

Lamont Books Standing Order

April 2012

Teacher Notes and Activities

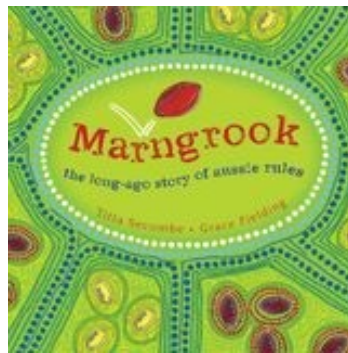
Marngrook

By Titta Secombe & Grace Fielding

ISBN 9781921248443

\$16.95

This fictionalised story of Marngrook takes place at the foot of Duwul, the highest mountain in the spectacular Grampians region of north-west Victoria, the traditional country of people from the Djab-Wurrung and Jardwadjali clans. When Wawi, a clan Elder, notices that his son, Jaara, and the other children only have old toys to play with, he goes for a walk to see what he can find. Wawi comes across a banya (ring-tailed possum) and has an idea. He kills the banya and skins it, and sews up the skin with a tendon from a kangaroo tail. Wawi stuffs the skin with emu feathers and moulds it into the shape of an emu egg. Jaara and the children play with the marngrook every day and spend hours practising their kicks. One day, when Jaara kicks the marngrook far into the bush, he finds himself lost and has to bear the consequences of not listening to his Elders.



Themes:

- Marngrook
- Sport evolution
- Aboriginal culture

Discussion Points:

- Looking at the cover, what do you think story is about?
- Have you ever heard of the word 'marngrook'? If so, where?
- Before reading the story, as a class, practice saying the 'Jardwadjali' words that are mentioned at the start of the story. This will help as you read through the story.
- What do you notice about the illustrations in this story? How are they different to other books that you have read?
- Jaara wandered away from his family, chasing the marngrook, and got lost. Has something like this ever happened to you? If so, how did you feel? Did you learn a lesson from it, like Jaara did?
- The last page features three Australian animals. Can you name them and think of three characteristics for each one?

Activities:

- Create your own version of a 'marngrook'. Think of interesting materials that you could use. Have a competition at school to see whose creation can be kicked the furthest.
- Choose a sport or hobby that you like. Research the origins of it and how it has evolved and changed over the years. Present your findings to the class, including pictures/illustrations.
- Create your own 'dot' painting in the form of the Aboriginal artwork. The scene can be of anything you choose, but be imaginative. You may even like to paint it on canvas or bark.