

Lamont Books Standing Order

June 2012

Teacher Notes and Activities

The Little Dinosaur

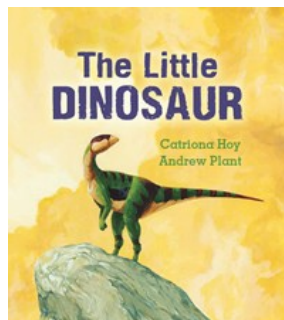
By Catriona Hoy & Illustrated by Andrew Plant

ISBN 9781921504396

\$24.95

The Little Dinosaur recreates a truthful and poignant story of a little dinosaur that lived millions of years ago in the land called Gondwana. It was cold, even in summer in Gondwana, and dark all day and night during winter. The little dinosaur moved in a herd to protect her from other meat-eating dinosaurs. But after she fell and hurt her leg she struggled to keep up, and one day, by the river, the herd was forced to leave her behind, and she soon died. Over the years the little dinosaurs' bones were covered with mud and silt. The silt turned to stone, the bones dissolved, and minerals filled the spaces where the bones had been. The little dinosaur became a fossil.

Cut to 1989, when the lower leg bone of the little dinosaur was discovered by palaeontologists on the Otway coast of Victoria. Then follow the story of the slow, painstaking work of scientists, artists and sculptors as they prepare the bone and piece together the clues that tell the tale of the little dinosaur who lived all those years ago.



Teacher Notes taken from those prepared by Janet McLean and supplied by the publishers, Working Title Press. A full version is available at: www.workingtitlepress.com.au.

Discussion Points and Activities:

- When you read the story, allow time for the children to respond. Ask questions to help them absorb the meaning of the events, the emotions evoked by the words and pictures, the shift in time, and the crossover from fiction to fact.
- When you start reading the second, factual part of the story talk about how the author moves from the first part of the story, millions of years ago when the little dinosaur was alive, to the second part of the story that takes place in the present. What is the link between the past and the present?
- Make further investigations into various aspects of the story:
 - o Find out more about Gondwana
 - o Investigate The Cretaceous period
- Visit the Dinosaur Dreaming website to find out more about the discovery of dinosaur bones in Victoria. <http://dinosaurdreaming.monash.edu/inverloc/jaw/>
- There is a koolasuchus in *The Little Dinosaur*. Visit www.abc.net.au/dinosaurs/fact_files/forest/koolasuchus.htm to find out more about the koolasuchus.
 - o Who was it named after? What kind of animal was it? What did it look like? What did it eat? How big was it? Where was it found?
 - o Can you find Andrew Plant's picture of the koolasuchus in *The Little Dinosaur*?
- Using words and pictures, create a visual time line from the Cretaceous period through to the present day, showing when the changes, that are described in the story, took place.
- With the children make a diorama-in-a-box. Create your own characters and settings, based on the *The Little Dinosaur*, and assemble them in a box.
- Organise a visit to a museum, or encourage families to visit with their children.