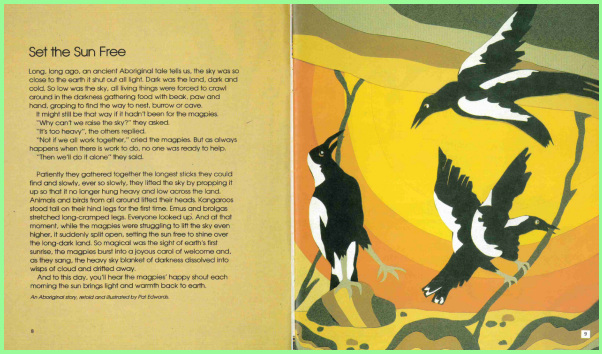
Reading!

LO: To summarise the text



Recap: What story were we reading?

Brief outline of the text: How did the sun get to be so high in the sky? The aboriginal tribes have a legend that tells us what they believe. This tale has been re-told and illustrated by Pat Edwards. It is called 'Set the sun free.'



Set the Sun Free

Long, long ago, an ancient Aboriginal tale tells us, the sky was so close to the earth it shut out all light. Dark was the land, dark and cold. So low was the sky, all living things were forced to crawl around in the darkness gathering food with beak, paw and hand, groping to find the way to nest, burrow or cave.

It might still be that way if it hadn't been for the magpies.

"Why can't we raise the sky?" they asked.

"It's too heavy!", the others replied.

"Not if we all work together," cried the magpies. But as always happens when there is work to do, no one was ready to help.

"Then we'll do it alone" they said.

Patiently they gathered together the longest sticks they could find and slowly, ever so slowly, they lifted the sky by propping it up so that it no longer hung heavy and low across the land. Animals and birds from all around lifted their heads. Kangaroos stood tall on their hind legs for the first time. Emus and brolgas stretched long-cramped legs. Everyone looked up. And at that moment, while the magpies were struggling to lift the sky even higher, it suddenly split open, setting the sun free to shine over the long-dark land. So magical was the sight of earth's first sunrise, the magpies burst into a joyous carol of welcome and, as they sang, the heavy sky blanket of darkness dissolved into wisps of cloud and drifted away.

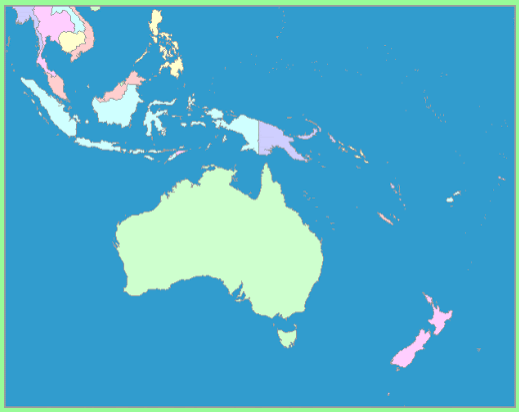
And to this day, you'll hear the magpies' happy shout each morning the sun brings light and warmth back to earth.

An Aboriginal story, retold and illustrated by Pat Edwards.

Extra information:

Experts believe that aboriginal people all came from Asia originally. They would have travelled from Asia to Australia. They live in clans, or tribes, that are made up of family groups. They use the land for resources such as food, through farming, water, through rivers, and houses, through stone.





Glossary:

1. Aboriginal – Aboriginal people are people who lived in Australia before the British invaded.
2. groping – feeling around to find something
3. burrow – to dig into the ground
4. cried – shouted
5. propping – holding something up with an object
6. hind - back
7. brolgas – a type of bird
8. cramped – achy and in pain
9. dissolved – disappeared by breaking away into tiny pieces



Task – put these points in the correct order. It should match the order things happen in the story.

The sky was so close to the earth it shut out all light.

The sky was propped up and the animals could move again

The animals had to crawl on the ground searching blindly for food.

The sky split open and the sun appeared

The magpies decided to work together to lift up the sky.

Everyone was happy

Set the Sun Free

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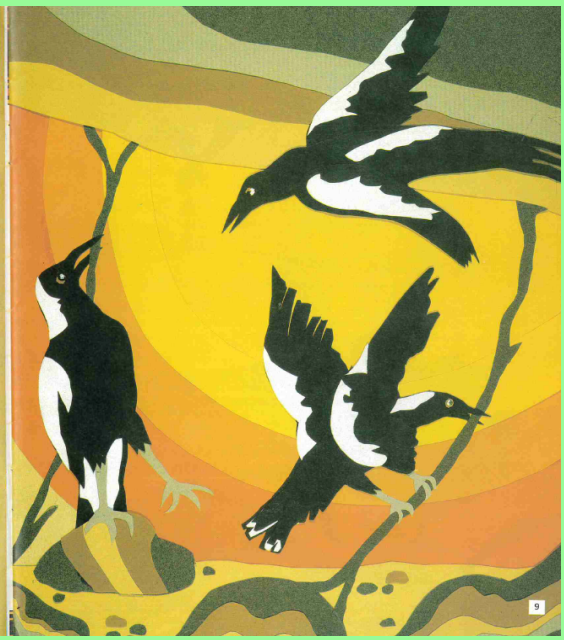
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Discussion:

How do you think the animals felt when the sky was so close to the earth and they had to crawl around?