



Stories from the Billabong

By James Vance Marshall

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From the author of Walkabout come ten of Australia's ancient aboriginal legends, authentically and elegantly retold. Here you can discover how Great Mother Snake created and peopled the world with plants and creatures, what makes Frogs croak, why Kangaroo has a pouch, and just what it is that makes Platypus so special. The illustrations are by the aboriginal artist and storyteller Francis Firebrace, whose distinctive, colourful work is known throughout Australia and beyond.

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Stories from the Billabong By James Vance Marshall Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 2–6—With the help of Aboriginal storytellers who have collected the tales and myths of their people, Marshall has assembled 10 fascinating stories of the Dreamtime. Many explain why some things are the way they are: "How the Kangaroo got her Pouch," "Why Frogs can only Croak," and "How the Crocodile got its Scales." Others tell about the creation of the Earth, death, and other universal concerns. Each selection is beautifully told and is illustrated by a traditional artist who uses the distinctive symbols and colors of the Aboriginal people. An informational page follows each retelling, giving readers facts about the subject. Concluding pages offer a brief explanation of who the Aboriginal Australians are and an illustrated spread that explains the symbols and their meanings. This is an engaging, colorful book that belongs in most libraries.—*Lee Bock, Glenbrook Elementary School, Pulaski, WI*

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From [Booklist](#)

Ten Aboriginal stories relate how the world was created, why frogs croak, and other legends associated with various Australian wildlife. Each story runs a brief three pages in length, with an additional page of information about a prominent creature from the tale. The stories lack the tension, character, and precision that usually occurs with retelling and seem to be remembered pieces of longer stories. Back matter includes one page on Aboriginal culture, two pages on their symbols, and a glossary. Francis Firebrace's vibrant Aboriginal art outshines the stories, but the book may prove helpful in multicultural studies. Grades 3-5. -- Linda Perkins

Review

A book that will be enjoyed for its educational value and for the delightful re-telling of its age-old tales.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Armando Ceballos:

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