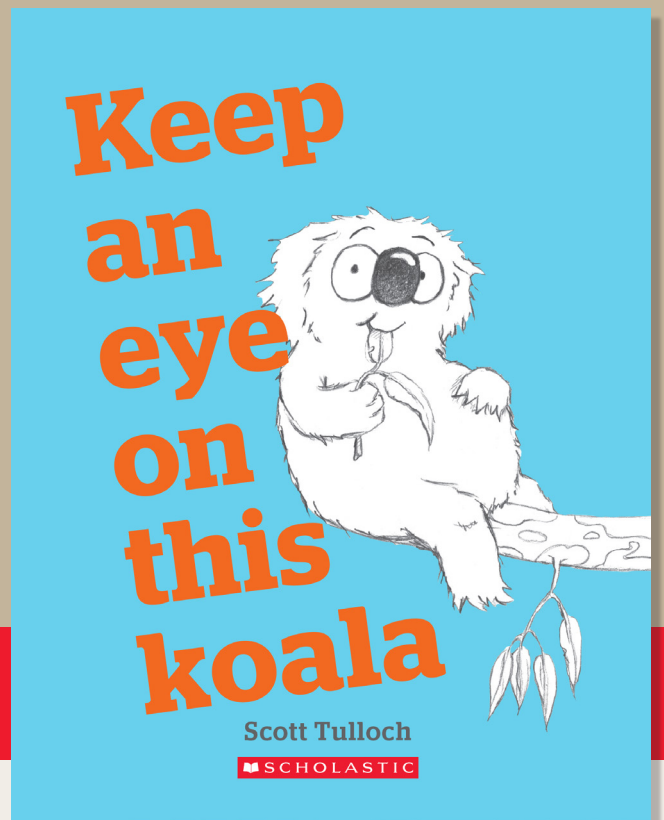


# Keep an Eye on this Koala

Text and illustrations  
by Scott Tulloch

• Art • Reading • Writing •



## Synopsis

A parrot calls koala dozy. When koala objects, the parrot hypnotizes the koala to go to sleep. When koala drops off his branch, parrot calls him a 'drop-bear'. Koala doesn't want parrot to tell the reader about the bubble-gum trees incident, so parrot hypnotizes koala to go to sleep again and then proceeds to tell the reader all about the bubble-gum trees.

Afterwards, koala goes looking for sweet leaves and meets a dingo. Koala thinks he's too clever for that ding-dong dingo. Dingo realises this is an opportunity to outsmart the koala. Dingo convinces koala to climb up to the very top of the tree. When gullible koala climbs all the way up, the branch bends all the way down to where dingo is licking his lips. Before dingo can catch koala, koala sees bubble-gum (a witchetty grub). Dingo doesn't believe it is bubble-gum so koala sets about proving it, blowing on the grub until it blows up like a bubble, floating up into the sky with koala attached, much to the disappointment of the dingo. An argument between the grub and the koala results in koala falling down and landing on the dingo. Now Dingo is mad and sneaks up to koala. At the same time the parrot falls from the sky after colliding with the deflated grub and lands on dingo. Parrot is cranky and blames the reader when, all of a sudden, a real drop-bear lands from the sky. Everyone is frightened but dozy koala saves the day.

## About the Creator

Author-illustrator Scott Tulloch has been a professional artist since 1994. His first children's book *Willy's Dad* was published in 2007 and since then he has had another 20 books published. Some he has illustrated for other authors such as *Naughty Kids' Book of Nature* written by Des Hunt, *Tom and the Dragon* written by Juliette MacIver, and *My Daddy Ate an Apple* and *The Scariest Thing in the Garden*, written by Craig Smith. He's also written and illustrated a few books himself including the *Willy* books, *The Silly Goat Gruff*, *I am not a Worm!* and *Too Much Poo*. This is his first chapter book as author/illustrator.

## Writing and Illustration Style

Scott first draws his page spreads in pencil, and then traces the image in pencil onto better quality paper. This gives him another chance to change the composition of the picture. In other picture books Scott would then paint the pictures with watercolour paints. However, in *Keep an Eye on this Kiwi* and *Keep an Eye on this Koala* Scott decided to let simple but very expressive pencil sketches do all the work.

The characters talk directly to the reader: "Keep an eye on this koala," says Parrot. She then tells us that koala is a bit dozy. There are no speech bubbles, the dialogue is written above the images, sometimes in black and other times turquoise to indicate who is speaking. There is no other colour in the book (apart from all the white space).

# Shared Learning and Discussion Points

## ASK YOUR STUDENTS:

- What can this cover tell you about the type of book this is going to be?
- Predict what this story might be about.
- Where is this story set and who are the main characters?
- What do you think koala feels about being called 'dozy'? How can you tell?
- How many types of gum trees are there? Name them.
- Do you think 'bubble-gum' trees are real? Why/why not?
- Why is koala embarrassed that the bubble-gum trees have been mentioned?
- Where did koala go looking for the bubble-gum trees? What happens next?
- Who does koala meet and what does it want to do to koala?
- How does the dingo trick koala?
- What diverts koala's attention and how does he use it to escape?
- How does the witchetty grub convince koala to let it go?
- Who passes by koala mid-air and what does it say?
- Who does koala land on and how does that animal feel about it?
- Who does parrot land on and what has she prevented from happening?
- Just when you think koala is safe, another animal appears with evil intentions – who is it?
- How does koala save the day?

## Activities

### ACTIVITY 1: WHAT A CHARACTER!

Many artists develop a character before the story comes along. Imagine you are an illustrator and you want to draw a koala character, but this time he's not dozy, he's a koala who is incredibly energetic and fit. How would you draw that? Look closely at how Scott has drawn koala's expression. Use his techniques to develop your super-energetic koala. Draw your koala several times doing different actions with different expressions on his or her face.

### ACTIVITY 2: DOUBLE-PAGE SPREAD

Now that you have a character it's time to develop a story. What can your super energetic koala do that will get him or her into trouble? Think 'what if ...' Plan your story with a beginning, middle and end. Then develop one of the double-page spreads (with art and text).

### ACTIVITY 3: INVESTIGATION!

Find out what koalas like to eat by looking online or in a book. Fill out information about what they eat on a KWL chart showing what you KNOW already, WHAT you want to know – the questions you want answered, and what you've LEARNED during your research.

WHAT YOU KNOW	WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW	WHAT YOU LEARNED



teacher toolkit

 SCHOLASTIC

#### ACTIVITY 4: DOZY KOALA POEM

Write a poem about a dozy koala. It can be based on the story or just about dozy koalas.

#### ACTIVITY 5: KNOW YOUR CHARACTER!

Fill in the chart below about koala's character. (You could choose one of the other characters if you wish.)

### KNOW YOUR CHARACTER!

Character's name?  
Koala

What does he  
look like?

What is his  
personality like?

Give an example  
from the book.

Give an example  
from the book.



What does he  
like to do?

Give an example  
from the book.