

TALES FROM ETHEL PEDLEY'S

'DOT AND THE KANGAROO'

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TALES FROM 'DOT AND THE KANGAROO'

Chapter 1 - Lost

Dot waved goodbye to her mother and set off to pick flowers along the bush track near her house.

"Don't go out of sight of the house", called her mother.

"I won't," answered Dot. But no sooner had she said this, than a rabbit jumped out at her feet. It ran off, its white tail bobbing up and down, into the bushes at the side of the track.

"Stop. Come back! I won't hurt you," cried Dot and ran after it. Of course the rabbit was much faster than Dot. When she stopped running and looked around, Dot found that she could not see her house any more.

Dot wandered around for a while until she began to get frightened. Then she ran, and ran, and ran. At last she stopped. Her dress was torn and her legs had deep scratches from the sticks and prickly bushes that she had pushed through. She was exhausted and sat down at the bottom of a big gum tree to rest. She knew that by now she was a long way from home.

Dot looked around and saw that it was beginning to get dark. The thought of spending the night alone in the bush among the great tall trees of the forest frightened her even more. She put her face in her hands and began to cry. Suddenly a small noise made her look up. She was surprised to see that she was no longer alone.

Sitting in front of Dot was a large grey Kangaroo. It seemed that the Kangaroo understood that Dot was in trouble, because two tiny tears were slowly trickling down the big Kangaroo's soft furry face. Then Dot saw that the Kangaroo was holding out a spray of berries in her small, black paws. Some of the berries were blue, some were red and some were white. Dot was hungry so she decided to eat the pretty berries.

As soon as she had eaten some of the berries a very strange thing happened. Dot began to hear sounds all around her, like voices talking. Most of the voices were small voices. Some were tiny whispers belonging to ants and lizards and grasshoppers. Some, belonging to birds in the trees, were quite loud. Dot knew that she was hearing the voices of all the animals of the bush. Suddenly she realised that the Kangaroo was talking to her, only she had been too surprised to listen.

"I knew that something was the matter with you at once" the Kangaroo was saying. "I have been feeling sad too, ever since I lost my baby Joey. You must have lost something. Tell me what it is and I will help find it."

"I've lost my way," said Dot in a timid voice, wondering if the Kangaroo would understand her.

"Ah! I knew it," said the Kangaroo quite delighted with her own cleverness. "Tell me what it looks like and we will look for it."

Dot explained to the kindly Kangaroo that she was lost and it was her way home that she had to find.





"Well," said the Kangaroo, "just look at yourself! Your fur is all torn," and the Kangaroo pointed to Dot's dress, "and your skin is all scratched. Oh and just look at the fur growing on the top of your head." Dot's hair, as you might think, was very untidy. "Why are Humans made so badly?" the Kangaroo finished.

Dot didn't know what to say to that, so she began to eat some more berries. "You mustn't eat any more of the berries," said the Kangaroo. "If you do, you will know too much and be sad again. To cheer you up I will help you find your lost way."

"Oh thank you dear Kangaroo," said Dot, "but first could I have some water to drink? I am very thirsty."

"Of course you are," replied her new friend. "Everyone is thirsty at sundown. I'm thirsty myself. But the nearest waterhole is a long way off, so we had better start now."

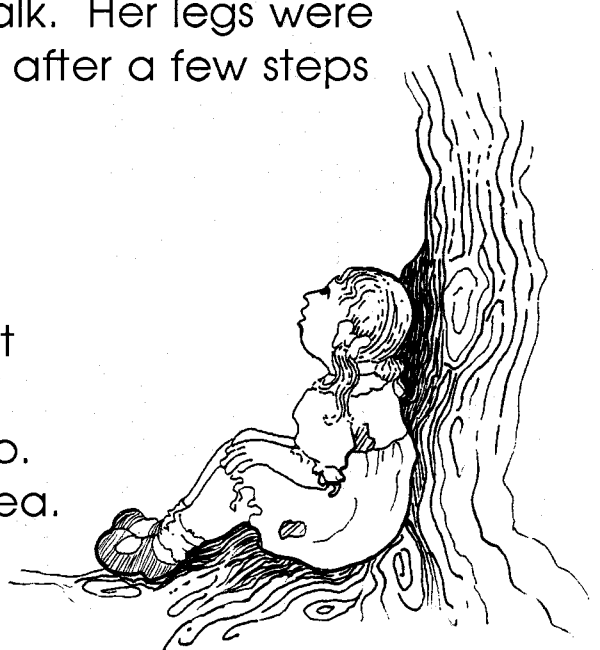
Dot stood up and tried to walk. Her legs were tired and her feet were sore and after a few steps she tripped and fell.

"Poor little Human," said the Kangaroo with a worried look.

"Your legs aren't much good for hopping. How you expect to get along without a tail, I don't know."

Then the Kangaroo brightened up.

"I know," she cried, "I have an idea. Just climb into my pouch and I'll hop you down to the water."



Carefully Dot climbed into the Kangaroo's cosy, warm pouch. "How wonderful," sang Dot as they bounded along.

"Why, it's just as if I had my little Joey back again," agreed the Kangaroo who was enjoying the trip too.

**How well did you read?
Here are some questions.
Put a circle around the letter that begins the correct answer.
Only one answer is correct.**

- 1 Dot became lost when**
 - (a) her legs became scratched.
 - (b) she stopped to pick some flowers.
 - (c) she ran after a rabbit.
 - (d) the track went too far.
- 2 What did the Kangaroo give to Dot?**
 - (a) A bunch of flowers.
 - (b) A spray of berries.
 - (c) Some grass to eat.
 - (d) Some fur to keep her warm.
- 3 What happened when Dot ate the berries?**
 - (a) She felt a little sick.
 - (b) She felt frightened.
 - (c) She couldn't see the Kangaroo.
 - (d) She began to hear sounds.
- 4 Why did the Kangaroo stop Dot from eating more berries?**
 - (a) She thought Dot would know too much and be sad.
 - (b) She thought Dot would get too thirsty.
 - (c) She thought Dot might turn into a kangaroo.
 - (d) She thought that Dot would become tired.
- 5 Why did the Kangaroo enjoy having Dot in her pouch?**
 - (a) It hid Dot's torn dress and scratched legs.
 - (b) It was just like having her Joey back again.
 - (c) It made the trip shorter.
 - (d) It made it easier for her to hop.

(i)

-- ANSWERS --

TALES FROM 'DOT AND THE KANGAROO'

CHAPTER 1 Lost

(Pages 2 - 5)

1 (c)

2 (b)

3 (d)

4 (a)

5 (b)

CHAPTER 2 The Waterhole

(Pages 6 - 9)

1 (a)

2 (c)

3 (b)

4 (c)

5 (d)

CHAPTER 3 The Snake

(Pages 10 - 13)

1 (c)

2 (d)

3 (a)

4 (b)

5 (b)

CHAPTER 4 Meeting the Platypus

(Pages 14 - 17)

1 (c)

2 (d)

3 (a)

4 (c)

5 (c)