

WITH NAN

- After reading the book, identify objects and animals in the story. Discuss with children what Simon first thought he saw. Discuss what it really was. Have the children draw pictures for each one.
- Discuss concept of camouflage. Have the children investigate camouflage using books, computers etc. Children can write 3 - 5 facts that they have discovered about camouflage. Children could also cut out butterflies from coloured cardboard or paper eg green, brown, purple, blue etc. As an outdoor excursion, have the children put the butterflies on grass, rocks, dirt, trees, leaves etc. Discuss which butterflies are easiest to see eg, purple butterfly on green grass and which butterflies are camouflaged, eg green butterfly on green grass/leaves. Have the children draw their findings on two pages/sections headed "Camouflaged" and "Not Camouflaged". Perhaps rocks, grass etc can be drawn and butterfly cut-outs can be glued.
- Invite a wildlife officer to talk to the class about camouflage and Australian bush animals. Or perhaps visit a zoo or wildlife park to further investigate animals and camouflage.
- Discuss also with children how people can be camouflaged by dressing the same colours and patterns as their surroundings. Have some children dress the same colour as their surroundings (perhaps brown shirts and green shirts for outside) and have other children try to find them. Discuss also why people shouldn't wear clothes that are camouflaged when walking across the road. Perhaps children on posters could draw a picture of a camouflaged person on a busy road and a someone who is not.

- Simon and Nan spend time together going for a walk through the bush. Discuss with the children how they spend time with their grandparent or grandparents. Also discuss with children how Simon calls his grandmother “Nan”. What are some other names that the children call their grandparents eg Grandma, Grandpa, Nonna, Nonno etc. Have the children write about and/or draw a picture of a grandparent and themselves spending time together. Or perhaps they could write a letter to Simon to tell him how they spend time with their grandparent.

- Simon and Nan go for a walk through the bush on their afternoon together. Walking is a form of exercise to keep people healthy. Discuss with the children the importance of exercise, types of exercise and exercise that the children do. Perhaps the children could do a show and tell topic on their favourite type of exercise, eg swimming, running, dancing, walking etc.

- With Nan is set in the Australian bush. Have the children brainstorm a similar story set in a different environment eg dessert, swampland, ocean, etc. Children in groups could be responsible for illustrating certain pages. When finished perhaps the children could present their book to other classes.

- The animals featured in the book are Evening Brown Butterfly, Rocket Frog, Gecko, Echidna, Stick Insect and Tawny Frogmouth. Using resources such as books and computers etc, children in groups could be assigned an animal. On a large sheet of paper children could write about 3 - 5 facts and illustrate the animal. The pages could be collated into a big book form once all the groups have finished. Groups can then read out their page to the other groups or classes.

- The illustrator uses charcoal and watercolour to create the pictures. Perhaps the children could do their own picture using these mediums.