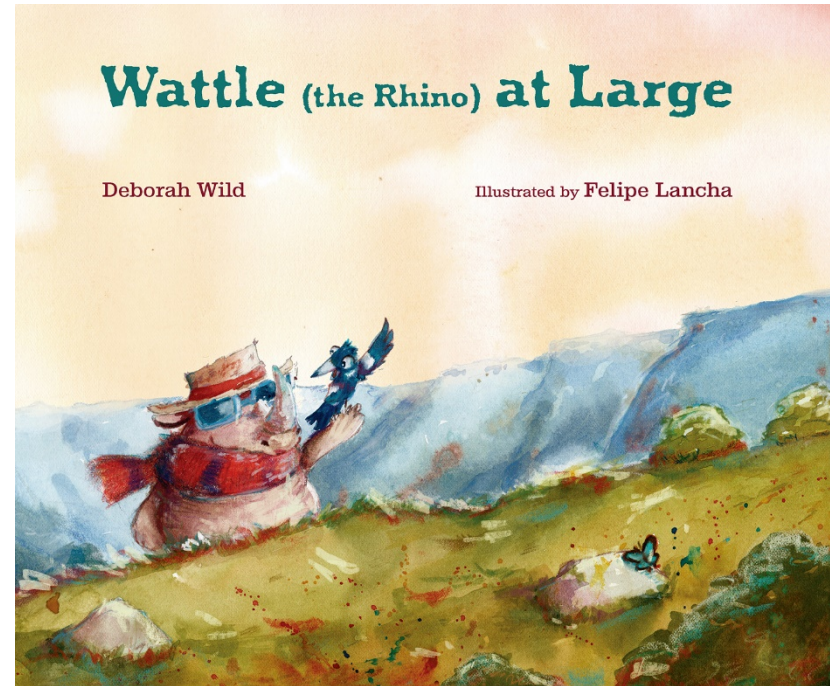


Wattle (the Rhino) at Large Teaching Notes

Author: Deborah Wild
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Synopsis:

Dreaming of seeing her friends at Taronga Zoo once more, Wattle the rhino plans a daring escape from the quiet, lonely nights at Western Plains Zoo. With help from her faithful friend, Bruce the magpie, the two discover an ingenious way to break out — and avoid the posse of zookeepers searching for her. Will the pair make it to the bright lights of Sydney? And will it feel like “home”? A humorous and fun adventure that highlights Australia’s role in helping save these wonderful animals from extinction. With delightful, engaging artwork that captures the excitement of this story.



Teaching Notes			
Improvising on text			
<u>Discussion</u> Rhyme - Wattle the Rhino is written in Rhyme.			
<u>Suggestions</u> Creative Writing challenge to write in rhyme			
Improvising on the text: Year Level Ideas			
Foundation: Can you pick out the rhyming words in the story? Put two in a sentence.	Year 1 – 2: How many words can you think of that rhyme with zoo? Can you put them into a short funny story?	Year 3 – 4: Write a short poem about a zoo in rhyme. You can use words such as do, you, who, chew, blue, true, shoe etc.	Year 5 – 6: Write a stanza or two about a zoo animal in rhyme. Pay close attention to the rhythm of the stanzas so that they sing off the page!
Responding to the text			
<u>Discussion</u> There are two main characters in the story. How do these animals relate to each other in the story, and in the wild?			
<u>Suggestions</u> Research birds and rhino in the wild and discuss How they help each other.			
Responding to the text: Year Level Ideas			
Foundation: What kind of a bird is Bruce? If you were writing this story, what kind of bird would you have used to help Wattle on her quest? Draw your bird on the back of a rhino.	Year 1 – 2: What does Bruce do to help Wattle escape? How do birds <i>really</i> help Rhinos in the wild?	Year 3 – 6: What is a ‘mutualistic’ relationship? What kind of birds have a mutualistic relationship with Rhinos in the wild? Give examples of how they look after each other? Can you think of other examples of animals with mutualistic relationships?	
Foundation: Have you been to a zoo? What things did you see that help keep animals happy in zoos? What would you do to keep animals entertained?	Year 1 – 2: Wattle wants to escape from the zoo to see her friends. Do you think zoos are happy places for animals? Why do you think they are/are not?	Year 3 – 6: Thinking about zoos across the world, what role do they play other than just to showcase animals to visitors? (Think about rhinos and other endangered animals in particular.)	
Questioning			
Foundation – Year 6: Here are some suggested questions you might like to ask as you read the text. These are to promote discussion and as a result may have multiple answers.			

Before Reading	During Reading	After Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a prediction about what you think “at Large” might mean? • Look at the end papers. What do you think this might tell us about the story? • What do you notice about the front and back cover? 	<p><u>Literal Questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Wattle dreaming about? • What does Bruce bring to help Wattle escape? • Once Wattle escapes, what is her biggest problem? • What is a posse? • When Bruce ‘leaves in a flutter and gives a cheer’ – what is his clever idea? • When Wattle reaches Taronga, what does she see? Why is she ‘in luck’? • Why is Wattle happy to go ‘home’? • What are Rhinos horns made from? <p><u>Inferential Questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think the author called a rhinoceros “Wattle”? • Do you think Rhinos should eat hot chips and ice creams? What do Rhinos actually eat? • Why can’t Rhinos fly? Do you think it would be funny if they could? • Why do you think Wattle doesn’t enjoy it when she reaches Taronga? • Can you think of two more interesting facts about Rhinos? <p><u>By Myself Questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think is a good name for a rhino? • Do you like visiting the zoo? What is your favourite animal and why? • Has this book made you think more about what animals are thinking and feeling? • Do you think it would be fun to be a zoo-keeper? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you like/dislike about this book? • What do you think the moral of this story is? (Think about the last line and what that might mean.) • Has this book made you think about whether animals dream? Or whether they are happy in zoos? • Did you know that Zoos play an important role in helping save animals from extinction? Can you think of other animals facing extinction? • Can you think about things you can do to help prevent different animals from becoming extinct? (Group discussion) • Do you know how many rhinos there are left in the wild? • Why would a country like Australia be helping to breed rhinos?

About the Author:

Deborah Wild was raised on the North Shore of Sydney in a house full of pets and generations. At university, Deb attempted everything from astronomy to zoology, before focusing on children's literature. Having raised three children of her own, Deb now lives in the hills of Canberra. When not at her desk, Deb loves spending time outdoors. She's passionate about wildlife conservation and dreams of a world where animals are free from threat and harm.

About the Illustrator:

Felipe Lancha is from São Paulo, Brazil. He has always been passionate about the arts and found that his path in life flowed naturally into children's illustration. Using exclusively traditional methods, Felipe's work is inspired by music, cinema, literature, family, video games, coffee, and much more.