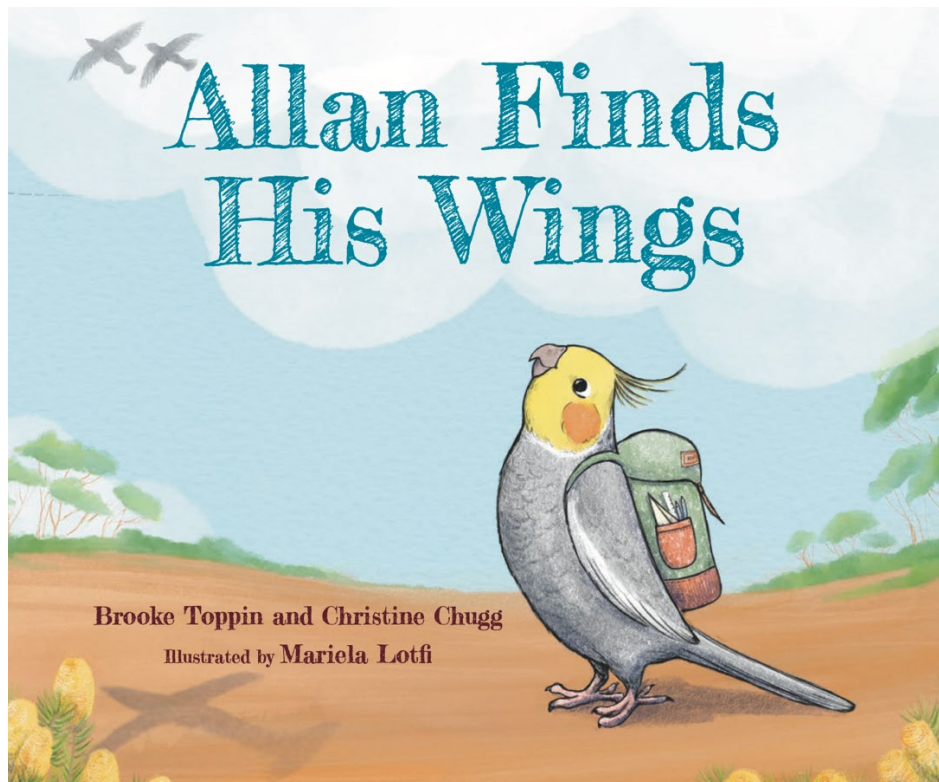


# Allan Finds His Wings

## Teaching Notes

Author: Brooke Toppin and Christine Chugg

Illustrator: Mariela Lotfi



### SYNOPSIS

Born with one wing larger than the other, Allan the cockatoo is unable to fly. Watching his friends sail in the sky, he worries about his future prospects. But when Mr. Doyle, the friendly pilot learns of Allan's troubles, he offers the chance of a lifetime and a way to overcome his concerns. A story filled with hope and positivity, Allan's adventure explores themes of perseverance, self-belief and achieving your goals no matter your ability, with beautiful, detailed illustrations that all readers will relate to.

## Themes found in the story:

Diversity

Kindness

Friendship

Feelings

Australian birds and landscape

## Questions/Comprehension

### Before reading:

- Using the title and the illustration on the front cover, what do you predict this story will be about?
- What do you know about birds?
  - What do they look like?
  - What can they do?
  - Where do they live?

### During Reading:

- Using the illustrations, where do you think Allan lives?

### After Reading:

#### *The Story:*

- What type of bird is Allan?
- Have you ever seen birds like those seen in the story?
- How is Allan similar/different to his friends?
- What were some of the jobs Allan's friends were going to do when they finished school?

#### *Understanding Emotions:*

- How do you think Allan felt as his friends played in the sky?
- Why do you think Mr Doyle helped Allan?
- How do you think Allan felt when Mr Doyle asked him to help fly the plane?
- Describe Mr Doyle.
- Explain how Allan finally finds his wings.
- How do you think Allan is feeling on the last page?

#### *Personal Experiences:*

- Have you ever been on a plane?
  - What did you see, feel and hear?

## Classroom Activities

### *Emotional Response:*

- Discuss the different points in the story when Allan was feeling sad, lonely, worried, hopeful, excited, happy and proud. Ask students to think of times when they have felt these feelings.
- Ask students to consider what makes them unique. Students can then write and draw about what makes them special.
- Discuss the skill of perseverance. Ask students to think of something that they cannot yet do, but with practise and time will be able to achieve.

### *Understanding the World:*

- Ask students what they hope to do when they grow up. Discuss careers and community helpers. Students can write and draw about their ideas.

### *Creative Ideas:*

- Ask students to write a story about an adventure Allan might have working with the Flying Doctor's Service.
- Create visual artworks of Allan, his friends or feathers using different mediums such as oil pastels, water colour paints, collage or clay.
- Engage students in drama and movement related to birds.

### *Research/Further Understanding:*

- Research the different Australian birds featured in the story. Students could then create an information report.
- Research Tasmanian landscapes and ask students to describe the different features.

## About the Authors:

**Brooke Toppin** is an Early Childhood Teacher and became interested in writing stories while studying for her degree. She hopes to spark children's sense of wonder and connection to stories. Brooke loves walking in nature, gardening and travelling overseas. She lives in Tasmania, Australia, with her husband, two daughters and lovable labradoodle, Polly.

**Christine Chugg** adores animals, so it's only natural that they feature in her writing. She can often be found reading books about them and is amazed by their astonishing ways. She is also a maker with a creative mind and enjoys upcycling materials to make useful items and giving them a new life. She lives with her husband in Tasmania, Australia.

## About the Illustrator:

Mariela Lotfi was born in Mendoza, Argentina and has always been captivated by the enchanting illustrations found in books. After graduating from the Faculty of Visual Arts at the National University of

Mendoza, Mariela became a freelance illustrator, expressing her love of animals, people and nature through a variety of artistic techniques. Mariela now lives with her family in Switzerland.