

Read4Nature – Picture Books about farms

Book name

Mike's Bulldozer and the Big Flood

Author/ Illustrator
Thumbs up!

Nan Bodsworth

Lovely drawings with lots of real details.

One of our favourite books! A story about surviving a flood.

Main theme

Living with sudden changes in nature – flood coming.

Living things in this story

People on a mixed farm (cattle, peach trees) prepare for a flood as do the native animals (fish, ducks).

things to talk about in the illustrations

- ⊗ Characteristics of living things
 - ⊗ Different shapes of trees to show native trees by river and introduced trees on farm
 - ⊗ Fish not biting when the river is rising (flood coming)
 - ⊗ Flower heads of grasses by the dam
 - ⊗ Colour and shape of ducks walking and flying
- ⊗ links into the environment
 - ⊗ wattle blooming in the countryside - spring
 - ⊗ the big old gum forest by the river with its fallen logs
 - ⊗ swans on the river
 - ⊗ ducks using and flying over the orchard
- ⊗ other aspects in the environment
 - ⊗ why we need construction projects and how they change the natural environment
 - ⊗ people enjoying picnicking in the country
 - ⊗ mixed farming with cattle in orchards
 - ⊗ jobs needed to fight a flood

things to notice in the text

- ⊗ construction projects
 - ⊗ highways and tracks
 - ⊗ farm dams
 - ⊗ levee banks
- ⊗ producing food
 - ⊗ apple packing shed
 - ⊗ pruning fruit trees
 - ⊗ feeding out hay to cattle
- ⊗ preparing for floods
 - ⊗ rain upstream in the hills
 - ⊗ how quickly river levels change
 - ⊗ warnings on TV
 - ⊗ shifting animals to higher ground
 - ⊗ people working together on a range of jobs to build levees
 - ⊗ lifting furniture up

Now to observe

- ⊗ experience a picnic in some bush
- ⊗ Visit a construction site (eg house, road) or a newly finished highway and consider
 - ⊗ what was there before hand
 - ⊗ why it is needed
 - ⊗ what is done to put the 'nature' back by looking at other houses and major roads

And record

- ⊗ Work out the type of wattle, swans and ducks shown in the illustrations and how to recognise them
- ⊗ Draw a picture to show some good things that comes from floods
 - ⊗ River Red Gum trees get watered and their seeds can germinate
 - ⊗ Lakes/swamps formed where water birds live and breed
 - ⊗ Fish breeding grounds renewed

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- ♻️ Soils and ground water renewed
- ♻️ Farm dams refilled
- ♻️ Stagnant water flushed out

More about this book:

Science notes

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1994

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Publisher's suggested
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