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Lamont Standing Order Christmas Package 2021 Teacher Notes

An Aussie Christmas Gum Tree

By Jackie Hosking & Illustrated by Nathaniel Eckstrom

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Join Possum and his bush friends in this rhyming read-aloud story, perfect to share for an Aussie Christmas.

From his lofty watch post, Possum is drawn to the sight of a distant tree covered in sparkling trinkets. A Christmas Tree, according to Kookaburra. So begins a quest in which Possum and his crafty crew of helpers try very hard to decorate their very own Christmas gum tree from Bowerbird's treasure trove. But it's not as easy as you might think!

Themes: Australian wildlife - Celebrations - Teamwork

Discussion Questions and Activities:

- Writing a rhyming text can be very challenging. As a group, try to workshop the next verse or two of the story. What happens next? Where do the animals go and what do they do? Suggest to the group that they might like to brainstorm some rhyming words first and encourage the children to search for a rhyming dictionary in the library resources or online to help with this process.
- You may also want to explore the rhythm of the text with the group before getting down to writing to allow the children to try to match the pace of the story. Once the extra verse(s) has been written, read the entire story with your additions back to the group. What do they think of their team effort? Was it easier or more difficult than they thought it would be?
- To extend this activity, encourage the kids to use their new skills and understanding of rhythm and rhyme to write their own rhyming story. Remind them to allow themselves plenty of time as it can be a very difficult task to achieve.

Aussie Christmas Garland:

- Make a beautiful native Christmas garland and bring some of the Aussie Christmas Gum Tree inside! Collect interesting and colourful leaves, gumnuts and flowers from outside. You will need to prepare each item to be added to the garland. You can use a small hole punch to make a hole in each leaf and flower. You can put a dot of glue on each gumnut and secure to a small loop of string or if possible, tie a loop of string onto the stem of the nut. Small branches or bunches of leaves can have a loop of string tied to the base as well.
- Once the items have all been prepared, use a darning needle to thread each leaf, flower or gumnut loop onto a long piece of string or wool. Leave a finger width of space between each item and once complete, find a space to proudly hang your beautiful Aussie Christmas garland.

Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.