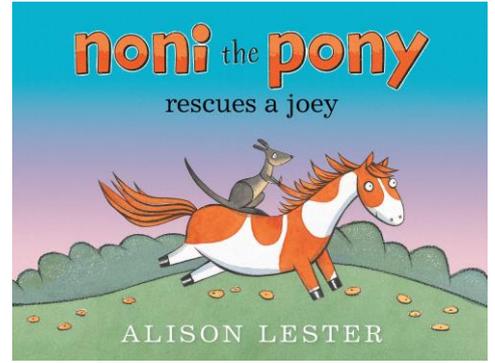


# Noni the Pony Rescues a Joey

By Alison Lester



November 2018    ISBN 9781760293123    Hardback picture book  
Recommended for pre-schoolers

## Summary

Noni the Pony heads out for the day, to roam the green hills behind Waratah Bay. As she and her friends wander down a green trail, they meet someone small with a very long tail.

Can they help the lost joey find the way home?

Alison Lester's books are favourites with children and adults around the world. *Magic Beach*, *Imagine*, *My Farm* and *Noni the Pony* are Australian classics.

Alison Lester's picture books mix imaginary worlds with everyday life, encouraging children to believe in themselves and celebrate the differences that make them special. Alison's ear for rhyming text is second to none, and her illustrations are simple yet particularly beautiful, with lots of gorgeous sunset colours and sweet Australian animals.

## Themes

- animals
- adventure
- play
- rescue
- friendship

## Discussion questions

1. Show the cover of *Noni the Pony Rescues a Joey* to the children, reading the name of the book out loud, and ask the following:
  - i. What do you think this story will be about?
  - ii. Do you think this will be a happy or sad story? Why?
  - iii. Do you think Noni will be a nice pony? Why?
  - iv. Do you think the joey will like Noni? Why?

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2. Now turn the cover over and show the back of the book to your students, reading out loud what the book will be about, and ask the following:
  - i. Noni has two friends. What are their names, and can you tell what kinds of animals they are?
  - ii. Do you think Noni lives in a big noisy city or the quiet countryside? What clues did you find on the front and back covers to guess which is correct?
  - iii. What's the word we use to describe a baby wallaby? A j...y?
3. Now read the story to your class and when finished, start a discussion with the following questions.
  - i. How did the joey get lost?
  - ii. How do you think the joey felt when it discovered it was lost?
  - iii. What did Noni do to help the joey at first?
  - iv. Can you remember some of the animals Noni spoke to in the story?
  - v. When the joey started to cry, what did Noni do to help?
4. Ask your class if they know any rules to follow should they become lost in the bush and/or in a big city?  
Make a list of useful answers and hang it in your classroom / library.
5. **Visual Literacy:** (you may want to cover the text on the page to help students focus on the image)
  - i. Turn to the image of the joey crying in the book and ask students what clues in the picture tell us the joey is upset. (Hint: we can see tears, eye-rubbing, closed eyes and head down.)
  - ii. Now turn the page and ask what clues in the picture tell us the joey is happy to see their family.
6. Explain to students that the story is told using rhyme, and that this is where key words (often at the end of a line) are emphasised because they share the same sound-endings. Give a few examples of rhyme from the story, and then see if students can come up with their own rhymes for simple words such as dog, pony and cat. (Decide beforehand whether you will accept near-rhymes, such as 'pony/only'.)
7. Ask your students what they liked about the story. What didn't they like about it? How would they describe the book to their best friend (if their friend hadn't read it yet)?

## The author

Alison Lester grew up on a farm by the sea, and first rode a horse as a baby in her father's arms. Alison is involved in many community art projects and spends part of every year travelling to remote Indigenous communities, using her books to help children and adults write and draw about their own lives. In 2012, Alison became Australia's first Children's Book Laureate, a position she shared with Boori Monty Pryor.

