

Stories For Simon

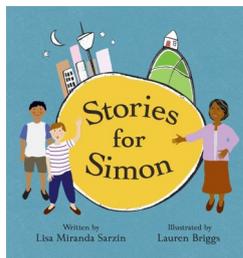
By Lisa Miranda Sarzin & Illustrated by Lauren Briggs

Publisher: Random House

ISBN 9780857987440

\$24.99

A beautiful story of acknowledging the past and working together for a brighter future. When Simon unwraps a beautiful boomerang wrapped in an old newspaper, he learns of the national apology to the Stolen Generations. Who were the Stolen Generations and how can saying 'sorry' help? Through a new friendship and a magnificent collection of stories, Simon gains a deep appreciation of the past and a positive vision for the future. Includes a foreword by Bidjigal Elder Vic Simms and endorsement from Adam Goodes, Australian of the Year 2014.



Teacher notes have been amended from those supplied by the publisher, Random House. A full version is available at www.randomhouse.com.au

Themes:

- The Stolen Generation
- Saying Sorry

Discussion Points & Activities:

- Look at the front cover of the book. Read the title together. Can you identify Simon in the picture? Who else can you see? What other pictures are on the page? What do you think this story might be about?
- Read the blurb at the back of the book.
- The book is about the national apology to the Stolen Generations. What do you know about the Stolen Generations? What do you feel about it? What questions do you have?
- On the first page, Simon is showing the place where he lives, which is described as 'in a big city near a famous beach'. Can you tell by looking at the picture which city he lives in? Can you name a beach or bay in that city?
- Simon had a newspaper article that reported on the event of the Prime Minister of Australia saying sorry to the Stolen Generations. Identify and describe a time in your life when you caused hurt to someone and said sorry. What happened? Why did you say sorry? How did you feel after you said sorry? Did apologising help the situation? What happened next?
- After Simon's teacher and mother explained who the Stolen Generations were, Simon had a dream where clouds were raining stones with the word 'sorry' on them. What do you think his dream meant? What do the stones represent? Why do you think the author chose stones rather than another object? How does the dream show what Simon was feeling about the Stolen Generations?
- At the end of the story, Simon had a dream where Aunty Betty threw stones into the sky and they turned into stars. What do you think this dream meant? What is the difference between the two dreams?
- Aunty Betty told Simon the story of her childhood, in which she was taken away from her family. Describe how the story made you feel. What questions would you ask Aunty Betty if you were Simon?
- How does the text in the story explain who the Stolen Generations were and why they were taken?
- Simon lives in Sydney, near a famous beach, as is shown in the first illustration in the book. The prologue of the book is written by Vic Simms, a Bidjigal man from Botany Bay in Sydney. What do you know about the history of Botany Bay?
- View the illustration where Simon dreamt that the sorry word turned into a sorry cloud. It rained big, hard stones and on every stone was the word 'sorry'. Look at the illustration closely and examine all of the elements. Identify the character of Simon, sleeping. Look at the word 'sorry' written in the clouds and on the rainbow coloured sorry stones. Plan and create a class mural to display. You could make some sorry clouds first. Individually, create a sorry stone out of card. Students will decorate their sorry stone by colouring it in and writing the word 'sorry' on it. The sorry stone cards will be placed or hung under the clouds. The mural can be displayed in the classroom or an alternative location at the school. If possible, take a photograph and share the picture with their families.