

## **A Crocodile in the Family**

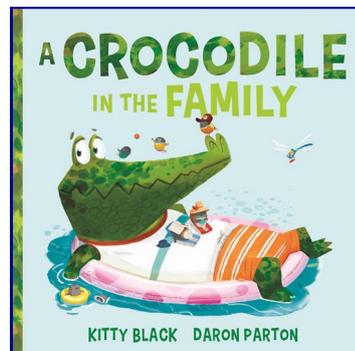
By Kitty Black & Illustrated by Daron Parton

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A family of birds stumble across an egg in the bush and take it home with them. The family are thrilled when a little crocodile hatches from the egg, but the other animals are a little confused. 'Why do you keep him?' they ask. 'Is it because he's helpful?' 'He is helpful,' replies the family, 'but that's not why we keep him.' As Croccy gets bigger, the bush animals become more confused. 'Is it because he's beautiful? Is it because he's fun? Is it because he makes a great coat rack? Is that it? Is that why you keep him?' Croccy is beautiful, and he is fun, and he does make a great coat rack. But that's not why the family keep him. They keep Croccy because he belongs with them. And that's that. A CROCODILE IN THE FAMILY is a beautiful picture book with a whole lot of heart about family in all its shapes and sizes.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

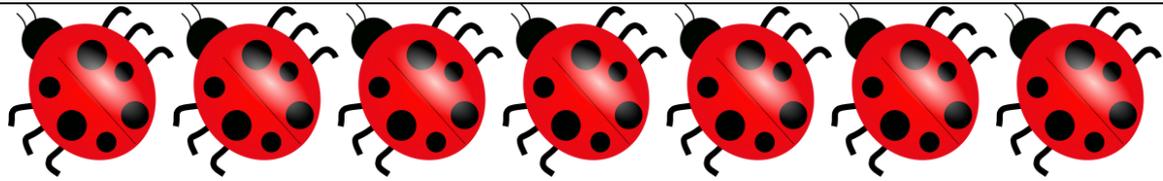
### **Themes:**

- Family
- Differences
- Crocodiles
- Australian animals

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

- Families come in all shapes and sizes. Some families adopt others, like the birds adopt Croccy in this story. Discuss families and the different ways in which they might be constituted.
- Being a 'normal family' is sometimes cited as something to be aspired to. But what is a 'normal family'? Every family is different, and even within a family there are members with very different needs. How should families treat a member who is not perceived to be like everyone else?
- Croccy would seem to represent a danger to the birds given his size, sharp teeth and propensity to eat things which are smaller than him, but he's actually very loveable and they adore him. Can creatures that are different live happily side-by-side?
- Research animals in the eco-system. Which animals are surprisingly compatible despite their differences?
- Differences are also emphasised in this text with the family of birds all wearing different colours, the different Australian animals, and the different hats they bring to hang on Croccy as a coat rack. What other differences did you notice in this picture book?
- Research crocodiles and their habitats.
- Invite students to identify the Australian animals in this book.
- Continue the story by adding two more incidents in which Croccy demonstrates other attributes apart from being 'beautiful, helpful and fun'.
- Test your students' comprehension by asking them questions about the written and visual text. For example, apart from the bush animals who appear throughout the book, what tiny creature appears on pp 4 and 6 in this book?
- Complete the 'Count These Images' worksheet that is attached.
- Students can make their own 'Crocodile Mobile' from the attached worksheet.

## COUNT THESE IMAGES



1. How many lady beetles are above?



2. If you subtract the birds singing from the other birds above, how many birds do you have?



3. If two of these koalas were taken away how many would be left?



4. How many of these donuts are without sprinkles?



5. If you multiplied the hats above by two, how many would you have?



6. If you divided the umbrellas above by three, how many would you have?

ANSWERS: 1. Seven. 2. Four. 3. Four. 4. Two. 5. Twelve.

6. Three.

## CROCODILE MOBILE

**Enlarge the pictures below and glue on to craft paper and cut each image out. Colour it in and then thread fishing line through the images and hang from a wire coathanger.**

