

Where Do The Stars Go?

By Katie Stewart

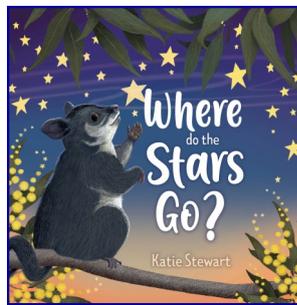
Publisher: Fremantle Press

ISBN 9781760990480 SCIS: 5355601

\$24.99

A delightful picture book for children, featuring native Australian animals, that encourages critical thinking.

Possum wakes unexpectedly one day and wants to know where the stars go in the morning. His friends, such as bungarra, rakali, numbat and galah, all have ideas and he spends a wonderful day discovering 'stars' in his environment. So wonderful, in fact, that even when his mother helps him discover the true answer, he still plans to look for more stars the next day.



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

Themes:

- Perception
- Curiosity
- Australian flora and fauna
- Astronomy
- Visual art

Discussion Questions:

- Possum has a question: where do the stars go in the daytime? Turn to a partner and share some ideas. Create a list of possible answers as a class.
- What is a star? Have you ever looked closely at one through a telescope? Are there different kinds of stars? What colours are they and what are the stars' names? What do you call a pattern of stars in the sky? What constellations can you find in the night sky?
- How many friends does Possum meet throughout the story? Why do you think each animal has a different answer about where the stars go during the daytime?
- Are the 'stars' the other animals describe really stars? What are they? Why do you think the other animals think they are stars?
- How many different 'stars' can you find around your school? Hint: what qualities might make an object star-like in addition to its shape? What adjectives would you use to describe a star (e.g. bright, sparkly)?
- All the animals have different opinions about where the stars go in the daytime. Can you think of a time when you had a different opinion to your friend? Why is it important to respect different opinions?
- Possum discovers that stars stay in the sky and appear in the dark. Why aren't they visible during the day?
- After learning the truth, Possum still wants to look for more 'stars' the next day. Why do you think this is? What did you enjoy most about looking for stars around your school?
- Which animals in the story have Indigenous names? What language are they from? Can you think of a similar question to Possum's that you'd like to ask (e.g. where does the sun go at night)? Encourage children to post questions into a class Curiosity Box as they occur to them. Select a question at random every Monday for children to research throughout the week. Students can then present their findings as a poster or PowerPoint and be encouraged to bring along props, photographs, models, etc.

Activities:

- Create finger puppets of each animal to read along and retell the story.
- Cut out some stars and use them to make something else (e.g. a person, an echidna).
- Can you find any easy ways to draw stars? What other shapes could you arrange to make a star?