



EK BOOKS

TEACHER NOTES & RESOURCES

Title: An Aussie Year

Subtitle: Twelve Months in the Life of New Zealand's Kids

Author: Tania McCartney

Illustrator: Tina Snerling

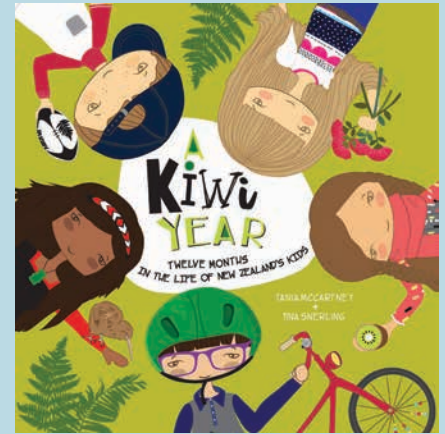
Publisher: EK Books

Price: \$19.99 / \$17.99

ISBN: 97819253354460 / 9781925820287

Publication date: June 2017 / November 2019

Audience age: 6-8 years



SYNOPSIS:

Meet Charlie, Ruby, Oliver, Mason and Kaia — Kiwi kids representing a multicultural blend of culture and race that typifies our amazing country. They'll take you through a year in the life of New Zealand's kids, from celebrations, traditions and events, to our everyday way of life and the little things that make childhood so memorable.

A Kiwi Year is a picture book bursting with national pride. It's a snapshot of who we are as New Zealanders, blending our modern-day culture and lifestyle with past traditions and native heritage.

Its pages feature meandering text, dates and gorgeous illustrations showcasing our five Kiwi kids at play, at school, at home, and enjoying the sights and sites of our great nation. From the Bay of Islands to our hot springs and soaring mountains, vibrant cities and quaint country towns, this is our New Zealand childhood.

THEMES:

A Kiwi Year aims to showcase the enormous variety of traditions, both past and present, that make up New Zealand as a country. The author wanted to celebrate these elements from the past to the present day, and—with diversity in mind—wanted to include as many endemic and introduced cultures as possible.

Using five main characters to represent the country's residents as broadly as possible, the book covers curriculum modules relating to humanity and social sciences, as well as history and citizenship. Other units of study covered by book content include geography, the arts, languages, and design and technology.

The content of *A Kiwi Year* has been passed by native New Zealand advisors, school teachers and 6 to 10-year-old New Zealand school children. It was important to the creators that the content in this book was authentic.



SELLING POINTS:

- *A Kiwi Year* is the seventh book in the Kids' Year series, following on from the bestselling, award-winning *An Aussie Year*, and publishing alongside *A Canadian Year*.
- It has been created by an award-winning, bestselling creative team whose partnership is well-known in the Australian children's book industry.
- The book has strong crossover appeal and will appeal to both home and school settings, as well as local, tourism and overseas markets.
- It covers many elements of the current school curriculum and can also be used for cultural awareness and understanding.
- Author Tania McCartney is an active and respected addition to the Australian children's book industry. She is a popular presenter and speaker for children and adults, and her career reach is now extending internationally, with books now published in China, the UK, New Zealand, the US and Canada, including book translations.
- Tania is a National Library of Australia house author and has a strong background in historical and cultural works.
- Tania is the founder of Kids' Book Review--the largest kid literature site on the web, which has provided her strong industry links and routes for book exposure. She is also the founder of the enormously popular 52-Week Illustration Challenge.
- Tania is an active book marketer and promoter, and is a great supporter of juvenile literacy. She is a past and present ambassador for several juvenile literacy organisations, and has a strong passion for great children's books.
- *A Kiwi Year* features work by experienced illustrator, graphic designer and clothing and stationary designer, Tina Snerling, who is currently Creative Director at Wahu Australia.

WRITING STYLE:

A Kiwi Year is a non-narrative picture book covering many different facets of the typical childhood in New Zealand. In order to make the content accessible to young children, the author and illustrator have divided the book into months, and have created a visually strong production, with engaging, succinct text. Abridged text also encourages further exploration of the topics, events and themes presented.

The use of differing fonts, size, swirling text and speech bubbles helps engage children visually, and encourages reading and comprehension.

A character introduction helps children engage early on in the book, and allows readers to connect with characters they might resonate with.

A map at the end of the book gives spatial awareness to many of the entries mentioned in the book, and allows children to discover places and elements not directly covered in the book proper.



AUTHOR MOTIVATION:

After spending four years in China with her young family, Australian author Tania McCartney was inspired to create several culturally-diverse books, including *An Aussie Year: Twelve Months in the Life of Australian Kids*. Tania was also inspired by the abundance of picture books in Asia that focus on the life of local children in places like China, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore.

Tania realised that similar books on the Australian childhood and culture did not exist, and so the seed for *An Aussie Year* was sown. Since then, she has gone on to create a series of books in the Kids' Year vein, alongside illustrator Tina Snerling.

Tania believes our various endemic childhoods should be celebrated for their cultural and geographic diversity, and idiosyncrasies and traditions, both historic and modern. Books like *A Kiwi Year* will help children feel proud of their country, but also better understand (and receive exposure to) past events and traditions, as well as the new ones that have combined to make their country what it is today.

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND:

Tania McCartney , Author

Tania McCartney is an award-winning author of both children's and adult books, with a particular passion for picture books. An experienced editor, magazine editor, illustrator and publisher, she is the founder of Kids' Book Review and the 52-Week Illustration Challenge. An Ambassador for the National Year of Reading (2012), Tania is passionate about literacy and has spent many years speaking on reading, books and writing.

Her books include *Australian Kids Through the Years* (National Library Publishing) which was a Notable Book in the CBCA Awards 2016, *Peas in a Pod* (EK Books), *This is Captain Cook* (National Library Publishing) and *Tottie and Dot* (EK Books) which came second place in the ACT Publishing Awards 2015. In November 2016, her very first self-illustrated book was released—*Australia Illustrated* (EK Books). Tania has lived in France, England and China, but now lives in Canberra, Australia, with her family.



Penelope Pratley, Illustrator

Tina Snerling is a designer and illustrator based in Brisbane. After completing an Advanced Diploma of Fashion and Graphic Design, she travelled the world for inspiration before returning to Australia to become a Head Childrenswear Designer and textile artist. After the birth of her two children, Tina began creating unique heirloom dolls and art prints, which became her business—Tiny Concept. Her creations are sold throughout the world and in art galleries, including dolls that were designed exclusively for a Hollywood film.

Tina's first publication, *Handmade Living*, created with author Tania McCartney, was released in 2010. Tina has since gone on to produce several books with Tania including *An Aussie Year*, *Tottie and Dot*, *Peas in a Pod* and *A Kiwi Year*. Tina has worked on further *A Kids' Year* titles, --a self-professed dream come true.

TEACHER ACTIVITIES/NOTES:

- Divide your class into twelve groups and allocate each group a month of the year. Have the children discuss which book entries resonate with them and why they should be celebrated. Which events and traditions can each child relate to?
- Read the story, discussing elements the children may relate to along the way. Have the children create their own 'timeline' of events through the year that showcases their own Kiwi childhood (including birthdays and other special family events).
- Have children locate three events or traditions they have not heard of before. Have them research these three items and provide imagery that represents each one.
- Children could also choose one cultural celebration from the book to explore in greater depth with a project or presentation.
- Have children read through the character introductions and choose which child they resonate with. The children should not be limited to one character and should not be limited to cultural or ethnic comparisons alone. Have them explain why they resonate with this character.
- Read the book through, focusing on particular events, cultural elements or traditions. Provide the class with a dozen or more objects that represent these cultural elements, events or traditions. Ask the children, with help from the class, to form a chronological timeline whilst holding these objects.

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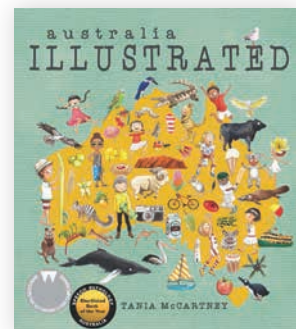


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Tania Mccartney

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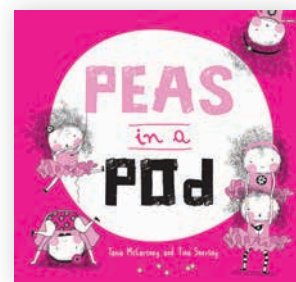


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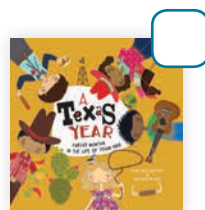
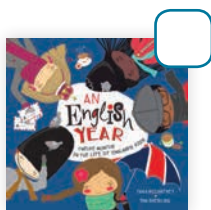
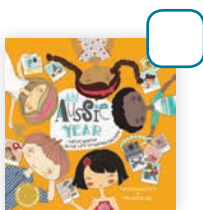


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