

Teaching Notes: Kirra The Koala

Written by Beverly Jatwani

Illustrated by Sarah Demonteverde

Published by New Frontier Publishing



SYNOPSIS

Kirra the Koala is the fifth book in the 'Together We Can Change The World' series. A series of seven stories, covering seven continents, with seven important virtues; Love, Courage, Compassion, Kindness, Integrity, Respect and Gratitude. Each book highlights a fundamental core value, whilst simultaneously encouraging children's responsibility towards Planet Earth. The books' protagonists are an endangered species from each continent. The fifth book is a delightful story about a girl and a koala joey, Kirra. When a wildfire destroys the local habitat, Ling volunteers to help save and rescue the stranded koalas. A special understanding with Kirra will forever change Ling's understanding of **Integrity**.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Beverly Jatwani's deeply spiritual upbringing in India was rooted in outdoor play... muddy knees and climbing trees is best how she describes her childhood. It is with these precious memories in mind, armed with the life lessons that she learned whilst being a mum to three spirited children, that inspired her to co-found the Middle East's first 'green & purpose over profit' children's nurseries.

Having witnessed how children engage with nature, Beverly was inspired to write a series of children's books that capture the innate love and affinity that children have with Mother Earth. Through these seven beautifully illustrated and tenderly written books, Beverly takes children on their own journey to discover how even little people can make a positive impact on our planet and all living things through love, compassion and gratitude.



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ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Sarah Demonteverde is a Filipino-American illustrator and designer currently based in the greater Los Angeles area. She graduated from Azusa Pacific University's Bachelor of Fine Arts programme, having studied Fine Arts with an interdisciplinary emphasis in both graphic design and illustration. Having roots in the multicultural community of Southern California. Sarah grew up loving music and dance, playing classical guitar and performing as a Polynesian dancer throughout her younger years. Sarah's passion for diverse cultures and history has grown since then and has inspired her to create narratives as a homage to the past, while also instilling that same passion into those around her and the generations to come. When she's not illustrating or dancing, you can find her exploring botanical gardens, searching for her next foodie joint, spending time with her big family or hiking around local trails after a good coffee or matcha fix.

EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Kirra the Koala is the perfect book for promoting environmental awareness and to educate and inspire children to take care of the planet and its inhabitants. It encourages children to wisely use their emotional superpowers and shows them the power of INTEGRITY.

Included is a fact file of lots of interesting facts for children to learn about koalas and their habitat.



DISCUSSION TOPICS

Read the book together, asking questions throughout.

1. Look at the cover of the book together. What do you think the story might be about?
2. *Kirra the Koala* is set in the outback in Australia. Have you been to Australia?
3. Have you ever seen a koala? Was it in its natural habitat?
4. Explain what the word 'endangered' means to the children (a species which is seriously at risk of extinction.) Extinct means that the species no longer has any living members.
5. Why do you think certain animals and birds are endangered? (The main reason species become endangered is loss of habitat, this can occur naturally but is more often caused by human interference.)
6. How does Ling show integrity?
7. Ask the children if they know what integrity means? Give lots of different examples. Do they feel that integrity can change the world? If yes, how do you show integrity?
8. Read through the koala facts together. Do you know any more facts?
9. What did the children think of the book? If they liked it, why did they like it? What was their favourite part?

Activity: DESIGN A POSTER

In the book, Ling loves helping out at the koala sanctuary, looking after sick, injured and orphaned koalas.

On the next page, have a go at designing your own poster to raise awareness about the endangered koala bear. An endangered species is a species that is very likely to become extinct in the near future. Why not use some facts at the back of the book.

Here are some questions and things to think about when making your 'Save the koala' poster.

- Where does it live?
- What does it eat?
- Behaviours unique to it.
- Why did it become endangered?
- What is being done now to protect it?
- How can people help with the conservation effort?



FUN
ACTIVITY!

SAVE THE KOALA!



A large empty rectangular box for drawing or writing.



INTEGRITY POEM

Make up an acrostic poem about integrity using the word INTEGRITY. Having integrity is about telling the truth, being honest and sincere. For example, owning up if you break something, returning a wallet that you find, saying sorry, etc.

I _____

N _____

T _____

E _____

G _____

R _____

I _____

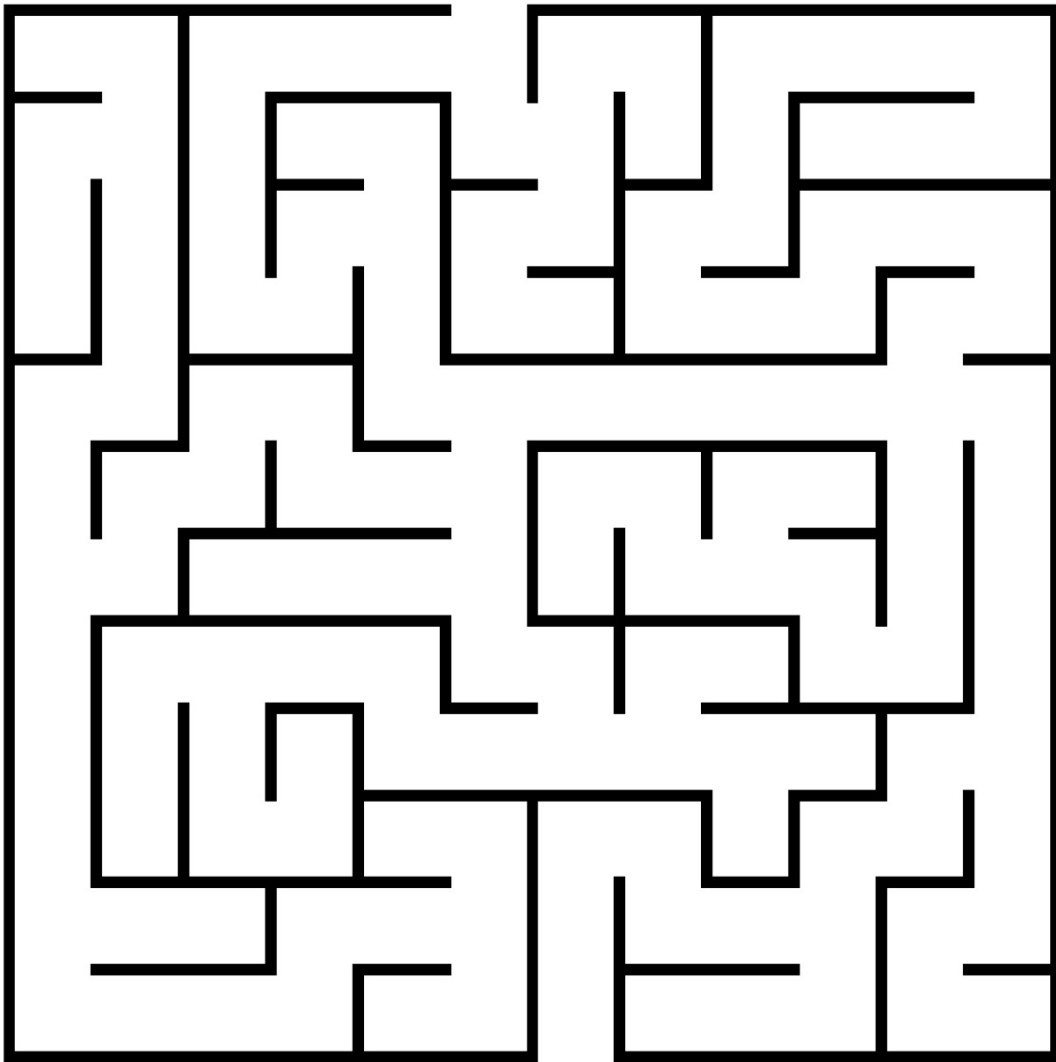
T _____

Y _____



A-MAZE-ING LING

Help Ling find and help Kirra.



Solution
on next
page!



CERTIFICATE OF INTEGRITY

How about giving this certificate to one of your friends who has shown INTEGRITY.
You could always photocopy this page and then hand out lots of certificates.

