

Mad Magpie

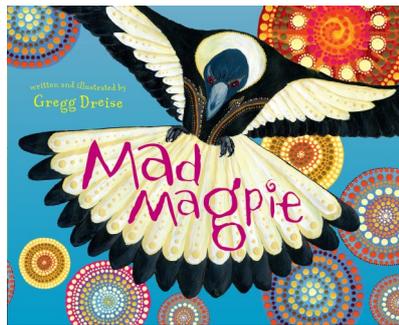
By Gregg Dreise

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Mad Magpie is the third book in this successful series of morality tales from award-winning author and illustrator, Gregg Dreise. Inspired by wise sayings and the knowledge of his Elders, Mad Magpie tells the story of Guluu, an angry magpie who is being teased by a gang of butcher birds. The more he is teased, the angrier he becomes. When Guluu seeks advice, his Elders tell him to stay calm like the river, ignore the butcher birds and to be strong on the inside. Guluu tries this, but the cheeky birds just laugh at him. One day, when Guluu is at the river looking for worms, the butcher birds arrive and steal his food. He remembers the words of his Elders and he tries again – and this time Guluu has a different outcome.



Themes:

- Bullying
- Inner Strength
- Staying Calm
- Knowledge of the Elders

Discussion Points:

- Why was Guluu angry?
- Can you understand why Guluu was feeling this way?
- Have you ever been in a situation when you felt like this?
- Why do you think the butcher birds teased Guluu? What do you think this tells us about them?
- What advice did the Elders give Guluu? Why do you think they knew more than him?
- What is some advice that you have been given by someone older than you? Did you listen to them? Why or why not?
- What eventually made the butcher birds fly away?
- How can we use things that we enjoy doing to overcome difficult situations in our life?

Activities:

- Think about how the Elders used the river as an analogy for staying calm. Think of another emotion. What could you use an analogy for it? Paint a picture of it, using the same style as in the book.
- SING! DANCE! LAUGH! LOVE! Create your own poster using different birds than are shown in the book.