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KOALAS DON'T RUN

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY JANET WHITE

ABOUT THE STORY

A bushfire is coming! All the animals are trying to escape. They fly, slither, hop, run... but what about the koalas? Can Mother Koala and Joey run faster than the flames that are coming after them? An exciting and touching story about animals in the Australian bush, and how people help them in times of natural disasters.

ILLUSTRATION STYLE

The Author/Illustrator uses her own love of the bush and its animals to create images that rouse an emotional response to wildlife in danger. Inspired by the Australian bushfires of 2019 and 2020, Janet's work shows how the animals react to the disaster that is coming, and how they seek to save themselves from it.

Despite the bushfire that rages, Janet ends the story on a positive note, showing how important it is for people to help when they can. Janet's images are exciting and full of detail. The movement of the animals propels the reader from page to page, and the colours set the mood as it ranges from peaceful to fearsome, and back to calm again. The words tell the story in the animals' own words, giving us an insight into how they are reacting.

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION IDEAS

- Ask the class if they can think of any other animals that live in the Australian bush, apart from the ones in this story.
- How does a bushfire affect the habitat of the wildlife?
- What happens to animals' sources of food after a bushfire has passed?

- Would we feel the same emotions about Joey if the images and background colours were different?

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM TOPICS

Biology

- Habitats, basic needs, animal differences

Geography

- Natural disasters, how places are different, relying on natural resources

English

- Using images in narratives to expand the story

