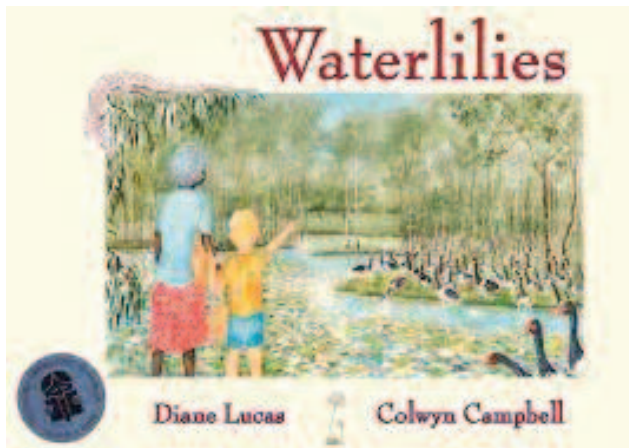


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Environmental stories from Kakadu

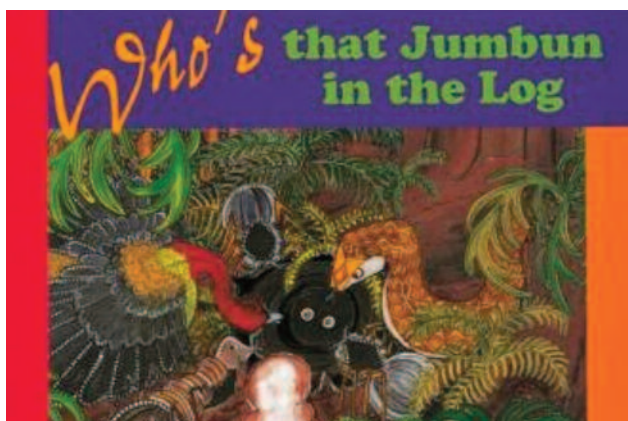


Some books are full of incredibly detailed and lovely visual images, from which we can discover much of the natural environment. *Waterlilies* (2007) by Diane Lucas and illustrated by Colwyn Campbell is such a book. It tells of two boys, from different cultures, who go to a Kakadu billabong and learn what lives there, how they are linked (i.e. its ecosystem), its bush food and how to prepare it for eating. The Gundjeihmi IL names of the Murrumburr clan of Kakadu, are used for the waterlilies' parts, and are given in a visual glossary.

If you enjoy this book, you might also like Lucas' earlier one - *Walking with the seasons in Kakadu* (2005). It describes changes in the natural environment for each of the six seasons.

Stories from the Atherton Tablelands

Another delightful nature book is *Who's that Jumbun in the log?* (1996), written by Narelle McRobbie. It is in English, except for one Yidinji IL word - "Jumbun", ('wichetty grub'). The Yidinji are based near Cairns. A little

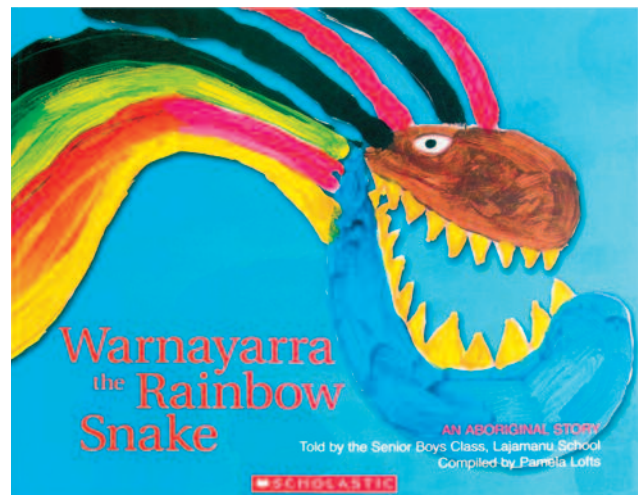


background on them can be found at [Cairns Regional Council](#). This story is very different as it uses icons instead of some words - good for early and pre-readers. Lots of fun! Along the way there are details about life in a rainforest supported by dot-outlined colourful drawings. A follow-up activity could be creating a diagram to show the 'Jumbuns' role in the rainforest.

If you enjoyed this book, Mc Robbie has another called *Bip the Snapping Bungaroo* set in a billabong. Again, McRobbie draws on her Yidinji heritage for the word 'Bungaroo' (turtle). This story is read out-loud with the [words and pictures available on YouTube](#).

Stories from the Tanami region

Warnayarra - the Rainbow Snake (2004), by children of the Lajamanu School, is a story from the Warlpiri people on the northern edge of the Tanami Desert. (Time for some more map skills practice?) It was also in Horsham library, and



may be in yours. A brief introduction to Lajamanu and the Warlpiri is [available here](#).

This book was compiled by Pamela Lofts from stories told and drawn by the children of the bi-lingual Lajamanu school. Warnayarra gives insight to some history of the Warlpiri and to a natural phenomenon. [A reading in English with the accompanying child-based pictures is on YouTube](#). Following this, children could describe where the Warlpiri worked and what happened in this weather event. Then compare how they might explain it.

Stories can help us see differences in cultures. Consider *Kuuku-kurlu - The Monster story* (2012), a Walpiri children's story written by an eight-year-old. What does this story show is scary