

Lamont Books Standing Order

March 2014

Teacher Notes and Activities

Little Meerkat

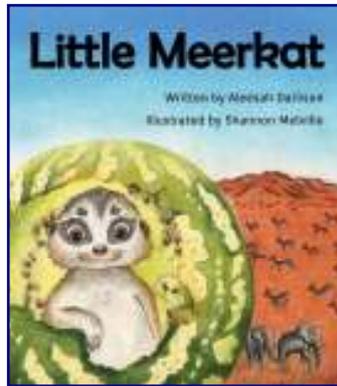
By Aleesah Darlison & illustrated by Shannon Melville

Publisher: Wombat Books

ISBN 9781921632822

\$24.99

Little Meerkat craves independence and adventure in his life. His extended family of Mum, Dad, Aunty, Uncle, Brother and Sister, are there to guide and protect him.



Teacher notes have been taken from those prepared by the publishers, Wombat Books.

Themes:

- Independence
- Family values
- Appreciating others
- Finding your place in the world
- Acceptable social behaviour
- Respect for others

Discussion Points:

- Why do you think Little Meerkat is so determined to show his independence?
- How do Little Meerkat's family support him? Why are they so protective of him?
- What are some of the dangers that Little Meerkat faces in the desert?
- Do you think Little Meerkat has a good imagination?
- What does Little Meerkat learn at the end of the story? Does his attitude change?
- What was your favourite page in the story? Why?
- Have you ever been to a desert before? Or to Africa?
- Little Meerkat tries to be very independent. How are you independent in your life? What activities can you do by yourself? What things do you still need someone to help you with? What things did you used to need help with but can now do by yourself? Is this a sign that you are becoming more independent?
- Look closely at the illustrations in the book. Which one is your favourite? What colours are used in the picture?

Activities:

- The Kalahari Desert is home to Little Meerkat and his family, as well as many other animals. As a group, have the students list all the animals that they can see in the book, then have students either:
 - Choose one animal and write a story about one of the animals and the animal's family.
 - Write down ten important facts about one of the animals in the book and present them to the class.
 - Research the Kalahari Desert. Write a report or create a powerpoint presentation about the area and present it to the class.
 - Choose their favourite animal from the Kalahari Desert and draw a picture of it. Pin up all the drawings of the animals done by the students around the classroom walls.
- Organise a visit to a zoo where there are meerkats. Draw pictures of the meerkats and take photos and videos to study their habits. Present your findings to the class.
- Meerkats live in large family groups. Draw a picture of your own family. Try to include as many family members as you can. Include their names.
- Colouring sheets are also attached for your use.