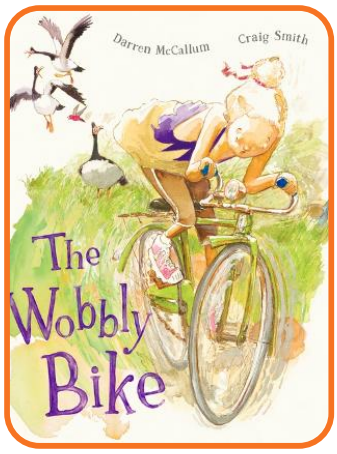

THE WOBBLY BIKE

By Darren McCallum & Illustrated by Craig Smith

Publisher: Walker Books
ISBN 9781760656416 SCIS: 5492973
$25.99

BLURB

The wonderful wobbles of learning to ride a bike, set amidst the vibrant colour and culture of Australia's "top end".

How do you fix a wobbly bike? Could it be the tyres, the terrain, or maybe it might be a new rider? A joyful, multi-layered story, celebrating the unique culture of Australia's urban "top end", the precious roles of grandparents in families, the fact that kindness and encouragement, combined with practice, are the key to success, bound together with gentle humour… because laughter is always the best medicine.

A sparkling debut from Darwin author, with illustrations by award-winning Craig Smith.

NOTES

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

Themes:

Humour; Perseverance; Learning; Practice; Diversity; Inclusion; Family generations.

Discussion Questions and Activities:

Before Reading:

- What do you think the story might be about from looking at the title only? Do your ideas change after seeing the cover?

Exploring the Text in Depth:

- Ask your class where they think the story takes place. What clues are there in the story and illustrations? (Summer clothes, mangoes, stilt houses, tropical birds, the boab tree.)
- Point out Darwin on a map of Australia. Discuss with the class how different or similar urban Darwin is to where they live.
- The girl on the wobbly bike lives with her Pop and Nana. Ask your students to illustrate their own family, then share with the class. Does anyone live with their grandparents, like the girl on the wobbly bike? Does anyone have a very big family? Talk about the different family structures.
- Learning a new skill can be challenging. Ask your class to talk about all the feelings you have when you can't do something that everyone else seems to be able to do.
- In the story, the girl on the wobbly bike learns to stop wobbling through lots of practice. Have your class create a mindmap of the ways they could improve a new skill.
- Have your class work in groups to research different species of birds in Australia. What do they look like? Where do they live? How many birds illustrated in the story can they identify?
- At the end of the story, the girl on the wobbly bike and her friends are having a bike race. Ask your class to write a descriptive poem about a bike race in Darwin. How do they imagine it would feel? What does Darwin look like? They can use the illustrations to help.