



**'Look See, Look at Me!' published by Allen & Unwin, 2010  
Leonie Norrington (author), Dee Huxley (illustrator)**

This delightfully repetitive, rhyming picture book text accompanied by extremely fluid illustrations is a perfect vehicle for reading aloud and acting out with children. Based on the visit by author and illustrator to three northern Indigenous communities – Wugularr, Barunga and Manyalalluk – to workshop words and drawings, this exuberant work is a celebration of childhood and community life. Any child will identify with this three-year-old boy who is so very proud of his growing sense of independence and of his accomplishments such as running, jumping, swinging, and bumping!

The changing perspective from which each image is viewed adds vivacity and meaning to the text. Unremarked upon are the background images accurately depicting aspects of daily life in an Aboriginal community, and lurking dangers such as the crocodile. The ochre colour of the pages also suggests the blistering heat of the outback landscape. An Honour Book in the CBCA Early Childhood Book of the Year Awards 2011, this book has universal appeal for young children.

Leonie Norrington and Dee Huxley visited three northern communities, Wugularr, Barunga and Manyalalluk, to workshop words and drawings for this book.

Online teacher resources

[https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi\\_resource/look-see-look-at-me/](https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/look-see-look-at-me/)

<https://storyboxlibrary.com.au/stories/look-see-look-at-me> (subscription)

The National Centre for Australian Children's Literature (NCACL) has over 55 000 Australian children's books in its collection including some 5,600 in 68 different languages. It continues to grow each year. Many authors and illustrators have donated their original artworks as well as manuscripts, drafts, preliminary sketches and more so that the creative process

behind these books can be kept safely at NCACL in Canberra. Here the NCACL [Artwork Frameworks](#) describes the items in the artwork collection. Artworks are exhibited and loaned when opportunities arise. The NCACL also holds wide-ranging material about Australian children's book creators called '[Author and Illustrator Research Files](#)'. These provide a wealth of background material.

### **Look See, Look at Me! – Dee Huxley Exhibition**

NCACL holds some of the original art works as well as preliminary drawings from 'Look See, Look at Me!' The gallery exhibition shows slides of some of these original art works, preliminary works as well as comments between the author and illustrator as they worked on this book. Below are some questions and activities to consider as you view these slides. (Leonie Norrington, Dee Huxley and the publishers have given permission for these images to be used)

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/gallery-exhibitions/dee-huxley-exhibition-look-see-look-at-me/>

#### **Slide 1 – Cover**

Open out the book and look at the cover which is one long landscape. Some books don't use the back and front of the book as one picture. This landscape shows what a typical northern community looks like. Leonie (author) and Dee (illustrator) visited the communities of Wugularr, Barunga and Manyalalluk in the Northern Territory when they were creating this book. Look for these communities on a map.

On the inside cover page there are the publisher details as well as other information. At the bottom of the page is written, 'Dee Huxley used pastels on coloured paper for the illustrations in this book.' Try using pastels on coloured paper to do your own drawings.

#### **Slides 2, 3 and 4 – Preliminary art works for possible cover**

Dee tried a few ideas for the cover of 'Look See, Look at Me!' Compare these slides with the cover of the book.

#### **Slide 5 – preliminary sketches**

Illustrators draw many small sketches as ideas for the final book. Some may be used in the book but many will not. Can you find any of these people, dogs, the ute or the streetscape in the book?

#### **Slides 6 and 7 – preliminary art work from 'Look See, look at me!' page.**

These drawings are done using pastel on coloured paper. Notice the difference between the two pictures.

#### **Slide 8, 9 and 10 – preliminary, dummy page and final drawings from 'I can cuddle' page.**

Look at this pencil sketch and compare with the final drawing in the book which is drawn in pastels on coloured paper. A dummy book is a draft book made to look like a book, authors and illustrators staple pages together so that they can get an idea of the final book.

Sometimes they use photocopied pages to make the dummy and then write notes on it with ideas or changes they wish to make.

**Slides 11, 12 and 13 – Dummy, final art work and published illustration from final page.**

See the difference between the dummy page and the published art work. Although Slide 12 looks like a finished art work it was not included in the book. Compare the published illustration with the final art work. Notice that the final artwork has a space for the words. The wording has also been changed from the dummy to the published work. Which wording do you prefer?