

# Lamont Books Standing Order

July 2014

*Teacher Notes and Activities*

## **The Croc and the Platypus**

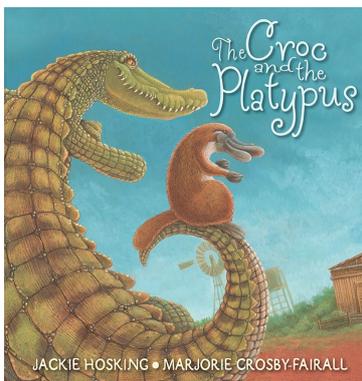
**By Jackie Hosking and Illustrated by Majorie Crosby-Fairall**

**Publisher: Walker Books**

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**\$24.95**

The croc and the platypus trundled off in a rusty old Holden ute. They took some damper and tea in a hamper and bundled it up in the boot. Join Croc and Platypus for an Australian outback hullabaloo!



### Themes:

- Crocodile
- Platypus
- Poems

### Discussion Points:

- This story is based on an old poem, *The Owl and the Pussycat*. After reading the story, see if the students can identify the poem that the book is based on.
- Have fun with the students reading the original poem, a copy of which is attached, and then comparing it to *The Croc and the Platypus*.
- Do you think a crocodile and a platypus are an unusual friendship mix? Discuss.
- What are the characteristics of each of these animals?
- Why were the Croc and the Platypus happy exploring and just being together?
- The Croc and The Platypus camped out under 'the Southern Cross'. What is 'the Southern Cross'? What would be the best part about camping under the stars? Have you ever done it?
- What are some of the things that you like to do with your friends?
- How many unique Australian things can you recall from the story?
- What did the Croc and the Platypus end up using as a tent?
- The Croc and the Platypus visited Uluru. Where is it and what do you know about it?

### Activities:

- Imagine you are trying to get people to visit Australia. Design a poster showing the 'Australian' things from the story that they might expect to see once they are here.
- The Croc and the Platypus took damper with them, and they ate lamingtons on their trip. Look up the recipes for these two 'Australian' foods and, as a class, choose one or both of them to make.

## The Owl and the Pussycat - 1871 - by Edward Lear

The Owl and the Pussy-Cat went to sea  
In a beautiful pea-green boat:  
They took some honey,  
and plenty of money  
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.

The Owl looked up to the stars above,  
And sang to a small guitar,  
"O lovely Pussy, O Pussy, my love,  
What a beautiful Pussy you are,  
You are,  
You are!  
What a beautiful Pussy you are!"

Pussy said to the Owl, "You elegant fowl,  
How charmingly sweet you sing!  
Oh! let us be married;  
too long we have tarried:  
But what shall we do for a ring?"  
They sailed away, for a year and a day,  
To the land where the bong-tree grows;  
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood,  
With a ring at the end of his nose,  
His nose,  
His nose,  
With a ring at the end of his nose.

"Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling  
Your ring?" Said the Piggy, "I will."  
So they took it away, and were married next day  
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.  
They dined on mince and slices of quince,  
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;

And hand in hand on the edge of the sand  
They danced by the light of the moon,  
The moon,  
The moon,  
They danced by the light of the moon.