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Author Study: Mem Fox – Foundation–Year 2

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Meet Mem Fox's Story World



As we read, notice



Memorable characters



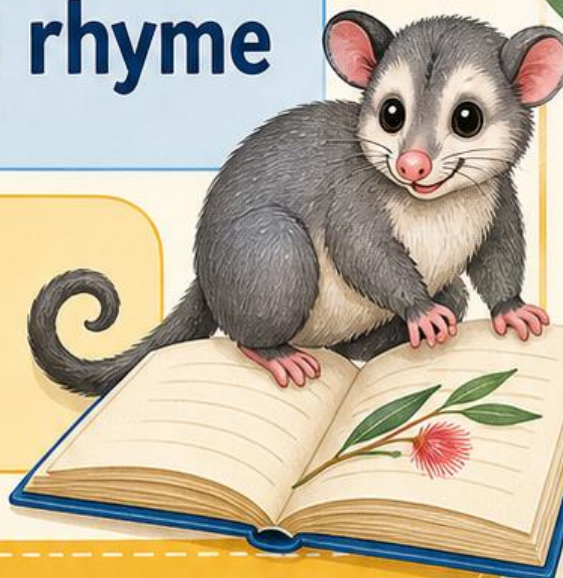
Australian settings



Rhythm and rhyme



Feelings and
big ideas



READ • NOTICE • TALK • CREATE

AUSTRALIAN STORY TRAIL



1.

CHARACTER CAMP

Choose a character.
Show a feeling with
your face and body.



2.

SETTING STOP

Name an Australian place.
Add one sound, colour



3.

STORY SPARK

Pick a magic object.
Tell what happens first,
next and last.



HOW TO PLAY

Move through the three stations with a partner.
Talk, act and create.





AUSTRALIAN STORY TRAIL CARDS



A shy koala



A brave possum



A curious wombat



A helpful cockatoo



A moonlit gum tree



A busy city park



A sunny beach



A quiet bush track



A sparkling hat



An invisible scarf



A singing leaf

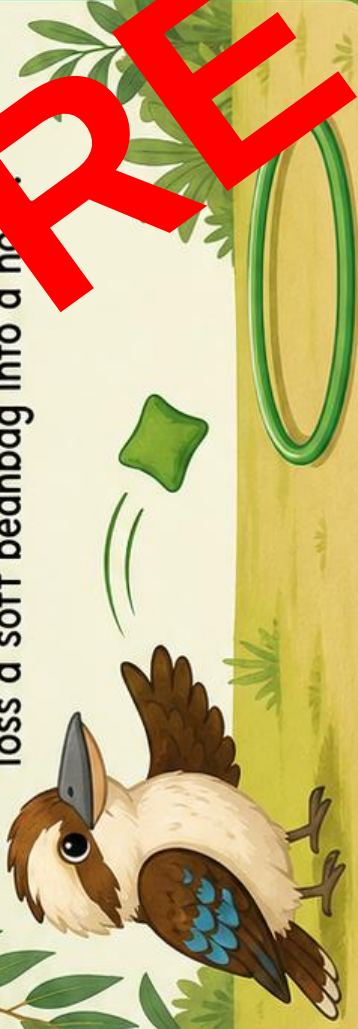


A bouncing book

BUSH STORY GAMES

EUCALYPTUS TOSS

Toss a soft beanbag into a hoop.



KOALA BALANCE

Walk heel-to-toe along a taped line.



GUM LEAF WALK

Carry a paper leaf on a spoon to the finish.



KOALA HUG RELAY

Pass a soft toy gently down your team.



Move safely. Cheer kindly. Try your best.

BUSH STORY GAMES

STATION 1



EUCALYPTUS TOSS

STATION 2



KOALA BALANCE

STATION 3



GUM LEAF WALK

STATION 4



KOALA HUG RELAY



MY MEM FOX READING PASSPORT



Name: _____

Tick each book you read or hear.

☐

Koala Lou

☐

Hattie and the Fox

☐

Possum Magic

☐

A Particular Cow

☐

The Magic Hat

☐

Shoes from Grandpa

☐

Where Is the
Green Sheep?

☐

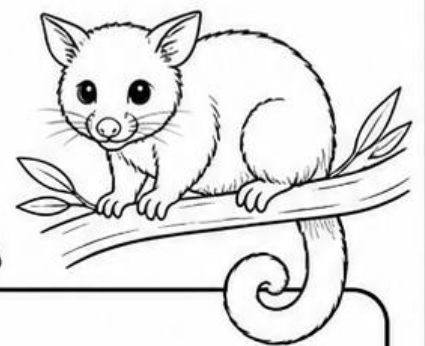
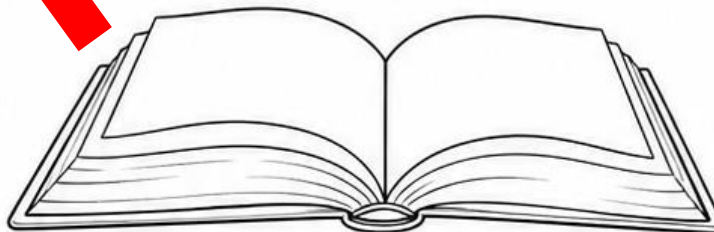
I'm Australian Too

☐

Wilfrid Gordon
McDonald Partridge

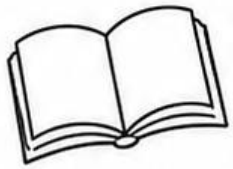
☐

Harriet, You'll
Drive Me Wild!



My favourite was: _____

because _____



DRAW AND TELL BOOK RESPONSE



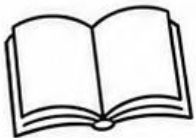
Name: _____

Book title: _____



Draw your favourite part.

PREVIEW



My favourite part was...



It made me feel...



Tell a partner why.



READ AND RESPOND BOOK RESPONSE

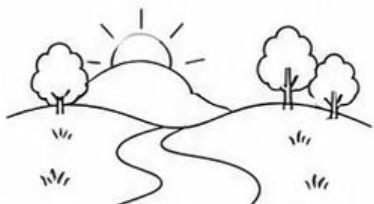
Name: _____

Book title: _____

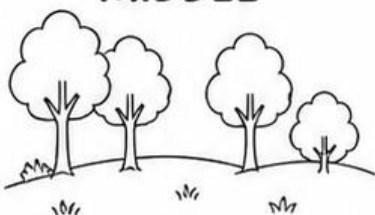
Author: _____



BEGINNING



MIDDLE



END



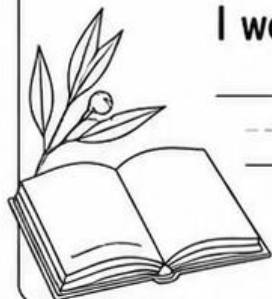
A character I noticed:

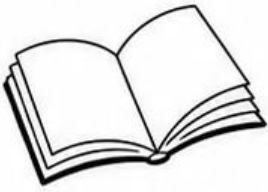


A word or sentence I liked:



I would / would not recommend this book because...





STORY SEQUENCE



Name: _____

Book title: _____

Draw or write the main events in order.

BEGINNING

NEXT



THEN



END



What changed from the beginning to the end?



RHYMING MAGIC



Name: _____



Draw a line to match each rhyming pair.



hat

balloon

road

cat

hop

there

bar

stop

wink

toad

balloon

think



RHYMING MAGIC



Name: ANSWERS



Draw a line to match each rhyming pair.



1

hat

6

balloon

2

road

1

cat

3

hop

4

there

4

bear

3

stop

5

wink

2

toad

6

balloon

5

think

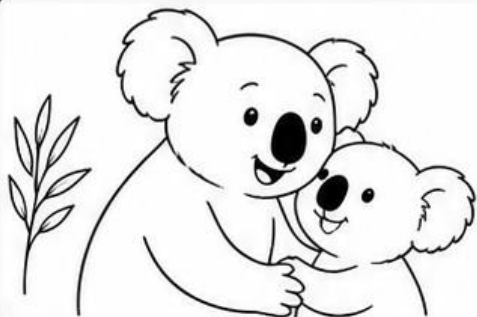


KOALA LOU'S FEELINGS



Name: _____

Circle the feeling that best matches each story moment.



1. Koala Lou's mother says, 'Koala Lou, I DO love you!'

loved

worried

cross



2. New brothers and sisters had lots of attention.

forgotten

proud

silly



3. Koala Lou trains for the Bush Olympics.

determined

bored

sleepy



4. Koala Lou finishes second in the race.

disappointed

excited

calm



5. Koala Lou's mother hugs her at the end.

loved

lonely

angry

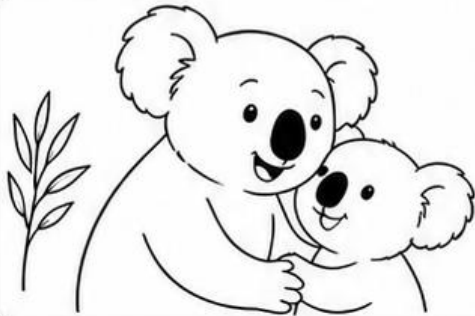


KOALA LOU'S FEELINGS



Name: ANSWERS

Circle the feeling that best matches each story moment.



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2. New brothers and sisters had lost attention.

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4. Koala Lou finishes second in the race.

disappointed

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calm



5. Koala Lou's mother hugs her at the end.

loved

lonely

angry



CHARACTER DETECTIVE



Name: _____

Match each clue to the best trait.

CLUES

A. Keeps practising
even when it is
hard.



B. Helps a friend
who is upset.



C. Tries something
new despite
feeling nervous.



D. Says, 'I can try
again tomorrow.'



TRAITS

caring

brave

determined

hopeful



CHARACTER DETECTIVE



Name: _____ **ANSWERS**

Match each clue to the best trait.

CLUES

A. Keeps practising
even when it is
hard.



1

B. Helps a friend
who is upset.



2

C. Tries something
new despite
feeling nervous.



3

D. Says, 'I can try
again tomorrow.'



4

TRAITS

caring

2

brave

3

determined

1

hopeful

4

POSSUM MAGIC: AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE

Name: _____



Draw a line to match each city with the food eaten there.

CITIES

Adelaide

Melbourne

Sydney

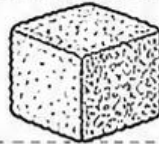
Brisbane

Darwin

Hobart

Perth

FOODS



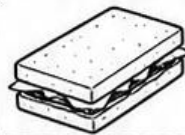
lamington



skin scones



steak and salad



vegemite sandwich



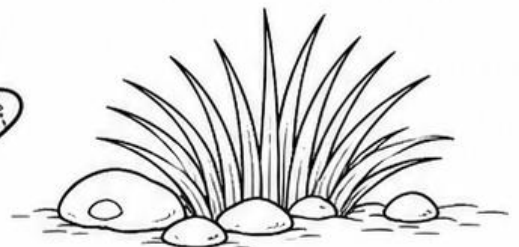
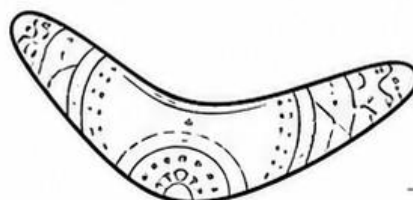
Anzac biscuits



pavlova



mornay and Minties



POSSUM MAGIC: AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE

Name: _____ **ANSWERS**



Draw a line to match each city with the food eaten there.

CITIES

Adelaide 1

Melbourne 2

Sydney 3

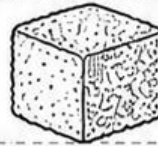
Brisbane 4

Darwin 5

Hobart 6

Perth 7

FOODS



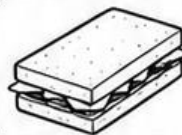
lamington 7



pink skin scones 4



steak and salad 3



vegemite sandwich 5



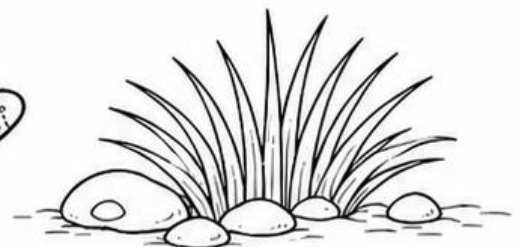
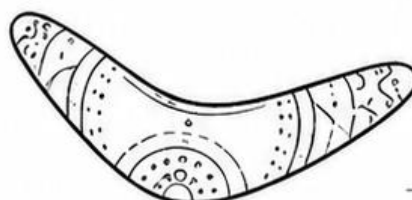
Anzac biscuits 1



pavlova 6



mornay and Minties 2





AUTHOR DETECTIVE ASSESSMENT • PART A



Name: _____ Date: _____

THE LANTERN TREE

On a windy afternoon, Nari the young quokka found a small lantern caught in a paperbark tree. Its light flickered whenever an animal felt worried. Nari wanted to help. First, she asked Wally the wombat to steady the branch. Next, she climbed onto a low rock and reached carefully. Then, she freed the lantern and carried it to a hollow log. At last, the animals gathered around its warm glow. Nari felt nervous at first, but she kept trying and helped everyone feel safe.



1. Who is the main character?
☐ Nari ☐ Wally ☐ the lantern
2. Where does Nari find the lantern?
☐ in a paperbark tree ☐ under the sea ☐ inside a school
3. How does Nari feel at first?
☐ nervous ☐ angry ☐ sleepy
4. Which trait best describes Nari?
☐ determined ☐ selfish ☐ careless

5. Number these events 1, 2 and 3.

- ☐ Nari asks Wally to steady the branch.
- ☐ Nari climbs onto a low rock.
- ☐ Nari carries the lantern to the hollow log.





AUTHOR DETECTIVE ASSESSMENT • PART A



Name: ANSWERS Date: _____

THE LANTERN TREE

On a windy afternoon, Nari the young quokka found a small lantern caught in a paperbark tree. Its light flickered whenever an animal felt worried. Nari wanted to help. First, she asked Wally the wombat to steady the branch. Next, she climbed onto a low rock and reached carefully. Then, she freed the lantern and carried it to a hollow log. At last, the animals gathered around its warm glow. Nari felt nervous at first, but she kept trying and helped everyone feel safe.



1. Who is the main character?

☒

Nari

☐

Wally

☐

the lantern

2. Where does Nari find the lantern?

☒

in a paperbark tree

☐

under the sea

☐

inside a school

3. How does Nari feel at first?

☒

nervous

☐

angry

☐

sleepy

4. Which trait best describes Nari?

☒

determined

☐

selfish

☐

careless

5. Number these events 1, 2 and 3.

1

Nari asks Wally to steady the branch.

2

Nari climbs onto a low rock.

3

Nari carries the lantern to the hollow log.



AUTHOR DETECTIVE ASSESSMENT • PART B



Name: _____

Date: _____

Use The Lantern Tree from Part A.

1. Which sentence makes the lantern seem magical?

- A. "Nari wanted to help."
- B. "Its light flickered whenever an animal felt worried."
- C. "The animals gathered."

2. What message does the story share?

- A. "Help others even when you feel nervous."
- B. "Never climb on rocks."
- C. "Lanterns belong in trees."

3. Draw or write your ending.

4. Add one Australian animal and one describing word to your ending.

AUTHOR-DETECTIVE CHECK

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ I named a character. | ☐ I explained a feeling. |
| ☐ I used sequence words. | ☐ I found the message. |

AUTHOR DETECTIVE ASSESSMENT • PART B

Name: **ANSWERS**

Date: _____

Use The Lantern Tree from Part A.

1. Which sentence makes the lantern seem magical?

- A. "Nari wanted to help."
- ☒ B. "Its light flickered whenever an animal felt worried."
- C. "The animals gathered."

2. What message does the story share?

- ☒ A. "Help others even when you feel nervous."
- B. "Never climb on rocks."
- C. "Lanterns belong in trees."

3. Draw or write your ending.

Answers will vary. Sample: Then a gentle kookaburra flew down.

Its bright wings shimmered in the lantern light, and Nari smiled.

4. Add one Australian animal and one describing word to your ending.

Animal: kookaburra Describing word: gentle

AUTHOR-DETECTIVE CHECK

☐ I named a character.

☐ I explained a feeling.

☐ I used sequence words.

☐ I found the message.



AUTHOR STUDY: MEM FOX RUBRIC



Student: _____

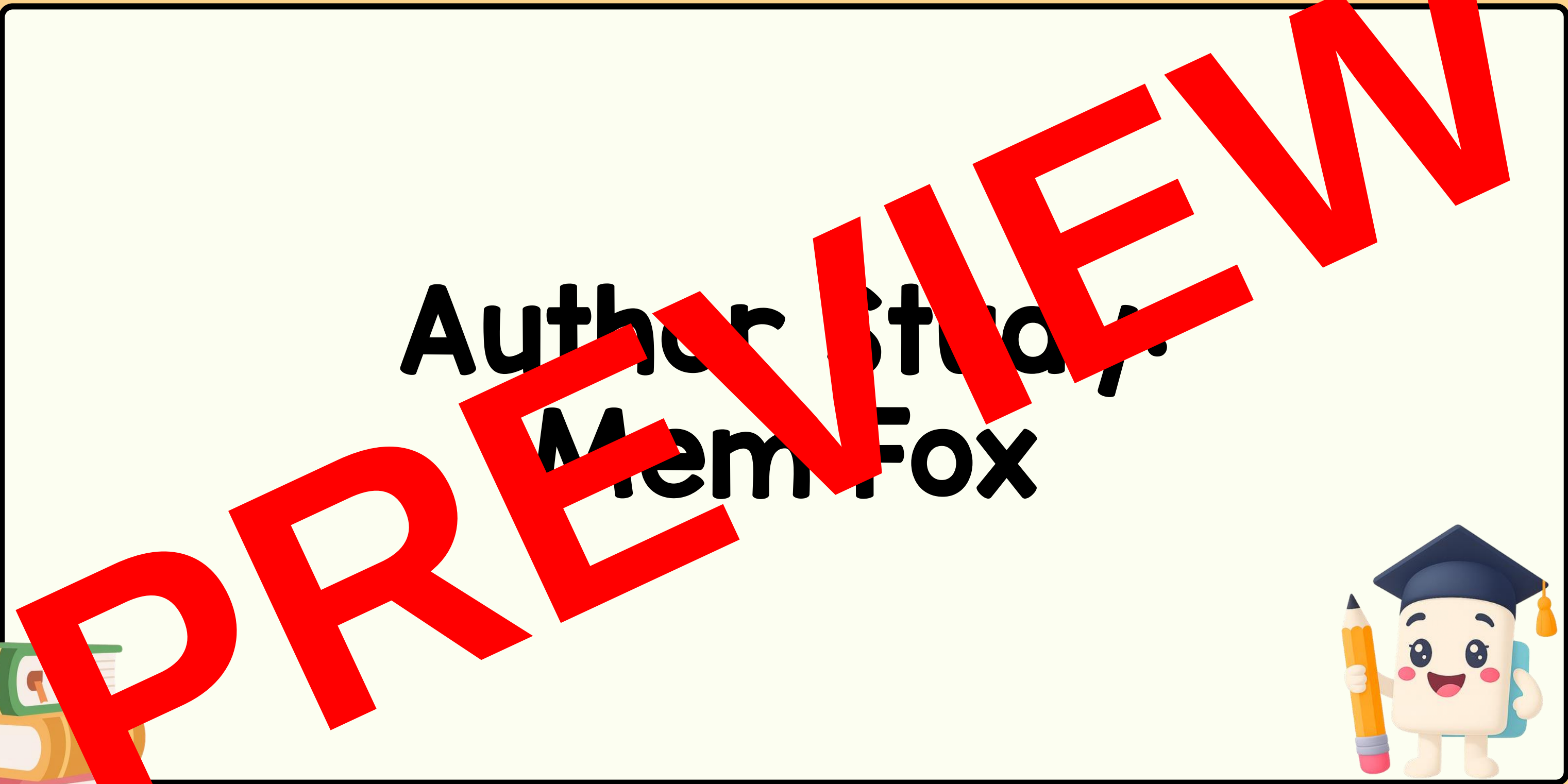
Date: _____

Teacher: _____

CRITERIA	BEGINNING	DEVELOPING	ACHIEVING	CONFIDENT	EXCEEDING
Characters & feelings	Names a character or feeling with support.	Names a character and a feeling with support.	Explains a character's feeling using one story detail.	Explains how actions reveal a character's feelings or traits.	Compares characters' feelings or traits using clear evidence.
Sequence & retelling	Orders one event with support.	Orders some key events.	Orders and retells the main events clearly.	Retells key events and explains how the problem changes.	Retells precisely and explains how events build the message.
Language & message	Notifies a repeated or rhyming word with support.	Finds one language pattern or simple message.	Explains a language pattern or message with support.	Explains how rhyme, rhythm or repetition shapes meaning.	Compares language choices and messages across two stories.
Creative response	Creates part of an ending with support.	Creates an ending with one requested detail.	Creates a clear ending with an Australian animal describing work.	Creates a detailed ending that fits the story pattern.	Creates an engaging ending and explains the author choices used.

Overall level: _____

TEACHER FEEDBACK



Meet Mem Fox



Mem Fox is an Australian author who writes wonderful stories for young readers.

Her books often use repetition, rhythm and memorable characters.

Today we will read like author detectives.



What Do Author Detectives Notice?



Characters: Who is the story about?

Setting: Where and when does it happen?

Language: Which words repeat, rhyme or surprise us?

Message: What might the author want us to feel or learn?



Story Spotlight: Koala Lou



Koala Lou knows she is loved.
She trains hard for the British Olympics when family life changes.
Notice how feelings and actions reveal her character.



Think About Koala Lou



How do Koala Lou's feelings change?

Which actions show determination?

What does the end of the story teach us about love and belonging?



Story Spotlight: Possum Magic



Grandma Possum uses magic to make Hush invisible.

When Hush wants to be seen again, they travel across Australia.

Food, place, and competition make the journey memorable.



An Australian Journey



Trace the cities and roads in order.

Listen for sentence words and repeated patterns.

How does the Australian setting shape the story?



Think About Possum Magic



PREVIEW

Why does Bush want to be visible again?

How do Grandpa Possum's actions show care?

Which part of the journey would you most like to visit?



Story Spotlight: The Magic Hat



A magic hat tumbles through town and transforms people.

The story races forward with rhyme, rhythm and surprise.

Listen for words that predict what may happen next.



Rhyme, Rhythm and Repetition



Rhyming words share the same ending sound. hot/cot, road/toad,
wink/hink.

Repetition helps readers join in.

It's a fun way to experiment with a new rhyming transformation.



Think About The Magic Hat



Which transformation is funniest or most surprising?

How does rhyme change the pace?

What patterns help you predict the next event?



Compare the Stories



Koala Lou explores love and interconnection.

Possum Magic celebrates home, place and persistence.

The Magic Hat uses rhyme, surprise and transformation.

What author fingerprints appear in all three?



Mem Fox's Language Choices



Repetition helps children remember.

Rhythm makes words enjoyable to say aloud.

Prepositional verbs create movement.

Repetitive sound patterns invite prediction.



Be a Character Detective



A trait describes what a character is like.

Use evidence when the character says, does, thinks and feels.

Try: I think ____ is ____ because ____.



Retell in Sequence



Beginning: meet the character and problem.

Next/Then: key attempts and changes.

End: the problem solves and the message becomes clear.

Retell only the most important events.



Make Meaningful Connections



Text-to-self: This reminds me of...

Text-to-text: Another story with a similar character is...

Text-to-world: This connects to...

These connections help readers build meaning.



Explore Another Mem Fox Book



Choose another Mem Fox story.

Notice its characters, setting, pattern and message.

Read on and detail the story. It feels like an author fingerprint.



Author Detective Challenge



- Choose one task.
- Retell a favorite story with puppets.
- Create a signifying transformation.
- Map a character's feelings from beginning to end.
- Explain one message with evidence.





PREVIEW

We're Done,
Author Detectives!



PREVIEW

Mem Fox
Author Study Quiz



Question 1



Which person writes the words in a book?

- A. Author
- B. Illustrator
- C. Character



PREVIEW

Answer 1



Answer. Author

The author chooses the words and shapes the story.



Question 2



True or false?

A character trait tells what a character is like.



Answer 2



Answer: True

Traits such as being brave and determined describe a character.



Question 3



Which detail best shows determination?

a. Giving up straight away

b. Practising even when it is hard

c. Going to sleep



Answer 3



Answer 3. Practising even when it is hard.

Continuing over a challenge shows determination.



Question 4



In Possum Magic, what kind of journey do Hux and Granama Poss

take?

A. Across Australia

B. Under the sea

C. Into space



Answer 4



PREVIEW

Answer: A. Across Australia

The Australian places and foods shape their journey.



Question 5



Which pair rhymes?

A. hat and cat

B. hat and road

C. cat and think



Answer 5



Answer: A. an and cat

Both words end with the same sound.



Question 6



What usually comes after the beginning of a sequence?

- A. In the
- B. Next or then
- C. The cover



Answer 6



Answer: B. lex or then

Sequence view us help us order important events.



Question 7



Which clue can reveal a character's feelings?

A. What the character says and does

B. The page number

C. The book's price



Answer 7



Answer: what the character says and does
actions and words are useful story evidence.



Question 8



Short answer:

Name the author or fingerprint you noticed in a Mem Fox story.



Answer 8



Possible answers: repetition, rhythm, rhyme, playful language,
Australian settings, memorable characters or a warm message.



Question 9



Which sentence uses a sequence word?

A. Then Hush traveled to another city.

B. Hush is a possum.

C. The food was tasty.



Answer 9



Answer: When Hush moved to another city.

When Hush calls the reader when an event happens.



Question 10



Short answer:

Choose a story and state one message it shares.



Answer 10



PREVIEW

Answers will vary.

Use a clear message and support it with one story detail.





PREVIEW

We're Done,
Author Detectives!

