

Nature Stories



Explore your
neighbourhood
through nature's lens! →

Nature Stories Pack

How do our everyday actions shape the future of trees, wildlife and water? Understanding nature and what it truly needs to thrive starts by seeing the world from its perspective.

Nature Stories invites primary and secondary school classes to explore how nature and humans coexist in their own homes and neighbourhoods.

This pack offers students the opportunity to step into the shoes (or wings!) of four nature-based personas – Quincy the Quenda, Taylor the Tuart Tree, Buzzby the Bee, and Wyatt the Water Drop – or create a unique persona of their own.

By embodying their chosen character, students can craft imaginative and powerful stories – told through written narratives, illustrations, or a combination of both – that inspire new ways of thinking about our shared environment and future.



Primary School Classes

Brief

Thank you for your curiosity and eagerness to explore how you and nature exist together in your neighbourhood – and what the future may hold!

Start by selecting a character or creating your own, then choose one of the following activities to tell your story. You can express your ideas through writing, illustrations, or a combination of both:

A Day in the Life: Step into your character's world and share insights into a typical day from their point of view, capturing interactions with people, nature, and the challenges they face.

Resilience Challenge: Create an adventure where your character must navigate obstacles – such as pollution or habitat loss – to find food, shelter, or safety, and ultimately, survive.

Conversation with Nature: Craft a conversation or interaction between your character and a human, where they teach the person about their needs and the importance of environmental care.

Word limit

500 words

Teacher Marking Guide

Criteria focuses on creativity, engagement, and understanding of environmental themes in an age-appropriate way.

- **Creativity and Imagination**
How well do the stories bring the characters to life? Do they demonstrate original thinking and creative storytelling?
- **Character Perspective**
Do students effectively express their chosen persona's point of view, capturing its experiences and challenges?
- **Environmental Awareness**
How well do the stories reflect an understanding of nature's needs and the relationship between humans and the environment?
- **Story Structure and Clarity**
Are the narratives clear and well-organised, with a beginning, middle, and end?
- **Emotional & Engagement Factor**
Do the stories make the audience think or feel something? Are they engaging and impactful?
- **Use of Descriptive Language or Visuals**
Are sensory details used to bring the character's world to life, helping the audience visualise and connect with nature?



Secondary School Classes

Brief

Congratulations on taking a deeper drive into sustainability, urban ecology, and conservation within your own neighbourhood – exploring how we can shape a better future for all!

Choose a nature-based persona or create your own, then select one of the following activities to tell your story. You can express your ideas through writing, illustrations, or a combination of both:

Environmental Resilience Story: Craft a story where your persona experiences an ecological crisis – whether caused by nature, humans, or both – and must find a solution.

Futuristic Environmental Tale: Imagine your neighbourhood 50 years into the future and share the story from your persona's perspective – are they thriving in a well-preserved environment or struggling in a damaged one?

Nature's Protest: Develop a powerful monologue, letter or visual message from your persona, addressed to Council, urging action to protect them and their environment.

Word limit

1000 words

Teacher Marking Guide

Criteria focuses on a deeper level of critical thinking, storytelling complexity, and environmental awareness.

- **Depth of Environmental Insight**
Do the stories demonstrate a well-researched understanding of real-world ecological issues such as climate change, habitat destruction, or conservation efforts?
- **Creative and Original Storytelling**
Are the ideas engaging and imaginative?
Do they offer fresh perspectives on sustainability and human-nature interactions?
- **Character Development and Perspective**
How well do the students embody their chosen persona? Does the character's voice and experiences feel authentic?
- **Complexity and Structure**
Is there a compelling plot with strong narrative flow, conflict, and resolution?
- **Impact and Thought-Provoking Themes**
Do the stories challenge readers to think critically about environmental sustainability and inspire action?
- **Use of Language or Visual Communication**
Are descriptive language and/or artistic elements used to enhance meaning and emotional impact?





Quincy the Quenda

I am a small, cute marsupial navigating neighbourhoods – often unseen by people.

Like an ecosystem engineer, my burrowing spreads beneficial bacteria and fungi that help plants and trees grow. Luckily my pouch faces backwards, keeping my babies safe from dirt while I dig.

But I face many dangers. Off-lead dogs, cats, foxes, and invasive species all threaten my survival.

I'm an example of the adaptability of native wildlife but advocate for conservation efforts to protect our bushland habitats.



Buzzby the Bee

I hum through gardens and parks, tirelessly pollinating the plants that feed both bees and humans. With every journey, I help to grow backyard veggie patches and over 75% of the plants people rely on for food.

But life isn't as easy as it used to be. Expanding neighbourhoods are pushing out native flowers and safe spaces where I thrive. Pesticides poison my food, and changing weather patterns disrupt the delicate timing of flower blooms.

Fewer bees mean less food for everyone.

That's why I champion biodiversity, reminding people that a world with me is a world that flourishes.

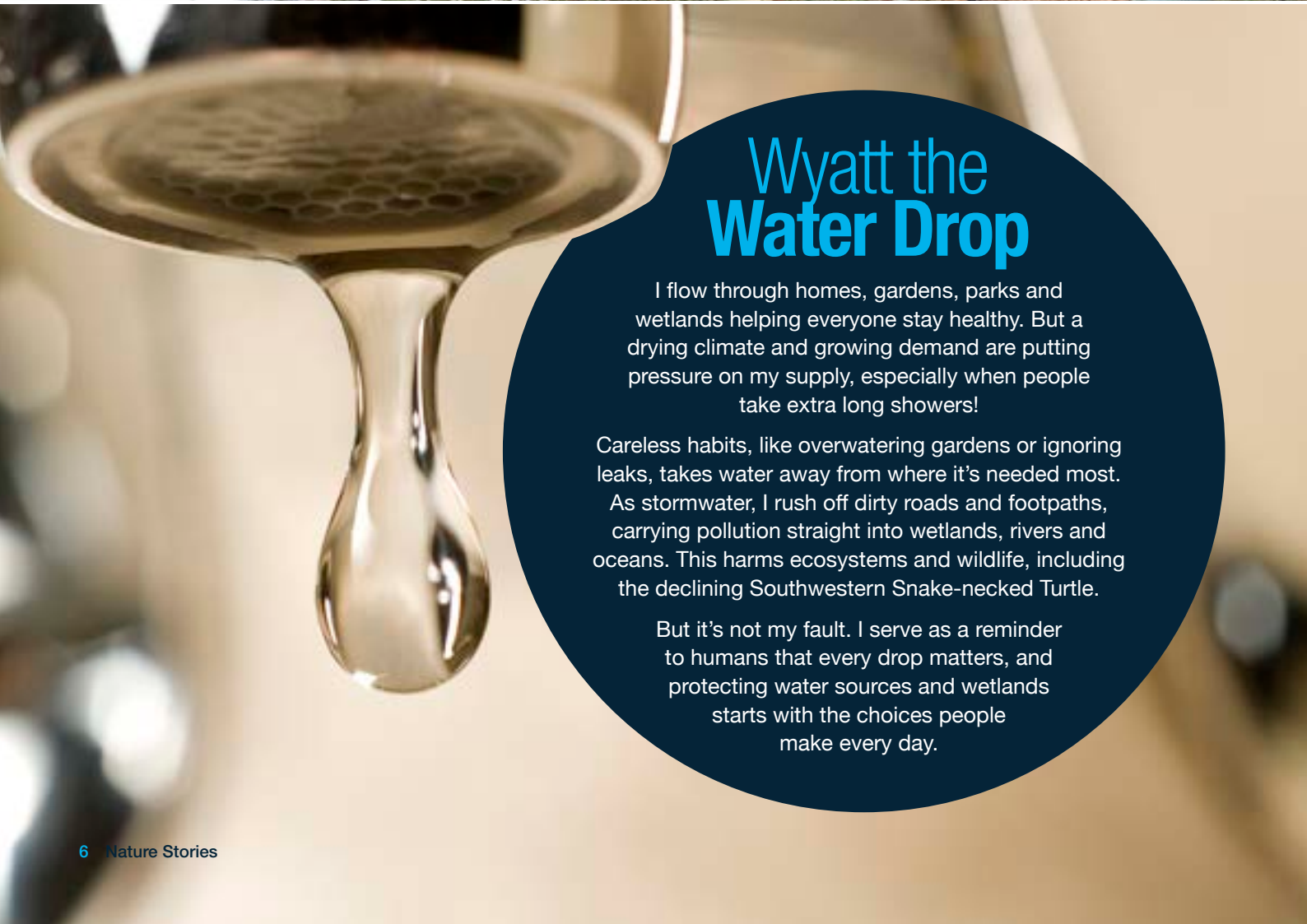


Taylor the Tuart Tree

I'm a native tree, standing tall and proud above houses and streets. I provide shade and fresh air – enough oxygen each year to keep 120 people breathing for a whole day!

But some say I'm too big for suburbs. I'm often removed to make way for human homes, destroying animal homes in the process – like the nesting hollows of the endangered Carnaby's Cockatoo. Less rainfall is also causing groundwater levels to drop, making it harder for my roots to reach the water I need.

I advocate for the protection of trees, which are vital for healthy, cool neighbourhoods.



Wyatt the Water Drop

I flow through homes, gardens, parks and wetlands helping everyone stay healthy. But a drying climate and growing demand are putting pressure on my supply, especially when people take extra long showers!

Careless habits, like overwatering gardens or ignoring leaks, takes water away from where it's needed most. As stormwater, I rush off dirty roads and footpaths, carrying pollution straight into wetlands, rivers and oceans. This harms ecosystems and wildlife, including the declining Southwestern Snake-necked Turtle.

But it's not my fault. I serve as a reminder to humans that every drop matters, and protecting water sources and wetlands starts with the choices people make every day.

[illegible]



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