



## *Tell 'em!*

By Katrina Germein, Rosemary Sullivan and Karen Briggs

### Summary

**A joyous and exuberant picture book about life in a remote community**

*Tell 'em how us kids like to play.  
We got bikes and give each other rides.  
Tell 'em about the dancing and singing,  
And all the stories the old people know.*

In this book, written in conjunction with children from Manyallaluk School in the Roper River region in the Northern Territory, the voices of Indigenous children sing out across the land to tell us about their life in a remote community.

### Key Learning Outcomes

ACELA1460, ACELA1463, ACELA1469, ACELT1587, ACELT1591, ACELT1833, ACELY1670

### Themes

Community, Indigenous Australians, Friendship, Cultural diversity

Recommended Ages: 4+

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## CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

### Text

*Tell 'em!* was written with the children from Manyallaluk School, in the Roper River region of the Northern Territory, when they were asked what they would like to tell other children about their lives.

1. Make a list of all the things that the children want us to know.
2. Draw up a table in your workbook, with three columns like this:

Activities	Places	Things

Use the information you collected for activity 1, and divide it up under the headings above.

3. Some of the many things that the children tell us about their lives may be similar or different from yours.
  - a. In the table above, **UNDERLINE** the activities, places and things that the children from Manyallaluk School do that are things that you recognise from your own life, or those of your friends and family.
  - b. What do we learn about the lives of the children? How **SIMILAR** are their lives to yours? How **DIFFERENT** are they?
4. What are three things you would like to tell the children from Manyallaluk School about your life?

### Illustrations

While the illustrations of *Tell 'em!* utilise many beautiful colours, there are two colours that you can find on almost every page. Which two colours are these?

1. What do you think each of these colours represents?
2. What is the illustrator trying to tell us about the place where the children live by using these colours?
3. If you had to pick the two colours that make up a lot of your world, which two colours would they be?
  - a. What do these colours represent?
  - b. What might they tell someone who lives a very different life to you?

## Compose Your Own

Use your ideas about what you would like to tell the children from Manyallaluk School about your life (Text activity 4) and the colours that represent your world (Illustrations activity 3), to create a page in a picture book about the life of the students from your school.

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATOR

Rosemary Sullivan is a teacher who was born in Darwin and has lived and worked in the Top End of the Northern Territory all her life. She currently teaches at a one-teacher school on a cattle station in the NT, and continues to pursue her interest in both education and writing. Her first picture book, *Tom Tom*, was nominated as an Honour Book in the 2009 CBCA Book of the Year Awards for Early Childhood and has sold more than 28,000 copies.

Katrina is a bestselling author whose books are published worldwide. Her first book, *Big Rain Coming*, has remained continuously in print since 1999 and her popular title *My Dad Thinks He's Funny* was Highly Commended in the Prime Minister's Literary Awards. Katrina holds a Bachelor of Education and a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education.

Karen Briggs is a designer and illustrator whose inspiration stems from her love of animals and nature, and memories of holidays with her grandmother on the Cummeragunja Mission. She is a descendant of the Yorta Yorta people whose ancestral homeland radiates from the junction of the Goulburn and Murray Rivers in North East Victoria. Her first picture book, *Kick with My Left Foot*, written by Paul Seden, was published in 2014, and shortlisted for the CBCA Crichton Award in 2015. These days she illustrates from her home in the Adelaide Hills.