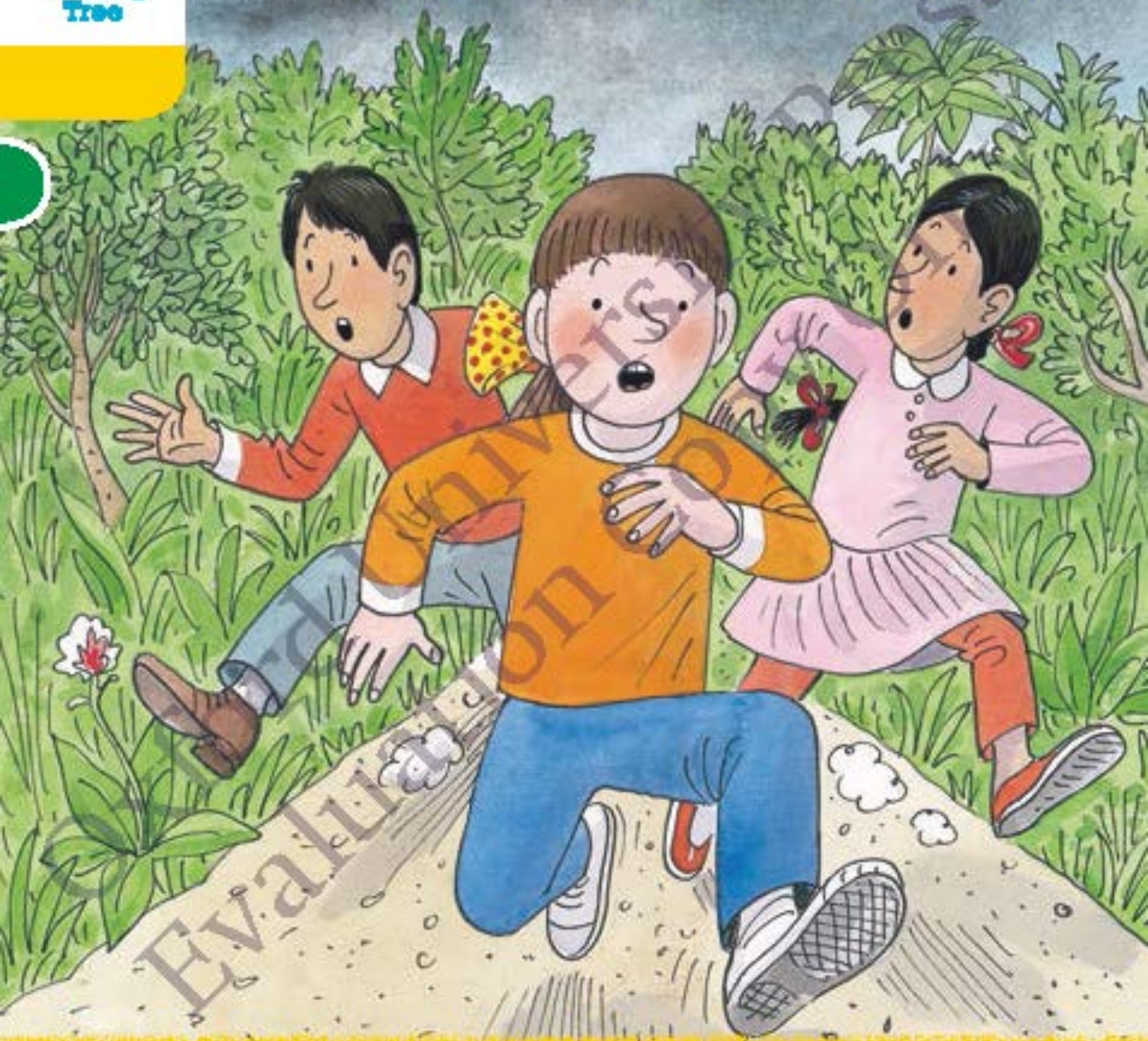


Bush Fire!





Written by Roderick Hunt and Annemarie Young
Illustrated by Alex Brychta
Phonics Consultant: Debbie Hepplewhite

BEFORE READING

Talk together

- Look at the title and cover picture. Explain that rural places in Australia are called the bush and how at certain times of year fires are common due to the hot weather.
- Talk about what children should do if they ever see a fire. Discuss the importance of fire safety.
- Look through the book and talk about the pictures.

About the words in this book

- Your child should be able to sound out and blend some words, which may include:

**don't old time house
saw about bush smoke**

Some words may be more challenging. Encourage or model blending, then read the words below to your child if necessary.

**oh Mrs asked
could Australia
koalas should**



DURING READING

Enjoy the story together. If your child needs support to read the story:

- Remind your child to sound out and blend unfamiliar words from left to right.
- Look for compound words, where two words create a bigger word, e.g. *moonlight*.
- If a word is still too tricky, simply say the whole word for your child.
- Re-read sentences to focus on their meaning where necessary.



See the inside back cover for more ideas.



Biff, Anneena and Nadim were watching a film about bush fires in Australia.

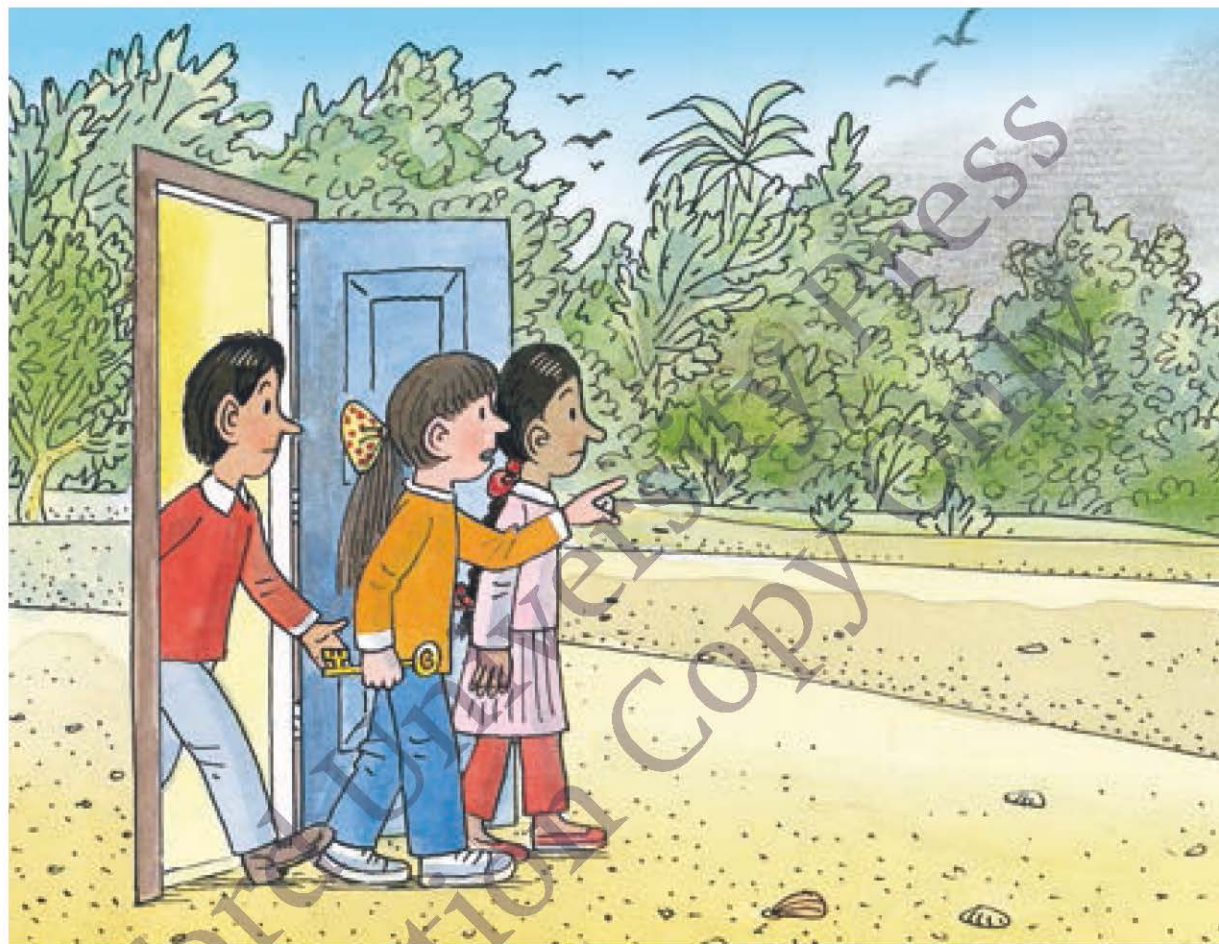


"What happens to the animals when there are fires?" asked Nadim.

"I don't know," said Biff.



The magic key began to glow.
It was time for an adventure.



The magic key took them to a beach.
“Oh no! Look at all that smoke,”
said Biff.



A boy ran out of the sea.

“Nan!” he yelled. “There’s a bush fire!
We should go.”



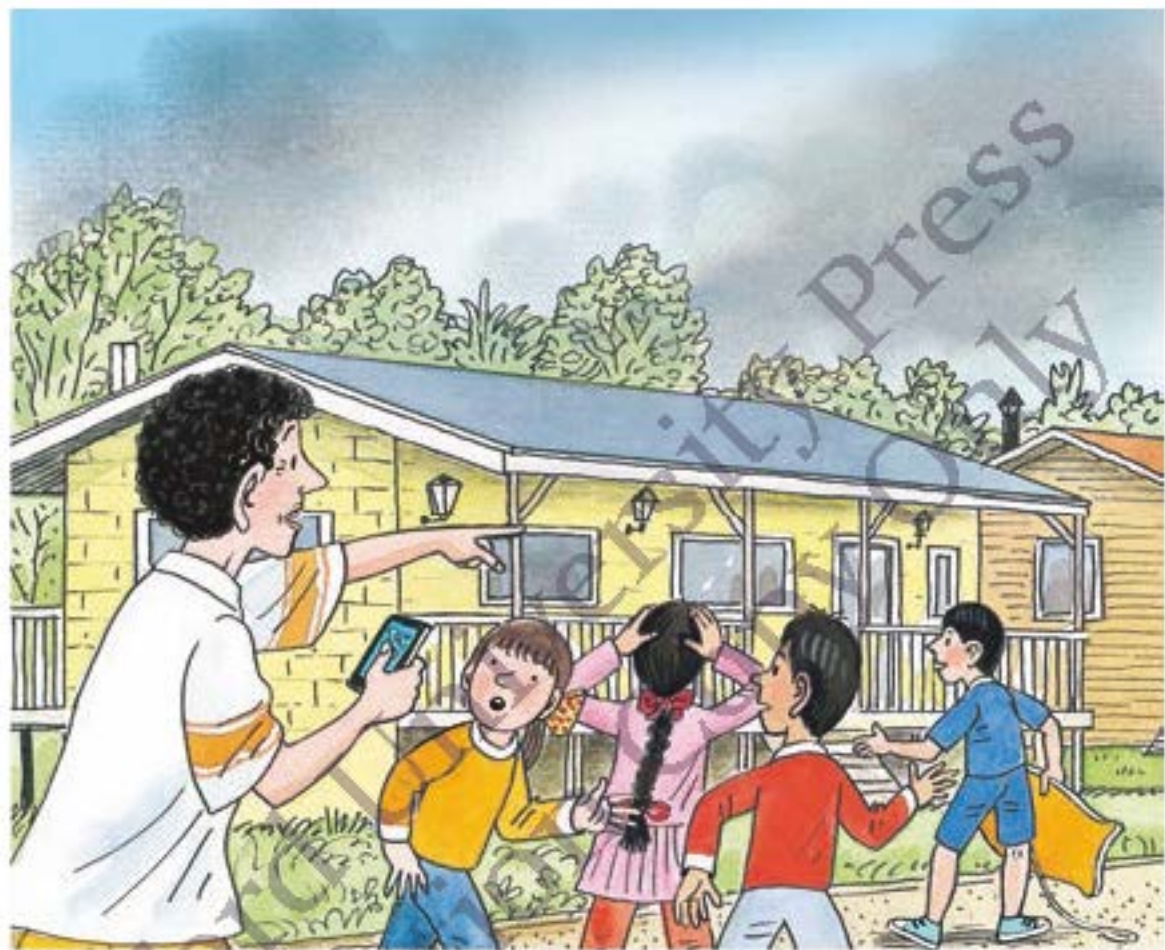
“Quick, Ben!” shouted Nan. “We must run home! I’ll call the fire service.”
“Can we help?” asked Anneena.



Ben said that they must run back to his house. "You can help us spray water on the roof and walls."



“It’s hard for koalas when there are bush fires,” panted Ben. “Birds can fly away, but not the koalas.”



"The helicopter will come soon to drop water," said Nan. "But we can't wait! Quick! Get the hoses going."



Biff and Anneena found a hose.
Nadim turned it on. They aimed
the water at the walls.



“Ben, run and tell old Mrs Wilson to come outside with us,” said Nan.
“We must all get ready to leave.”



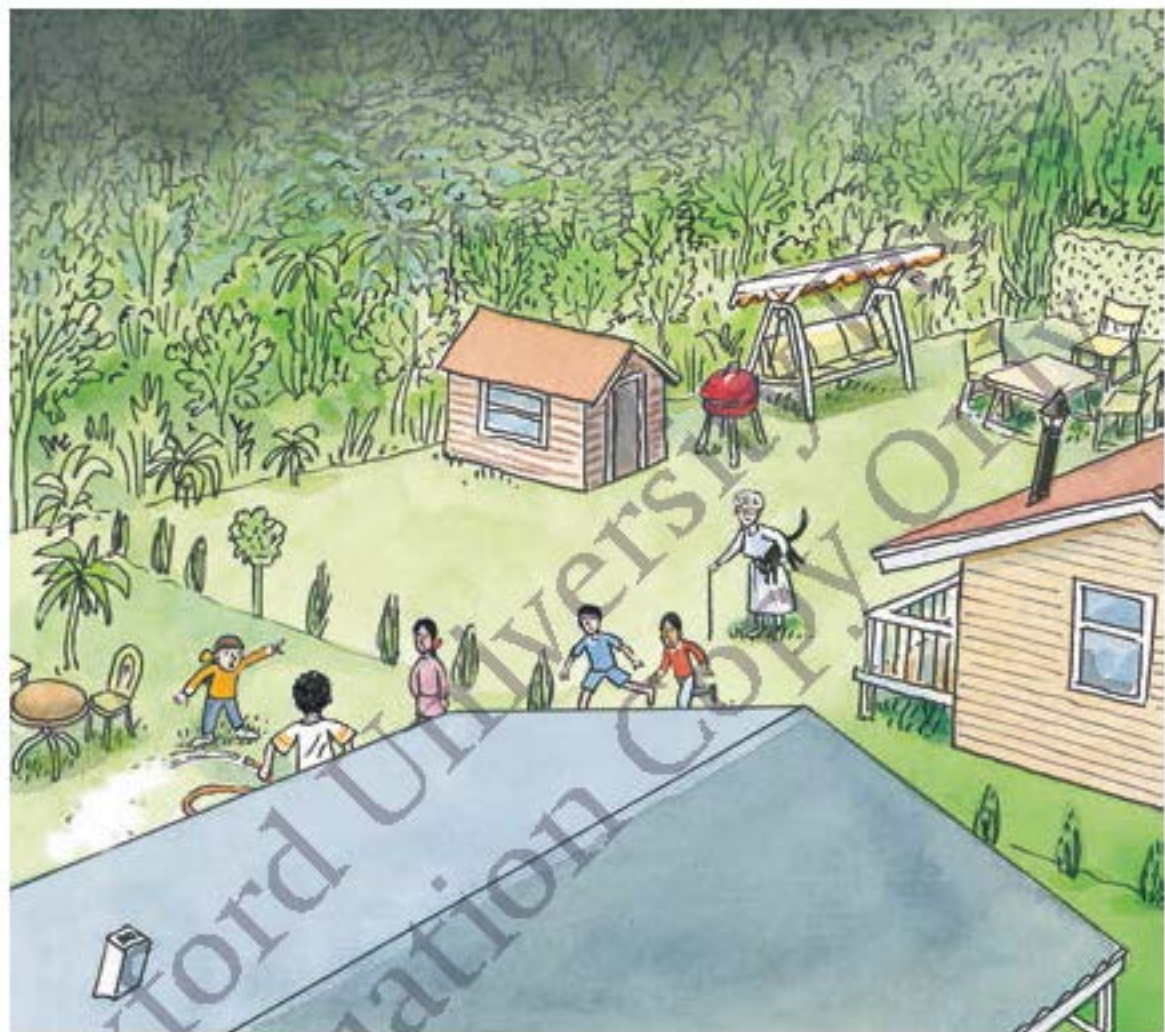
Ben and Nadim shouted and banged at Mrs Wilson's door, but she didn't come and open it.



They raced to the back of the house. They ran inside but they still couldn't find Mrs Wilson.



Just then, they saw the old lady.
“I was looking for Bunyip,” she said.



“Where’s the helicopter?” said Biff.

“I can hear it!” said Anneena.



Just then the helicopter flew over.
It began to dump water on the
trees nearby.



“How does that help?” asked Nadim.
“If the trees are really wet, the fire
won’t spread this way,” said Ben.



Another helicopter flew over.
It dumped water on the trees behind
the houses.



The pilot waved to the children.
“It will come back with more water,”
said Nan. “But we must leave soon.”



"A koala with a joey," said Anneena.
"They'll be hot," said Nan. "And they
might be thirsty."



"Do they drink water?" asked Biff.

"Let's see," said Nan.

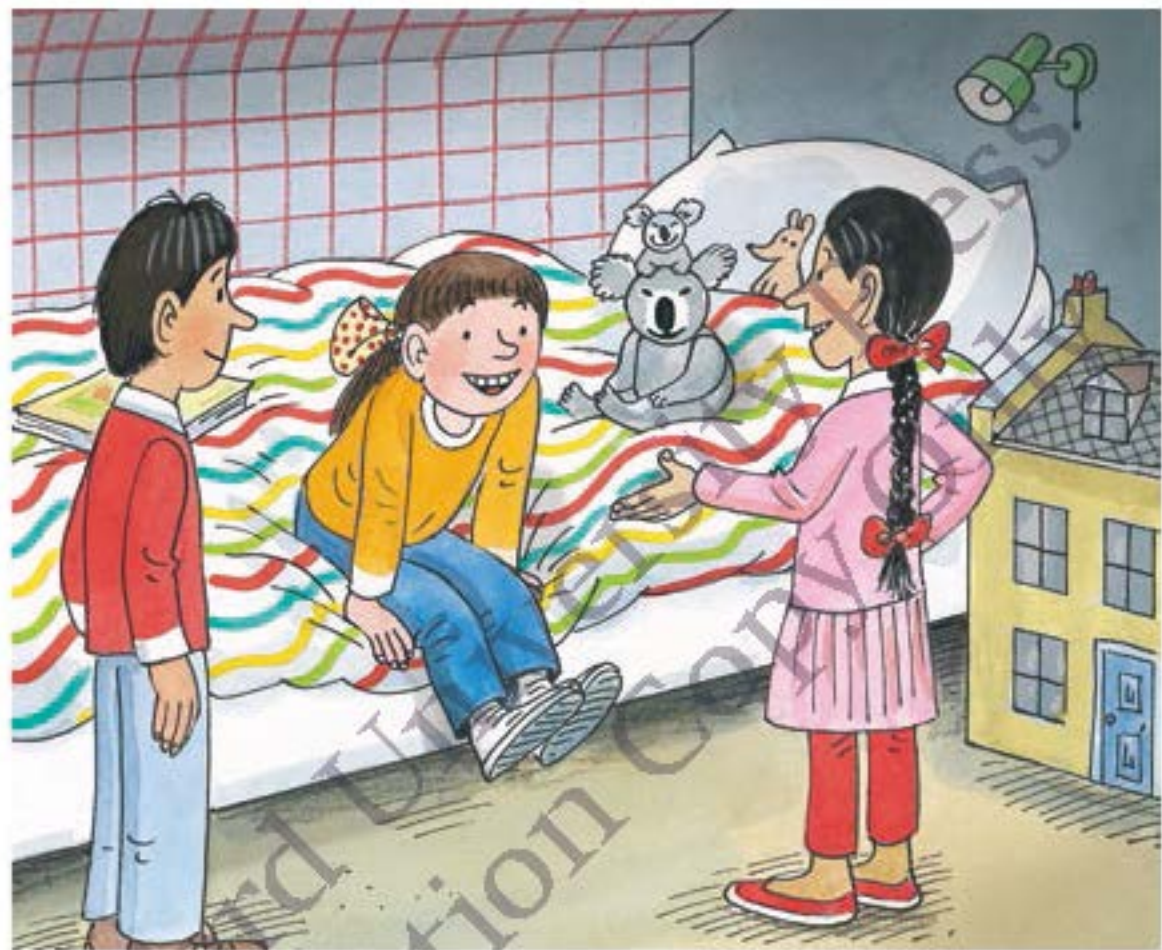
She filled Bunyip's bowl with water.



“The helicopters have stopped the fire for now, but we must be on our way,” said Nan. “Thank you for helping.”



"It's good we could help," said Biff.
"And we've seen koalas!" said Nadim.
The magic key began to glow.



“What a scary adventure!” said Biff.
“But at least we helped the koalas,”
said Anneena.

AFTER READING

- Look at pages 10–11. Ask: *Why did the children spray the walls of the house?*
- Look at page 19 together. Ask: *Why did Nan say they must leave soon?*
- Talk about the end of the story. Ask: *Who helped to deal with the fire? What do you think might happen next?*

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Illustrations © Alex Brychta 2011

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