

**A Teacher's Guide for**  
***Harriet Can Carry It***  
**Written by Kirk Jay Mueller**  
**Illustrated by Sarah Vonthron-Laver**  
**Star Bright Books Fall 2014**

**Summary:** *A uniquely playful story about a hardworking kangaroo mom who decides to take a day off work to relax and go to the beach with her little Joey. Along the way, Harriet and Joey encounter a group of hilarious, quirky marsupials who want to tag along and go to the beach with them. They even ask Harriet to carry their stuff--from swim-fins to a kayak, which turns their journey into a dramatic, heartwarming adventure.*

**Praise/Kind Words for *Harriet Can Carry It*:**

*"Harriet Can Carry It is an entertaining picture book that introduces kids to marsupials in a light, yet memorable story. It will make a fun read-aloud for schools and libraries."*

---Jen Robinson of Jen Robinson's Book Page

*"This is a cute story to read with your young children. The artwork is bright and colorful. The words are easy to read aloud. The ending is a heartwarming moment between the mother kangaroo and her child."*

---The Book Elf's Nook

*"Kirk Jay Mueller has created a whimsical tale about Harriet, a postage-toting kangaroo who wants to take her little one to the beach. Along the way, they meet all types of Australian creatures. They all ask Harriet to carry their belongings. What's a tired kangaroo to do? The rhymes are cute, and the illustrations are sure to hold a young audience's attention."*

---Susan O Bryan



Kirk Jay Mueller is a writer, teacher, and singer-songwriter. He taught children (K-6<sup>th</sup>) for thirty years in Valencia, California. Throughout his teaching career he set aside time every day to read and write engaging stories, and sing a song or two. So, it is no surprise that now he continues to go into schools, libraries and book stores with his guitar to share his songs, stories, and journey as an author with children. **HARRIET CAN CARRY IT** is his first children's book. <http://kirkjaymueller.com/>

#### SARAH VONTHRON-LAVER

Sarah Vonthron-Laver is an Illustrator and toy designer who's never happier than when her hands are covered in China Ink. She lives in England with her husband and two daughters, who give her inspiration for many of the things she draws. She's also inspired by modern architecture and textiles, and loves traveling to discover new sights. Visit her website: <http://sarahvonthronlaver.com>

\* This Teaching Guide contains activities that can be used, with modifications, for grades K-6<sup>th</sup>. All activities can be adapted or expanded. These activities are related to Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for various grade levels. Your enthusiasm is contagious. I believe that children's literature must be the core of every reading program. Hopefully, reading **Harriet Can Carry It** will enrich the lives of children in special ways, and encourage them to read, write, and sing. Thank you. KJM

**BEFORE READING**, tell students to look at the cover/illustration (front and back) and ask:

1. **Where does the story take place? Describe the SETTING. Have you ever been to a place like this? Tell us about it.**
2. **Who do you think are the main CHARACTERS ? Describe them.**
3. **What do you think the story(PLOT) will be about? Why?**
4. **What do you notice about the title of the book? Do you like picture books/stories with words that rhyme? Why or why not?**
5. **Who is the author of the story? Who illustrated the book?**

Correlates to Common Core State Standards (CCSS): ELA-LITERACY/READING LITERATURE (RL) K.3, K.5, K.6, K.7 (RL) 1.3, 1.7, 1.10 (RL) 2.1, 2.7 (RL) 3.7; SPEAKING & LISTENING (SL) K.1,K.3,K.4 (SL) 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, (SL) 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, (SL) 3.1B, 3.1D, 3.4;

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**The Matching Game...Can You Connect the Nouns?**

Remember: \*A **noun** is a person, place or thing.

*person:* boy, girl, brother

*place:* school, church, store

*thing:* pencil, paper, boat

\*A **common noun** is a *general* person, place or thing.

\*A **proper noun** is a *specific* person, place or thing. **Proper nouns** are always capitalized.

**Common Nouns**

brother

school

crayon

**Proper Nouns**

Danny

Abraham Lincoln Elementary School

Crayola

**Directions:** After reading **Harriet Can Carry It**, draw a line connecting the thing (**noun**) in the **Beach Items** column to the **character** who first brought it and wanted Harriet to carry it.

**Character (Proper Nouns)**

1.. Harriet Huff

2.. Joey Huff

3.. Wanda Wombat

4.. Miss Wallaby Wendy

5.. Kenny Koala

6.. Marcie Mouse

7.. Danny and Dana Dingo

8.. Bill Bandicoot

**Beach Items (Common Nouns)**

surfboard

umbrella

towels

chair

ducky-toy

swim-fins

ring

kayak

Correlates to Common Core State Standards (CCSS): ELA-LITERACY/LANGUAGE (L) K.1; 1.1B; READING: LITERATURE (RL) K.1, K.3; 1.1; 2.1; 3.1; FOUNDATIONAL (RF) 1.4A;2.4A; 3,4A; 4.4A

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## What Things Do You Like to Bring to the Beach?

Directions: After reading *Harriet Can Carry It...*

1. Circle some things from inside the WORD BANK that **you** would like to bring to the beach with **your** family.
2. Write each of those things (items) neatly in the word boxes on the next page \_\_\_\_.
3. Cut each word box out and place them inside the kangaroo's pouch.
4. If there is something special you would like to bring to the beach that is NOT in the WORD BANK, write it down in the lined boxes, cut it out, and place it in Harriet's pouch. Ask your teacher if you can share your selections.

### WORD BANK

pail and shovel

towels surfboard

chair swim-fins

kayak and paddle flying ring

umbrella snorkel and mask

beachball sunscreen

kite hat Anything else?

Correlates to Common Core State Standards (CCSS): ELA-LITERACY/SPEAKING & LISTENING (SL) K.1B, K.4, K.5; 1.2,1.4, 1.4; 2.2 READING:FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS(RF) 1.3E, 1.4A; 2.3E, 2.4A; 3..3C; 3.4A; 4.3A, 4.4A

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Inside the Pouch...What Would You Like the Kangaroo to Carry?

**Directions:** Use construction paper for the pictures of the kangaroo mom & joey, the beach items, and the words going into the pouch.

1. Between the dotted lines below, write down some things (items) you chose to have the mama kangaroo carry in her pouch.
2. Color and cut out any of the beach items (found on page 7) you would like to bring to the beach.
3. Cut along the dotted line at the top of the kangaroo's pouch on the next page.
4. Cut out the dotted sections below and place them in the kangaroo's pouch. Is she carrying too much? What do you think?

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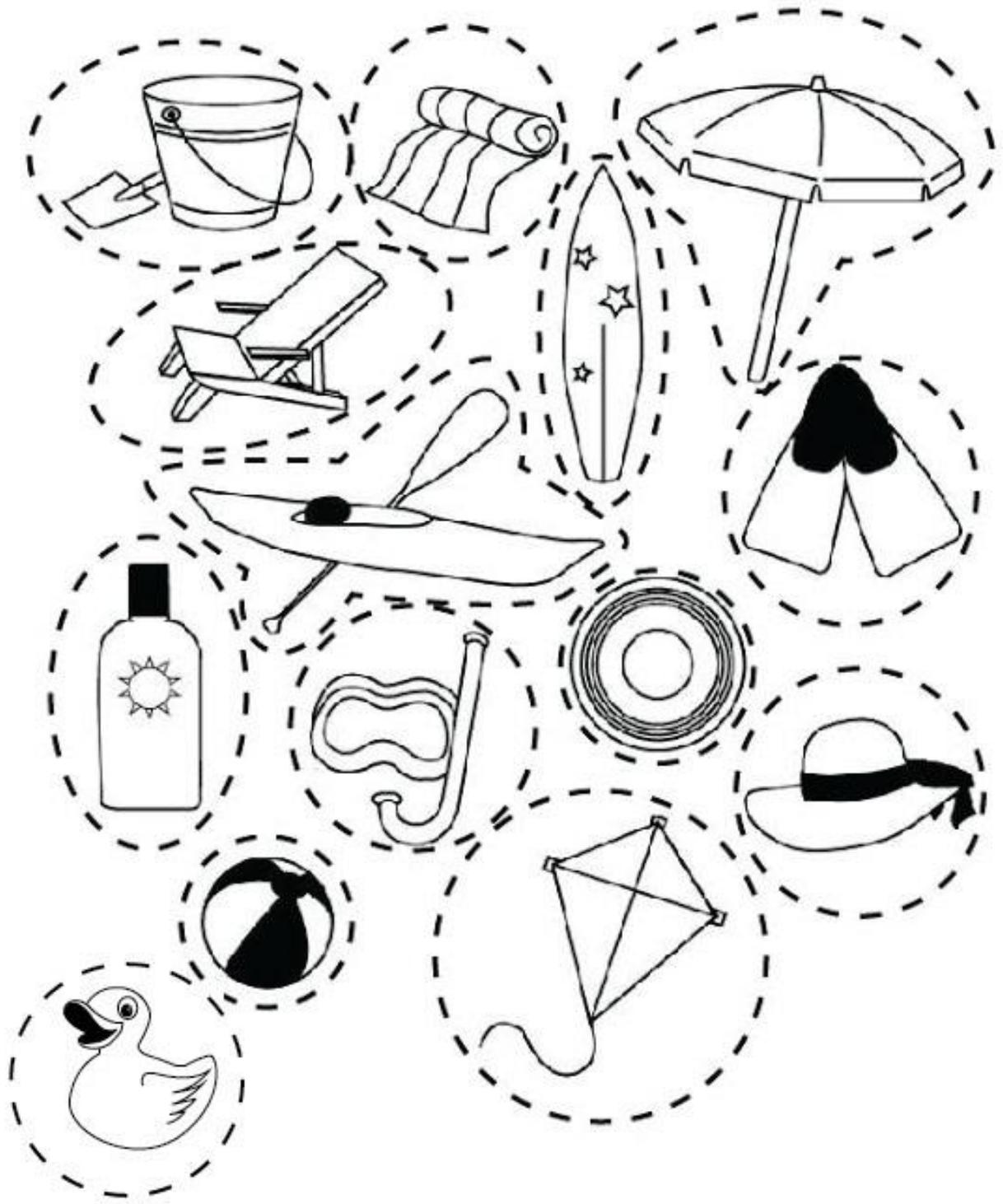
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Correlates to (CCSS):ELA-LITERACY/READING:FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS: (RF) 1.3E, 1.4A; 2.3C, 2.3E,2.4A; 3.3C, 3.4A; 4.3A, 4.4A; WRITING (W) K.8; 1.8; 2.8; 3.8





### Harriet Can Carry It



Cut bag to create a pouch.



Harriet's pouch  
folds flat  
and holds the  
pieces inside.



Or you can  
make a paper  
beach bag.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## FINDING MARSUPIALS WORD SEARCH

*Marsupials* are animals that are born so tiny that in order to survive they must live for a while in a pouch outside their mother's body. There are close to 200 different species of *marsupials* that live mostly in or near Australia. Learn more about *marsupials* by reading the \***Animal Facts** found at the end of *Harriet Can Carry It*, and by reading more about the wildlife of Australia.

Find and circle the seven different kinds of *marsupials/characters* from *Harriet Can Carry It* in the WORD SEARCH BOX below.

KANGAROO  
WOMBAT  
WALLABY  
KOALA  
MARSUPIAL MOUSE  
BANDICOOT  
POSSUM

V	A	N	B	C	E	G	H	W	O	M	B	A	T
T	H	C	E	Q	R	N	B	O	P	V	X	R	D
Y	W	S	X	K	O	E	W	P	O	S	S	U	M
X	V	N	M	O	P	Y	T	E	B	C	S	A	W
S	P	R	B	A	N	D	I	C	O	O	T	X	Z
C	K	O	G	L	U	L	P	O	Y	B	M	C	X
W	A	L	L	A	B	Y	M	V	Y	R	W	X	Z
P	N	S	K	U	N	W	A	L	L	A	B	Y	Z
S	G	D	O	L	K	B	C	T	Y	W	E	M	Z
M	A	R	S	U	P	I	A	L	M	O	U	S	E
G	R	K	M	P	O	Y	T	F	X	S	W	Z	Y
Y	O	A	K	J	Y	B	C	M	F	T	E	P	J
H	O	W	T	Y	X	N	J	K	O	P	F	B	E

Correlates to Common Core State Standards (CCSS):ELA-READING/INFORMATIONALTEXT (RI)2.1, 2.4, 2.10;3.10; 4.9,4.10;5.9 FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS 1.3E, 1.4A; 2.3F, 2.4A; 3.3C,3.4A; (For more information, watch YouTube video, *Marsupials-Science Lesson for Grade 2, Dec. 18, 2013* and for *Grade 1, Jan. 14, 2014*) Relates to Life Science: Animal Adaptations, Life Cycles, Needs, and Similarities & Differences

Teacher's Guide by Kirk Jay Mueller \*Animal Facts written by India Futterman, found in *Harriet Can Carry It* by Kirk Jay Mueller; illustrated by Sarah Vonthron-Laver, © 2014 Star Bright Books

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Cinquain Shape Poetry

A Cinquain poem is 5 lines long. It does not need to rhyme. It follows a pattern of 5 lines containing a total of **about 22 syllables**.

**Directions:** Write a five line **Cinquain Shape Poem** about a marsupial from **Harriet Can Carry It** or any other animal you are interested in. Since this is an **Informational Cinquain Poem**, learn about the animal before (see Word Search on page 8) you write about it. Use the following form:

Line 1-- Name of animal

Line 2-- Two words (adjectives) that describe the animal

Line 3-- Three interesting action (verbs) words ending in **-ing** that say what the animal does or what it could be doing

Line 4-- A four word phrase that captures feelings about the animal or four words that further describe what the animal does

Line 5-- One more word which refers back to the animal or renames it

### Examples:

	Wombat	
	Short-legged, furry	
	Searching, burrowing, eating	
	Digs with powerful claws	
	Marsupial	
Kitten	Polar Bear	Lion
Soft, cuddly	Thick, white fur	Powerful, proud
Playing, purring, meowing	Hunting, swimming, stalking	Hunting, stalking, sleeping
Licks me and milk	Survives frozen icy Arctic	Loud roar scares everybody
Curious	Enormous	King

Correlates to Common Core State Standards (CCSS): ELA-READING: INFORMATIONAL TEXT (RI) 1.2, 1.7, 1.10; 2.4, 2.10; 3.10; 4.4, 4.10 WRITING (W) 1.5, 1.8, 2.5, 2.8; 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 3.10; 4.5, 4.7, 4.10 LANGUAGE/LITERACY (L) 1.1B, 1.1F, 1.5B; 2.1E, 2.3A, 2.6; 3.3A, 3.5B, 4.3A, 4.6

Relates to Life Science: Mammal Adaptations, Life Cycles, Needs, and Similarities & Differences.

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## The Awesome World of Alliteration Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Alliteration** happens when words that start with the same sound are used close together in a name, phrase or a sentence. The words do not have to be right next to each other. Alliteration creates fun sounds.

### Alliteration in Names

Here are examples of alliteration in brand names and famous people:

- |               |                        |                  |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------|
| *Minnie Mouse | * Bob the Builder      | *Bugs Bunny      |
| *Donald Duck  | *Spongebob Squarepants | *Chuck E. Cheese |
| *Burt's Bees  | *Peppermint Patty      | *Tonka Toys      |

Can you think of any more examples? Please share them.

Here are examples of alliteration in the names of characters in **Harriet**

- Can Carry It:**
- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| *Harriet Huff   | *Wanda Wombat       |
| *Marcie Mouse   | *Danny & Dana Dingo |
| *Bill Bandicoot |                     |

Can you fill in the names of three more characters from **Harriet Can Carry It** which use alliteration? Don't forget to use a capital letter to begin the character's last name.

1..Kenny \_\_\_\_\_

2..Miss Wallaby \_\_\_\_\_

3..Paddy O' \_\_\_\_\_

Write down two more famous names (which use alliteration) or make up your own.

4.. \_\_\_\_\_

5.. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Awesome Examples of Alliteration in Literature***

**Alliteration** happens when words that start with the same sound are used together in a name, phrase or sentence. The words do not have to be right next to each other. Read the following examples silently, and then out loud.

#### **Betty Botter**

by Carolyn Wells

Betty Botter bought some butter," But," she said, "this butter's bitter!  
If I put it in my batter, it will make my batter bitter.  
But a bit of better butter will make my batter better."  
So she bought a bit of butter better than her bitter butter,  
And she put it in her batter and the batter was not bitter  
So 'twas better Betty Botter bought a bit of better butter.

#### **Three Grey Geese by Mother Goose**

Three grey geese in a green field grazing,  
Grey were the geese and green was the grazing.

#### **Activity Using Examples of Alliteration in *Harriet Can Carry It***

"She has lots of room. She has loads of space  
For tons of stuff in her big pouchy place.  
She is an incredibly kind kangaroo.  
HARRIET CAN CARRY IT, so you can come too."

#### Directions

**Circle all the words that begin with a *k/c* sound**

Together they trudged up a hill, to the top,

**Circle all the words that begin with a *t* sound**

Miss Wallaby Wendy was waiting right there,  
With her pink swim-fins on, wind blowing her hair.

**Circle all the words that begin with a *w* sound**

It was Marcie, the long-tailed marsupial mouse,  
Who'd made the mistake of leaving her house  
With a huge heavy kayak strapped to her back.  
Her long plastic paddle poked out of its sack.

**Circle all the beginning *m*, *h*, and *p* sounds**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Sensational Sounding Alliteration & Tongue Twisters

Why is it so much fun to read alliteration in names, phrases and sentences out loud? Is it because alliteration is pleasing to the ear? Is it because it can be a challenge to say repetitive sounds out loud, but feels good when you get it right? Below are some famous tongue twisters that use alliteration. **Rewrite** each tongue twister using the words from the WORD BANKS.

**Part 1:** A big bug bit the little beetle .

### WORD BANK

<i>Adjective 1</i>	<i>Noun 1</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Adjective 2</i>	<i>Noun 2</i>
lazy	lion	lost	little	lamb
lucky	litterbug	licked	loony	lady
loyal	lobster	liked	last	leaf

A \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Adjective 1*                      *Noun 1*                      *Verb*                      *Adjective 2*                      *Noun 2*

**Part 2:** She sells seashells by the seashore.

### WORD BANK

<i>Name</i>	<i>Verb</i>	<i>Noun 1</i>	<i>Noun 2</i>
Willie	wiped	water	wall
Wanda	wasted	walnuts	window
Wendy	washed	worms	wagon

\_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_.

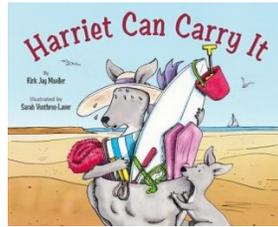
*Name*                      *Verb*                      *Noun 1*                      *Noun 2*

Make up your own tongue twister using alliteration: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Correlates to Common Core State Standards (CCSS): ELA-READING: LITERATURE (RL) 2.4; 3.10; 4.10; 5.10; Subjects: Figurative Language/Alliteration and Parts of Speech  
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**After Reading:** After you have read the story and viewed the illustrations in *Harriet Can Carry It* (at least twice), here are some questions to think about and discuss:



1. Describe Harriet's job. How did she feel after working all week ?
2. What did Harriet and Joey plan to do together? Why?
3. In what ways did *Wanda Wombat, Miss Wallaby Wendy, Kenny Koala, Marcie Mouse, Danny and Dana Dingo, Bill Bandicoot, and Paddy O' Possum* try to change Harriet's plan?
4. Which character do **you think** was the laziest? Explain your choice.  
 The funniest? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?  
 The most clever? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?  
 The most likeable? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?  
 The most unlikable? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?  
 The most helpful? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?
5. How do you feel about the way Harriet solved her problems?
6. What would **you** have done if you were in Harriet's situation?
7. Joey doesn't say much in the story. What do you think he was thinking? If you were Joey, what would you have said to Harriet and some of the other characters?
8. What did you like about the book ( story and illustrations) ?
9. What do you think is the central message or theme of the story?
10. If you could re-write the story, what would you change?
11. Describe how certain words and phrases (alliteration, regular beats, rhymes, repeated lines) provide rhythm and meaning in this story.

Correlates to Common Core Standards (CCSS): ELA-LITERACY/READING LITERATURE (RL) K.1, K.3, K.7, K.10; 1.1, 1.3, 1.7, 1.10; 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 2.10; 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.7, 3.10; 4.2;; 5.2 SPEAKING & LISTENING (SL) k.1, K.2, K.4; 1.1, 1.2, 1.4; 2.1, 2.2; 3.1,3.2

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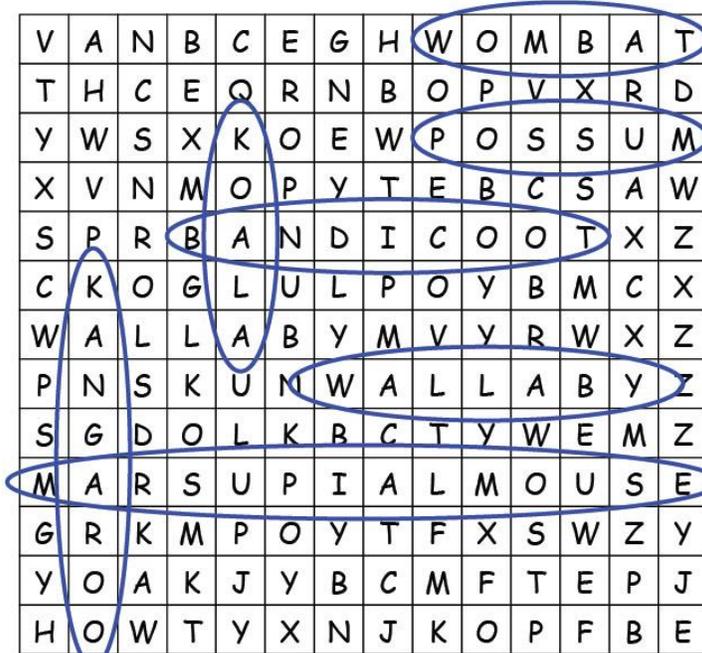
## Answer Keys

## The Matching Game on page 3

**Character (Proper Nouns)****Beach Items (common nouns)**

- |                         |   |           |
|-------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1.. Harriet Huff        | — | surfboard |
| 2..Joey Huff            | — | umbrella  |
| 3..Wanda Wombat         | — | pizza     |
| 4..Miss Wallaby Wendy   | — | towels    |
| 5..Kenny Koala          | — | chair     |
| 6..Marcie Mouse         | — | ducky-toy |
| 7..Danny and Dana Dingo | — | swim-fins |
| 8..Bill Bandicoot       | — | ring      |
|                         |   | kayak     |

## Finding Marsupials Word Search on page 8



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