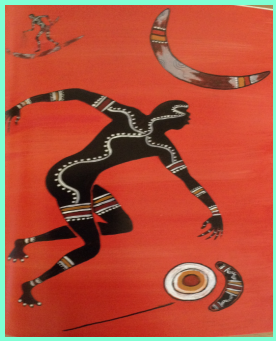
Third reading - question the author

LO: To check my understanding as I read the story.



What have you remembered about the legend?



You could:
- draw a mind map
- draw a story map
- retell the story orally (taking it in turns with your partner)

Alinga, the Lizard-Man, was one of the beings of the Dreamtime – the time when Aboriginal people believe the world was created. He was a mighty warrior. His favourite weapon was the boomerang. He could throw a boomerang so far, it sometimes took days to return.

One day, Alinga decided to make a special boomerang, throw it as far as he could, and see how long it took to come back.

He gathered together the branches of eucalypt trees, and laid them out in a great half circle. Then, with the sinews of kangaroos' tails, he tied the branches together. He collected the seeds of spinifex grass. Then he made fire, and melted the seeds until they turned into a sort of sticky glue. With this glue he sealed up the cracks and crevices in the boomerang he was creating. Finally, he polished it with the wax of wild bees.

At last the great boomerang was ready. Alinga flexed his muscles. He drew back his arm, and with all his strength flung the boomerang high into the sky. With a great *whrrrrrrr*, like a flight of cockatoos, it disappeared over the mountains.

Alinga waited for it to return. He waited patiently, hour after hour. The hours turned into days. The days turned into weeks. The weeks turned into months. The months turned into years. And still there was no sign of the boomerang.

Alinga decided to go and look for it.

He climbed the mountains, and set out across the desert. Whenever he met anyone he asked them if they had seen his boomerang. But no-one had.

This is a legend of the Yorta-Yorta tribe (one of Australia's Aboriginal tribes) which has been authentically and lovingly retold. I can remember another legend from this book which we read called 'Why the Platypus is such a Special Creature.'

In this legend, the Lizard-Man, Alinga, collected together branches from an Eucalypt tree as well as other objects in order to make a special boomerang. I know that boomerangs often return to the thrower but I guess that this boomerang is going to have special powers or do something unusual.

I love the way the boomerang is described as it was flung into the sky. Which two features has the author used to describe this - a great whrrrrr

- like a flight of cockatoos...

Unsurprisingly, the boomerang, as predicted, didn't do as it should have done. Notice how the writer describes Alinga patiently waiting - hour after hour - days - weeks - months - years!

Of course, Alinga doesn't want to lose his precious boomerang so he goes searching for it, far and wide.

One day, he met a family who didn't know what a boomerang was. He showed them how to make one, and how to throw it. Then he set off once again on his journey.

He journeyed across great deserts, over high mountains, and through dark rainforests. He journeyed on and on and on, year after year after year. But he couldn't find his boomerang.

He had many adventures.

Sometimes at night, when he felt cold, he made a camp fire. Today, at these places, you will find coal.

More than once, as he passed by a billabong, he was attacked by evil bunyips. They fought. And today, at these places, you will find the bodies of the bunyips turned into great boulders lying on the beds of the billabongs.

More than once, as he crossed the plains, he was attacked by giant wild dingoes. They fought. And today, at these places, you will find the bodies of the dingoes turned into the huge rock formations that lie scattered across the outback.

He was not far from Kata Tjuta (the great rocks known sometimes as the Olgas) when he saw in the distance a huge red dome, rising out of the desert. It was shaped like an enormous boomerang.

As he neared it, Alinga saw it really *was* a boomerang: his special boomerang, which had crashed into the desert, and, over the years, had been covered with layer after layer of dust and sand, until it turned into a huge, red block of rock.

Alinga was delighted to see his boomerang again. He took hold of it and tried to lift it. But it was too heavy. For days, he struggled to raise it. Where his fingers dug into the rock, gulleys and caves were formed – you can see them to this day. But the boomerang

It's lovely that Alinga could share his knowledge and expertise so that other people could make and fly a boomerang. It's lovely to hear how Alinga was willing to give his time for others even though he was busy searching for his lost boomerang. We know that it's never easy losing something which we care about and which is precious to us.

What a long journey the Lizard-Man made trying to find his boomerang. Just like he took a great pride in making his boomerang, Alinga was obviously resilient and desperately wanted to find his valued possession.

What exciting adventures Alinga had on his eventful journey! It's fasinating to imagine how coal, the large boulders and the huge rock formations were made.

was embedded too deep. Not even the mighty Lizard-Man could move it.

Alinga didn't want to be parted from his boomerang, so he settled down to live beside it. It is said that he performed many great feats while living beside his boomerang in the desert.

It is also said that the great numbers of lizards now living in the caves at the foot of the big red rock known as Uluru are the spiritual descendants of Alinga the Lizard-Man.

After years of searching, the boomerang was found, but, alas ...

... it was embedded in the desert and it had become a huge, red block of rock.

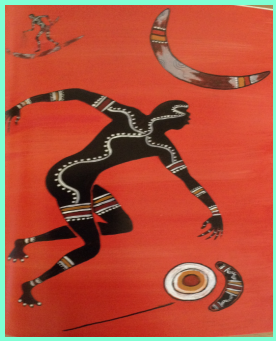
What great feats might the Lizard-Man have performed whilst settling next to the great, red rock (Uluru)?

What an incredible legend about the great rock.

Third reading - question the author

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You could:
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A boomerang is a curved throwing stick. People use boomerangs as toys or as weapons. The Aboriginal peoples of Australia, have long used boomerangs for animal hunting and warfare.

There are two types of boomerangs: returning boomerangs and nonreturning boomerangs. Returning boomerangs are lightweight and have a special curved shape. A returning boomerang flies in a circle and comes back to the thrower. People use returning boomerangs for sporting events and as toys.

Nonreturning boomerangs are not toys. Ancient peoples used them for killing prey or enemies. This type of boomerang is much straighter than a returning boomerang. It cuts through the air in a wobbly way.

True boomerangs are found mainly in Australia. However, people in ancient Egypt, southern India, and other cultures also used boomerang-shaped weapons. Some Native American groups used boomerang-shaped weapons for hunting birds, rabbits, and other animals.

The first boomerangs were made from a single piece of carved wood. The carver heated the wood in hot ashes and then bent it to get the right shape. Today boomerangs used for sports are often made of plywood or fiberglass. Their shape can be very different from the curved shape of traditional boomerangs. For example, some modern boomerangs have three blades in the shape of the letter Y.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJ61Y17s3bU