

The Eagle Inside

By Jack Manning Bancroft & Illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft

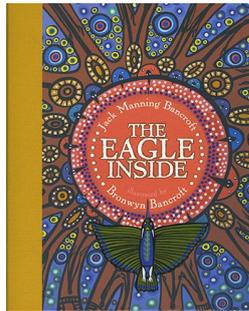
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Jimmy is the smallest bird at school. Surrounded by big, tough birds, he feels different in every way and is certain he will never fit in.

But when Eagle reminds him that being small isn't necessarily a weakness, Jimmy discovers how being different can also be a strength.



Teacher notes have been amended from those supplied by the publisher, Little Hare Books.

Themes:

- Confidence
- Individuality
- Bullying
- Motivation
- Inspiration
- Friendship
- Mentoring

Discussion Points:

- The author uses a variety of Australian native birds to represent different characters in the story, especially Jimmy the honeyeater, Cockatoo and Eagle. How do these characters suit the types of bird the author has chosen? Write a list of three or more Australian native birds not mentioned in the story, and think of characters they might represent.
- One of the messages in *The Eagle Inside* is the positive effect of having a mentor. Discuss what the word 'mentor' means and decide who the mentor is in *The Eagle Inside*. List the ways this mentor helped Jimmy. Then write three ways a mentor could help you with your goals. Bronwyn Bancroft has used some basic techniques in designing the art for each page. Go through the art and identify horizontal lines and patterns, vertical lines and patterns, wavy lines and patterns, angular lines and patterns, radiating lines and patterns, and circular lines and patterns. Once you are familiar with these different techniques, think about the next two questions.
- The story of *The Eagle Inside* alternates between still scenes and action scenes. Which three illustrations look most action-filled to you? Choose your favourite action scene and suggest three techniques the illustrator has used to make the scene seem full of action.
- Which illustrations in the book look the quietest to you? Choose your favourite quiet scene and suggest three techniques the illustrator has used to make the scene seem quiet.

Activities:

- Briefly discuss what mentoring is and how it can help. Ask your class what they would ask for guidance with. You could even set up a mentoring/buddy program for your class with an older class at your school.
- Put everyone's name in a hat, and have each child pick out one name each. Have your class write something positive that about the classmate they have on the paper — it could be something they're good at or that they appreciate about their classmate. You can then read all of the positive affirmations to the class.
- Have your class research honeyeaters, then come back with their individual research to create a class research project. If you want to have them undertake another project, then split up into groups to research the rest of the birds on your list.
- Talk to your class about Indigenous art. Conduct a class project, researching the history of the art, different well-know Indigenous artists and have them choose their favourite. Ask them to present it to the class explaining the artwork and why they chose it to present over any others they found.
- Ask your class to create their own Indigenous artwork and a short poem to go with it. Present these to the class.