



Teaching Notes: Eco Rangers Series

Written by Candice Lemon-Scott
Illustrated by Aska
Published by New Frontier Publishing



UNDERSTANDING

- Narrative
- Writing Persuasively
- Author Intention
- Informative Writing
- Use of Language and Description
- Making Predictions
- Story Plotting
- Animal adaptation and interactions, and the effect of human action

THE STORY

Eco Rangers is an action-packed series centred around two best friends, who rescue and rehabilitate sick and injured wildlife through their local conservation centre. Ebony and Jay love helping others and looking after the environment. In each story, they meet new animal friends, solve mysteries and learn more about nature. Meet the Eco Rangers and dive into their brand new adventures!

THE CHARACTERS



EBONY

Hi everyone, I'm Ebony!

I'm twelve years old. I like spending time in nature, rescuing animals or riding my bike to go off on an adventure. I'm super independent, but sometimes I jump right in without thinking and that can get me into trouble! I love being an Eco Ranger because I get to solve mysteries!



JAY

I'm Jay, Ebony's friend and next-door neighbour. I'm eleven years old. I like making jokes and have a bit of a sweet tooth... especially when it comes to cake! I also love nature and helping out at the wildlife hospital. Being an Eco Ranger is so much fun because I can look after animals and make sure they are safe.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Candice Lemon-Scott loves wildlife and animals and has always been surrounded by a range of pets throughout her life, including dogs, cats, rabbits, fish, birds (including a duck) and various lizards. She was first moved to write this series after helping with a couple of koala rescues from her own backyard. She continues to be inspired by her own children, Krystalin and Aliena, who love and care for nature and wildlife.

A trained wildlife carer, Candice enjoys writing about the adventures of the young Eco Rangers, Ebony and Jay. Her quirky style, fast-paced narratives and originality appeal to young readers in particular.

Following several years working in the media, Candice now writes for children. This is her second book series.

ECO RANGERS WORD SEARCH

X A A T L E F I M X O P W S J
F G L F M N R I C W C E X T I
S U G A R G L I D E R L Y A D
P E H W O Z E A P G D I A B J
U L Z L P K E D J J Q C O T O
H G A V A C F W B G S A B U O
S N C T H O C H K E D N Z A K
J S B I Y A M V P W R I B U D
F U D V V P D A G N N Z L Y N
I N N M S S U P S R T X T Z C
A O D H X E Q S A I E V W Q A
H V D S R I S U K W K E G M G
T N X N T H O B S T G Z M G Q
K O C M U S S O P J W Q W E J
O Z J I G L O G D V N C R P O

WORDS

possum

platypus

pelican

sugar glider

echidna

koala

bats



ECO RANGERS WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

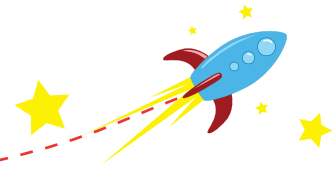
X **A** A T L E F I M X O **P** W **S** J
 F G **L** F M N R I C W C **E** X **T** I
S **U** **G** **A** **R** **G** **L** **I** **D** **E** **R** **L** Y **A** D
P E H W **O** Z E A P G D **I** A **B** J
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 H G **A** V A **C** F W B G S **A** B U O
 S N C **T** **H** O C H K E D **N** Z A K
 J S B **I** **Y** A M V P W R I B U D
 F U **D** V V **P** D A G N N Z L Y N
 I **N** N M S S **U** P S R T X T Z C
A O D H X E Q **S** A I E V W Q A
 H V D S R I S U K W K E G M G
 T N X N T H O B S T G Z M G Q
 K O C **M** **U** **S** **S** **O** **P** J W Q W E J
 O Z J I G L O G D V N C R P O





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WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP OUR WILDLIFE

Plastics are harmful for our environment and animals. Here are some things you can do to reduce plastics at home:

- Replace plastic straws with paper or stainless-steel reusable ones
- Instead of plastic balloons have some fun with bubbles
- Replace plastic plates and cups with biodegradable paper ones that you can get in a range of colours and styles
- Take a reusable drink bottle when you're out and about instead of buying bottled water
- Use cloth bags instead of plastic bags
- Pack lunch and snacks in reusable containers instead of using plastic wraps

ECO RANGERS: PELICAN IN PERIL

Focus on Persuasive Writing & Linking Personal Experience with Texts

1. In *Eco Rangers: Pelican in Peril*, Ebony and Jay work with the vets at the wildlife centre. Have students discuss their experience with animals. You can use the following questions as a guide:

- What is your favourite animal?
- Have you ever cared for a pet or other animal?
- Have you ever come across wildlife or seen animals in nature, or at a zoo, wildlife sanctuary or farm?
- Describe one experience and what it was like.
- What did you see?
- What did you do?
- What did you learn about the animal?
- Who helped you and how?

2. Discuss how the environment can impact on wildlife. How is the pelican, Poseidon, impacted on? What can people do to help reduce environment impacts? Students may link their own experience with the text to talk about how humans have an impact on our environment and what steps can be taken to minimise it.

3. Have students write a persuasive text on animals.

If I could be an animal, I would be a

- Reason 1:
- Reason 2:
- Reason 3:
- Conclusion: I would be this animal because ...



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ECO RANGERS: MICROBAT MAYHEM

Focus on Comprehension and Descriptive Writing

1. In **Eco Rangers: Microbat Mayhem** the bats are an endangered species. Ask students what they know about endangered animals. Have the students choose an endangered animal, research it and list some interesting facts they discover, including why the animal is endangered and what is being done to help save it from extinction. Discuss in a group the biggest threats to wildlife and any steps being taken to save them.
2. To understand the sequencing of events, have students list the steps Ebony and Jay take to help the microbats they find at the theme park.
3. Have the student identify their favourite wildlife animal. Describe what it is like. Include information about its eyes, nose, mouth, ears, body and include how it is different to other animals. Add some interesting facts such as its habitat, what it eats and when and where it sleeps.

ECO RANGERS: WILDFIRE RESCUE

Focus on Debate and Narrative

1. A possum is affected by wildfires in **Eco Rangers: Wildfire Rescue**. Discuss how wildfires occur. How is controlled burning carried out to help minimise the impact on people and the environment, including wildlife? Students could hold a debate about the benefits and problems with wildfires?
2. Emergency services are an important part of the community. What role does the fire brigade play in preventing and controlling wildfires? In what situations would the fire brigade be called and how do they help? What other emergency services might attend a wildfire, and why?
3. Students can create their own imaginary animal. They can draw or design a 3-dimensional creature of their own. They could include its physical appearance, habitat, eating habits, behaviour, lifecycle and more.

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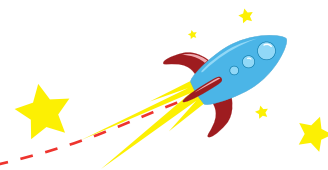


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OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Pre-reading:

What do you think the story is about? What do you think the story problem might be? What human impacts affect wildlife and how? What can we do to minimise these risks to animals?

How have animals adapted to changes in their environment? Can you find some examples from the past or present to demonstrate this?

Reading:

How does the story begin? What is the problem? How is the problem resolved by the end of the story? What kind of descriptive language is used? Whose point of view is the story told through?

After reading:

Do you think the author took a certain view and what was it? How is this demonstrated through the characters' point of view?

Story Starters and Point of View:

The Eco Rangers stories are written from the point of view of Ebony and Jay. Rewrite the opening from the perspective of Poseidon the pelican. Describe how he became covered in oil from his point of view. What does he think when the first sees the Eco Rangers? How does he feel about being rescued?

Using Descriptive Language

What words or images are used to describe animals in the books? How does this help us imagine what the animal is like physically and in its personality? How is this linked to human characteristics? Student can come up with their own metaphors or poems to describe animals.

Making Predictions Based on Information

Many of today's wildlife are facing different environmental threats and human impacts. How will the world look with regard to our endangered animals if things continue the way they are going now? How will it look if humans take certain steps to help reduce our environmental impact? What things can we do to change the potential outcome for our endangered animals? Students may discuss this in groups or individually and could create a poster or presentation to show this.

Exploring Narrative & Author Intention

Have students discuss story plotting by examining the beginning, middle and ending of the Eco Rangers stories. How are these elements put together with the main characters Ebony and Jay to form a story, and what is the author's intention? Students can come up with their own wildlife story with a setting, main character and plot. What problem does the main character have to overcome or solve? What values does the story convey such as friendship, compassion etc. List them and give examples to prove your points.

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