



Reading Magazine

2009

Year 3

A large koala is shown sleeping on a tree trunk. Its head is resting against the bark, and its eyes are closed. Its thick, grey fur is clearly visible. One of its large, clawed feet is gripping the tree. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a forest setting.

Koalas

Koalas are only found in Australia. They spend a lot of time up in the trees but will come down to the ground to move to a new tree.

Koalas can run when they are on the ground. They can swim too but they don't usually go into the water.

Koalas eat leaves from some gum trees. The young leaves are the best for them to eat.

Koalas do not move very much and they spend most of the day asleep.



Barbecued Fruit

What you need

- fresh fruit
- 2 tablespoons of melted butter
- 2 tablespoons of brown sugar
- wooden satay sticks
- a clean brush

What to do

- Ask an adult to help you cut the fruit.
- Thread the fruit onto the sticks.
- Carefully mix the butter and sugar together to make a sauce. Brush it onto the fruit.
- Ask an adult to help you cook the fruit sticks on a barbecue for 5 minutes.

Now eat them up!



Greetings from Holiday Cove

Wednesday 8 October

Dear Kim

We arrived at Holiday Cove on Monday and we are having lots of fun.

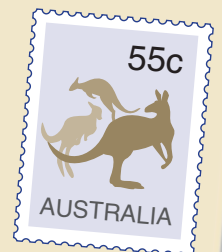
The flight was so boring I nearly fell asleep but at least it was smooth - not like last time.

When we landed we went straight to our campsite. My cousin Gemma is staying in the caravan next to ours.

I am excited because we are going to visit the crocodile farm tomorrow. Peter is scared and says he wants to go to the butterfly farm instead.

Tom

P.S. We are leaving here on Friday and sailing to Rest Harbour.



Kim Allen

4 Lansdowne Parade

MILL HILL QLD 4332

An extract from

Little Hao and the Golden Kites

by Mavis Scott

Each year the Emperor watched a kite competition among the rich people who lived in his palace.

Soon it was time for all the people to gather by the steps of the Palace to see the rich nobles bring out their Golden Kites.

Little Hao heard drumbeats. The nobles were coming.

There they were!

First came Lord North Wind. His kite was like a dragon, shining golden in the sunlight.

“Aaaah!” said all the people. “That one will win the Emperor’s prize.”



Next came Lord Noble Horse. His kite was like a golden eagle with its wings spread wide.

It soared into the sky. The people cheered and clapped.

Last of all came Lord Black Mountain. His kite was made like the flames from a fire, and there were rich jewels in its tail. The fire kite sparkled all over the sky.

The people cheered their loudest.

“That one wins! That one wins!” they called.



Some students are investigating how pollution affects the environment. They have researched the effects of plastic bags. This is what they have written.

Should we pay for plastic bags?



People should pay for the plastic bags they use for their shopping. According to experts from Clean Up Australia, Australians use over six billion plastic bags a year and many of these are used for carrying shopping home from supermarkets. Making people pay for these plastic bags would encourage them to use reusable bags.

Some plastic bags can last in the environment for up to 1000 years before they disintegrate (break down). Plastic bags are harmful to wildlife as they can kill animals, especially in the ocean.

Also, when plastic bags are made, dangerous gases are released that pollute the atmosphere. If we use fewer plastic bags there would be less air pollution, as well as less land and water pollution.

We need to reduce the number of plastic bags in the environment. Making people pay will help to stop them using plastic bags and force them to use reusable bags for their shopping!



Planet Theta

An extract from ALIEN GAMES by Jackie French

The planet was small and grey and had no clouds. Its moons whizzed around it like mosquitoes looking for a place to land.

"Doesn't it rain on Theta?" asked Hanna, peering through the telescreen.

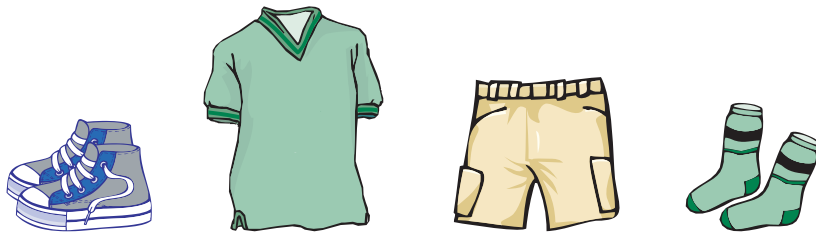
"Only when the south is tilted towards the sun," said Cyril. "That will be in approximately five point nine eight (5.98) Earth days, according to my calculations."

"It looks boring," said Hanna. "All the planets we visit are boring. I wish Theta had trees. I wish it had animals to play with. I wish it had *some* sort of life."

"There is life in the giant southern lakes," offered Cyril, as though he was giving her a treat. "They have fifty-seven different species of algae. They give the planet its air. There are thirty-eight species of bacteria, none of which are harmful to humans or MukLuks, eighteen protozoan ..."

"It's still boring," said Hanna ...

... Cyril sighed. It was a proper sounding sigh, though of course there was no breath behind it. Hanna wondered if CRL robots were programmed to sigh, or if Cyril had just learned to copy humans.



Tim

On Monday, Tim dressed for school.

First he put on his shorts.

Then he put on his shirt.

Next he put on his socks.

Last he put on his shoes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Koalas

Images: © iStockphoto.com/Stephanie Swartz (main); © iStockphoto.com/Kitch Bain (inset).

Barbecued Fruit

Text adapted from *501 TV-free Activities for Kids* by Di Hodges, Hinkler Books, Australia, 2000.

Holiday Cove

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Little Hao and the Golden Kites

Text and illustrations adapted from *Little Ho and The Golden Kites* by Mavis Scott, A Little Ark Book, published by Allen & Unwin, 1995.

Should we pay for plastic bags?

Image: Ron Prendergast.

Planet Theta

Text and illustration adapted from *Alien Games* by Jackie French, HarperCollins Publishers, Australia, 1995.
Illustration: Tony Pyrzakowski.