

Realistic Fiction

Silver, Level 23, 560L

Origin of Text: Australia

Summary: Joe rescues a baby galah and teaches it some tricks. Patsy warns Joe that the bird will fly away before a famous zoologist comes to visit the school.

Themes: pets, competition, freedom

Text Features: varied fonts, introduction, illustrations

Literature Focus:

- informal language: chatterbox, no way
- Australian English: galah, stickybeak, crikey

Spelling:

- consonant blends: st (best, crest, staring, stickybeak, studs), str (strong)

Vocabulary/Grammar/ Punctuation:

- alliteration: swooped/swerved
- rhyiming words: swerved/curved
- noun phrases: new silver-grey wings, the roof of the house, a new collar with diamond studs
- incomplete sentences: A show-off. A stickybeak. A daredevil.
- hyphen in compound words: show-off, silver-grey

Crikey!



Focus Question: What can happen if wild animals are kept as pets?

PREPARE & READ

- Read the title. Discuss what 'crikey' could mean. (*expression of surprise*)
- Point out the introduction. Explain that it says what happened before the extract starts.
- Discuss what type of bird is pictured. (*galah, a type of Australian bird*)

READ CLOSELY

Key Ideas and Details

How does Crikey change in just a few weeks? How does this change what he can do? (*learns to fly*) 3 8

Sentence Structure

A full sentence has a noun and a verb. Sometimes authors use incomplete sentences. On page 1, find three incomplete sentences. How can they be made into full sentences? Why do you think the author uses them? 4-7

... The sentences are: A show-off. A stickybeak. A daredevil. They can be made into full sentences by adding 'He was' at the beginning, like the sentence, 'He was a chatterbox.' I think the author uses incomplete sentences to make them like a list or like captions for the funny pictures beside them.

Illustrations and Text

'Stickybeak' is a name for someone who likes to 'stick' their nose into other people's business. How does the illustrator show that Crikey is a 'stickybeak'? (*draws him upside down in a jar of honey, which shows that Crikey wants to know what is in the jar and that his beak is sticky*) How is the first picture on page 2 different from all the others? (*it is looking down on the house and the yard from above, a 'bird's-eye view'*) Why is this a clever way to show all the places Crikey flew? (*it is a little a map, it shows all the places he flew in one small picture*) 6 8

Make Connections

Why doesn't Joe want to do what Patsy suggests about Crikey? 8-10

... I think Joe doesn't want to put Crikey in a cage or clip his wings because the bird is his best friend. He loves watching Crikey playing and flying. He doesn't want to hurt him. He knows that a wild bird should be free.

Make Predictions

At the bottom of page 2, the author hints about what might go wrong. What does Patsy suggest could happen? Why might an author give hints about what could happen next in the story? (*to guide the reader's thoughts; mislead/surprise; create interest*) Characters like Patsy, who brag to others, are often taught a lesson in children's books. What might happen to Patsy or her pet? (*her pet may run away or get hurt, Davina might not like Patsy's dog*) 9 10



1 Crikey!

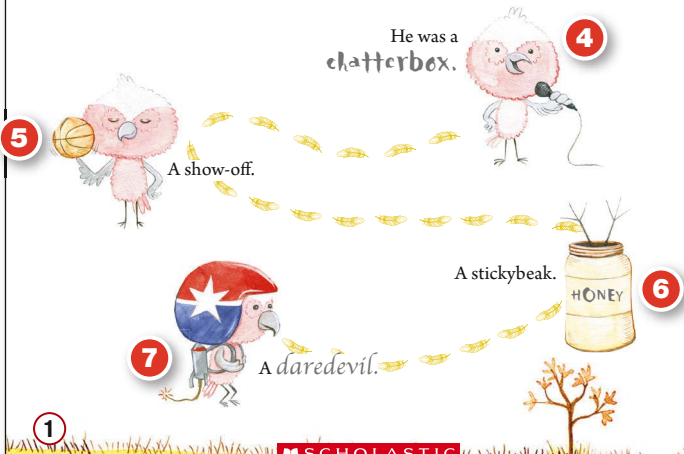
SHORT
READS
Fiction

2 Joe lives in Yabby Creek, Australia. One day, he finds a baby galah, an Australian cockatoo, on the ground. He knows it will die if he leaves it there. Joe decides to take it home and care for it. He names the tiny galah 'Crikey'.

Joe finds out that the famous zoologist, Davina Dabchick, is coming to visit the school! Crikey will be the perfect pet to show her. Even more perfect than Patsy's pet corgi, Queen!

3 Over the following weeks, Crikey's baby feathers fell out. His new silver-grey wings were smooth and strong. His chest was rosy pink and his crest was snowy white.

Crikey was a champion galah.



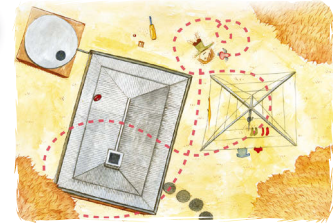
1

Extract from a story by Jane and Zannah Carroll

SCHOLASTIC

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He was Joe's **best** friend. 8
Crikey flew like a champion too. Around the garden, over the roof of the house, under the clothes line he *swooped, swerved, flipped* and *curved*. But he always came back to land on Joe's shoulder.



9 At school, Patsy said, 'Your galah will fly away if you don't watch out. You should put him in a cage.'



10 'No way,' said Joe. 'Clip his wings, then.'

'Never!'

'I bet you lose him before Davina Dabchick's visit.' Patsy curled her fringe.

11 'Queen has a new collar with *diamond* studs. I wonder if Davina will like her the **best**?' She walked off and left Joe staring after her.

2

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DISCUSS

These questions can be used for paired discussion. Ask students to use the text to support their reasoning. Then, ask them to share their conclusions with the group.

- Crikey is described in the text as a 'daredevil', which means 'reckless'. What reckless behaviour might a galah show? (*flying fast, close to objects or through narrow gaps; swooping other animals*)
- Galahs are native to Australia. Should countries allow native animals to be kept as pets? Why/Why not? (*yes: help increase numbers by breeding; helps humans appreciate the animals more; protection from predators/no: wild animals belong in the wild; lose skills of hunting own food; kept against their will*)
- Why do you think the author used different styles of writing in the story? (*add additional interest; help explain the word meanings; fun*)

WRITE

Have students choose either one of the following options for writing, or do both.

- Draw Crikey sitting in a cage or flying. Write a paragraph to describe how he feels.

(*I love this/hate this!*)

(Information/Explanation)

- Which kind of pet do you think Davina the zoologist will like best? And you? Why? Complete the following sentences.

I think Davina would like a _____ best because _____. *I would be most impressed by a _____ because _____.* **(Opinion)**

Galah or Cockatoo?

There are 21 species of parrot that are considered to be cockatoos. They have showy crests and curved bills. Galahs are small, pink-and-grey cockatoos that are mostly found in Australasia.