Teacher's Notes

Windy Hollow Books

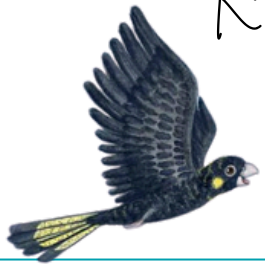
In the hollow of an ancient tree, a black cockatoo chick relies on its parents for survival. But as spring turns to summer, only the young cockatoo can save itself from the deadly heat.

Author and Illustrator Notes

I first saw yellow-tailed black cockatoos when I moved to the Surf Coast in Victoria. I have loved them ever since and when I hear their unique squeaky calls I race outside to catch a glimpse of them flying overhead. When I wrote this story, I began with the words 'high-up hollow' and 'woodchip nest' and because they held a rhythmic quality, they magically shaped the rest of the story.

I hope the language encourages kids to explore the rhythm of words and how writing tools such as alliteration - 'seedy stuff,' and internal rhyme - 'grubby mush' can enhance their writing. I also hope our book raises awareness of the importance of tree hollow nests and why they matter.

Kaye Baillie



Black cockatoos are one of my favourite species of Australian Bird. I often hear them flying over my back yard as I live quite close to the Royal National Park in NSW.

I think this story is very relatable for small children with milestones in their lives such as starting pre-school and school, moving from their cot into a big kid's bed and other big achievements.

I used a combination of loose watercolour washes for the skies and hollow walls combined with more detailed brush work for the family of cockatoos, where I used mainly watercolour and then acrylic paint and coloured pencil for the feathery textures of the birds.

Max Hamilton

Activities

Before Reading

What do you know about cockatoos?

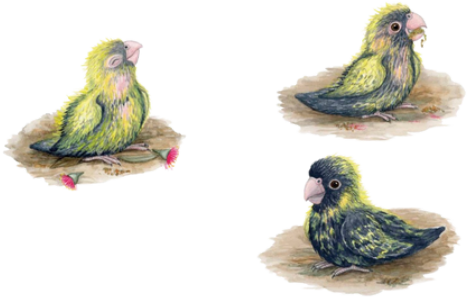
Can you tell by the cover what type of cockatoo this might be?

Drawing

Come up with a timeline of events for the young cockatoo in the book. Draw this adding illustrations for the significant events.

Max has shown the development of the chick and how it changes in appearance as it grows. What changes do you notice?

Using yellow and black pencils can you illustrate the chick at different stages of its growth.



After Reading

Did you learn anything new about cockatoos?

What dangers does a cockatoo chick face during its time in the tree hollow?

Why does the cockatoo chick need to leave the hollow?

What other native wildlife make tree hollows their home?

Writing

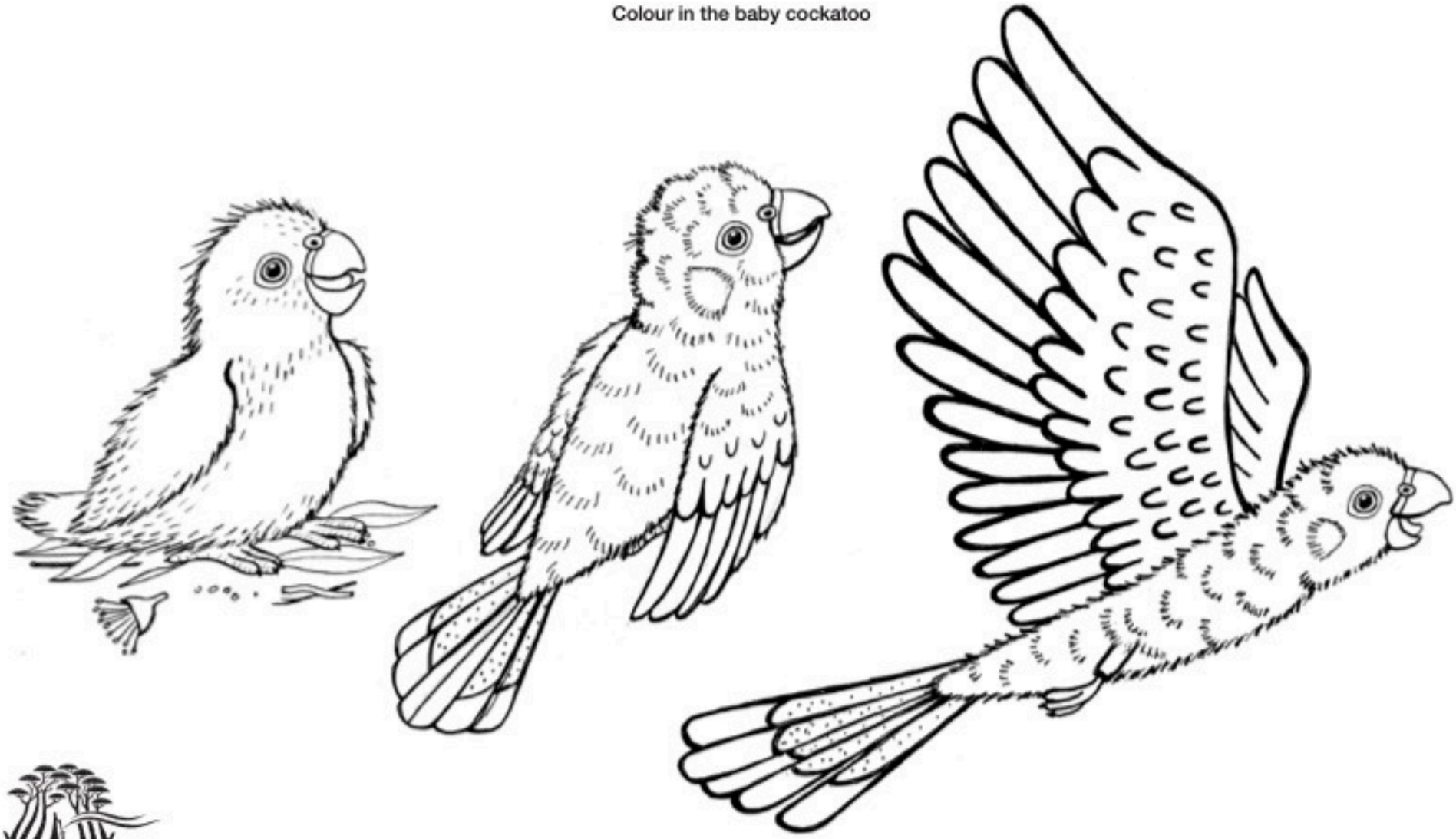
Kaye uses alliteration to add interest and give the book rhythm. Explore other examples of alliteration that might be used for a book about birds.

Come up with a list of alliteration examples and pin them to the wall. Use these as creative writing prompts.

The last page of the story shows some new birds moving into the tree hollow. Pick an animal that uses a tree hollow as a home and write a story about them.

Cockatoo

Colour in the baby cockatoo



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Cockatoo

Add some feathers to Cockatoo's tail...

You could collect some fallen leaves
from your garden and stick them on
or cut out some feather shapes from
coloured papers or magazines and stick them on.

You can even draw or paint the feathers on!

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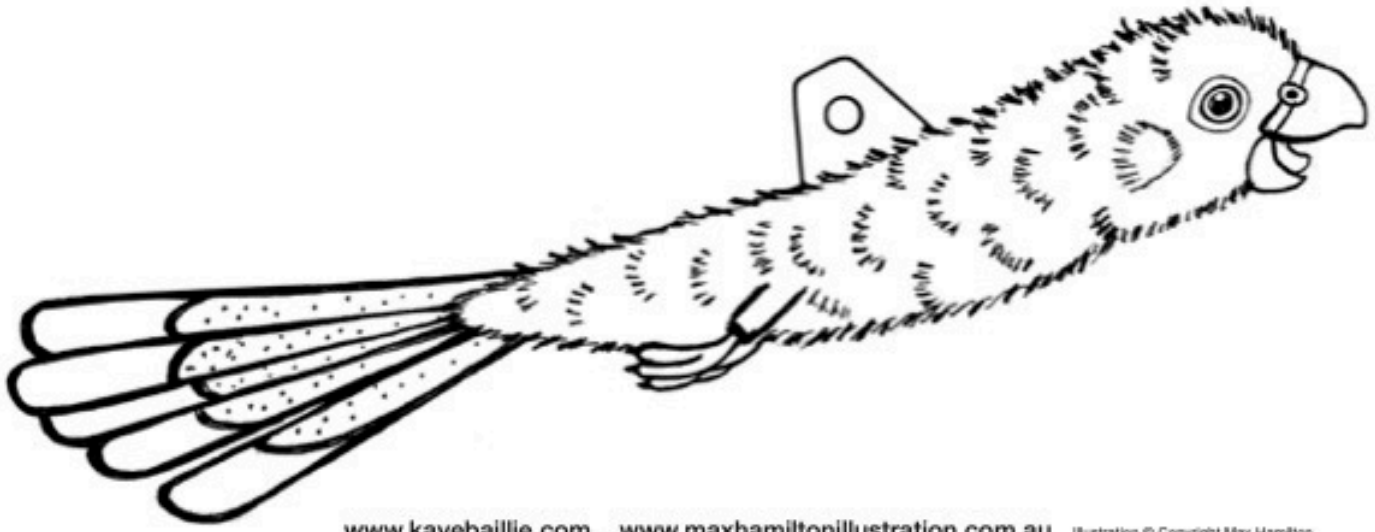
Cockatoo mobile



1. Print onto cardboard.
   Colour in baby cockatoo.

2. Cut out wings, fold in half.
   Cut a small slit in centre of wings.

3. Cut out cockatoo body and
   punch a hole in top section.

4. Slide the wings over the body
   (wing pattern can face up or down).
   Tie string through hanging hole.

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