BUSH BASKETBALL

By Rylan Cusack

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Bush Basketball

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We respect and honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on this land and commit to building a brighter future together.
One night when the bush was quiet and the full moon shone bright in the sky, some friends gathered in a clearing. The Cheating Emu, Brave Kangaroo, Fast Dingo and Funny Wombat were ready for a game of basketball.
It began! The Fast Dingo ran down the basketball court as fast as lightning. He was always the fastest on the team.

He passed the ball to the Funny Wombat who was in the middle of telling a funny joke. He always loved to make everyone happy.
Out of nowhere the Cheating Emu came running towards the Funny Wombat and with all his strength pushed the Funny Wombat over.

The Funny Wombat fell on his side and hurt his hip. He walked off the basketball court crying and feeling sad that his friend had hurt him.
All the other animals looked at each other in shock. They knew that it wasn’t right to hurt their friends.
The Brave Kangaroo walked up to the Cheating Emu and bravely asked him, “Why would you want to hurt your friend? That was very mean of you. We like to play with you, Emu, but not when you cheat.”

The Cheating Emu said, “I did it because I wanted the ball, and it was the only way I could get it”.
The Brave Kangaroo responded, “Well that wasn’t nice. We don’t treat our friends like that.”
The Cheating Emu thought about it for a moment and felt sad that he had hurt the Funny Wombat.
The Cheating Emu went up to the Funny Wombat and said, “Sorry for being so mean. I won’t do it again.”
They agreed to be friends again and they all enjoyed playing basketball together under the stars. The Fast Dingo was still fast! The Funny Wombat was still funny! The Brave Kangaroo was still brave! But the Cheating Emu didn’t cheat ever again.
You can use these questions to talk about this book with your family, friends and teachers.

What did you learn from this book?

Describe this book in one word. Funny? Scary? Colourful? Interesting?

How did this book make you feel when you finished reading it?

What was your favourite part of this book?

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About the author

Rylan was born in Mandurah, Western Australia and his family is Gurindji, Warlpiri and Anmatyerre from the Northern Territory. Rylan likes spending time with family, playing games, going out for dinner and going to the Fremantle Dockers games. His favourite stories are the Dog Man and Cat Kid books.
Our Yarning

Want to discover more books from this collection? Our Yarning is a collection of books written by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia.

We know that children learn better, and enjoy reading more, when they see themselves in the stories, characters and illustrations of the books they read.

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