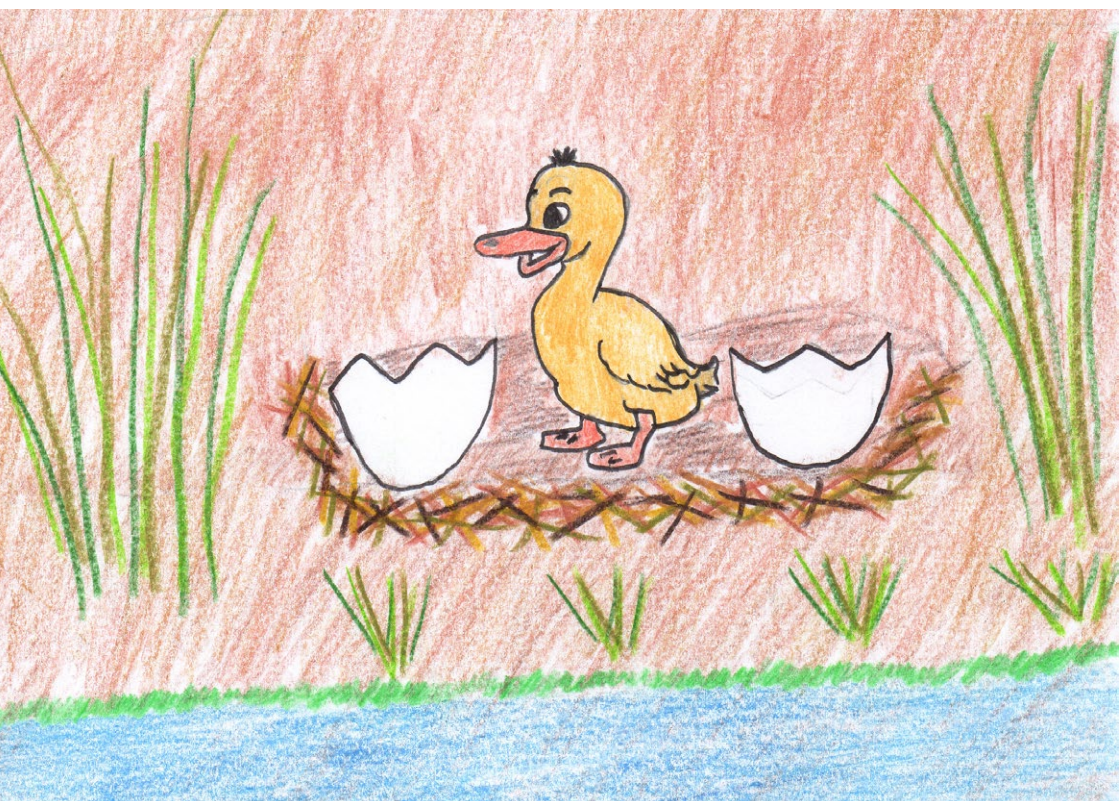
Henry flew through the storm to return to Ary and their egg.



When he arrived home the creek was rising, the algae was gone and the water looked fresh and clean. Henry and Ary celebrated. They would not have to leave their home after all.

As they went back inside they heard a crack. They looked at the egg in their nest — it split open and out popped a little baby duckling. They decided to name her Maxi.

The duck family was very happy they had their home back just in time. They all lived happily ever after.





Millicent Bruce
Narrabri Public School, Year 6 2016



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