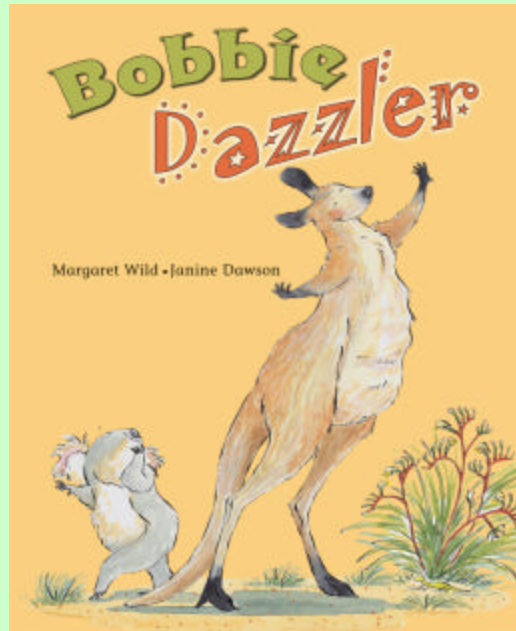


Kane/Miller Book Publishers



* *Notable Australian Children's Books*

Bobbie Dazzler

Written by Margaret Wild
Illustrated by Janine Dawson



From Australia

About the Book

Bobbie is an energetic Red-necked Wallaby. She can jump, she can bounce, and she can skip. She can even hop on one leg. But there *is* one thing Bobbie cannot do. She cannot do the splits. And she wants to, *badly*. After much practice, one minor problem, and a helping paw (or two) from her friends, Bobbie finally reaches her goal.

About the Author and Illustrator

Margaret Wild was born in South Africa but has lived in Australia since 1972. In addition to writing over 40 books for children, she has worked as a journalist and a children's book editor. Wild's picture book, *Fox*, has also won numerous awards.

Janine Dawson was born in Sydney, Australia but has worked all over the world as an animator. She returned to Australia and began illustrating children's books in 1991. Dawson has also illustrated the *Jack Russell: Dog Detective* series which (to date) includes six titles.

From Australia

BOBBIE DAZZLER

Written by Margaret Wild

Illustrated by Janine Dawson

Summary: Bobbie is an energetic Red-necked Wallaby. She can jump, she can bounce, and she can skip. She can even hop on one leg. Her friends Koala, Wombat and Possum are very impressed. But there is one thing Bobbie cannot do. She cannot do the splits. And she wants to. Badly. After much practice, one minor problem, and a helping paw (or two) from her friends, Bobbie finally reaches her goal. She can do it!

Post reading:

Ask each child to answer out loud the following questions: *What things do you do that make you feel proud? Is there something you would like to learn how to do?*

What are the things that Bobbie can do? Write these on the board as the children recall: *Jump, bounce, skip, hop on her left leg, hop on her right leg, walk on her heels, walk on her toes, balance (on a log), whirl, twirl, stand on her head, do a handspring, somersault forwards, somersault backwards.*

Activities:

- Write the words from the story on long strips of paper and put them in a pocket chart. Read together as a class as the teacher points to each word. As a variation, the teacher reads each word aloud and is silent when he/she points to the movement word. The children will perform that movement when the word is pointed to.
- Children stand up and make a circle with the teacher in the middle. Guide the children through some of the movements that Bobbie could do: *jump, bounce, hop on left leg, hop on right leg, walk on heels, walk on toes, balance on one foot, whirl, twirl.* Make a pattern using the movements. Walk on your heels, jump, walk on your heels, jump, etc. Challenge children to make up patterns of their own. Allow children, one at time, to lead the group using their pattern.
- Children will write or dictate a sentence telling what he or she is proud that they can do and then draw a picture of the activity or skill. At the top of the page write the child's name followed by the word "Dazzler." **Example:** *Jimmy Dazzler. I can do a cartwheel.* Hang these on a bulletin board. **Sample bulletin board title:** *"Meet Room Two's Dazzling Students!"*

Themes to discuss:

Friendship: discuss how Wombat, Possum and Koala encouraged Bobbie.

Perseverance: discuss how Bobbie kept trying and did not give up

Other related topics:

Native Australian animals, Native Australian vegetation

Dazzling and Daring Feats

In *Bobbie Dazzler*, by Margaret Wild and Janine Dawson, Bobbie is extremely flexible, very active, and altogether disappointed when she cannot do the splits after several attempts. What she can do, however, are the maneuvers you see below. Now it's your turn to dazzle your friends and family by showing off which of these tricks you can do. Don't worry if you can't perform one or two (or any). Keep practicing (as Bobbie does) and before you know it, you could be doing the splits and maybe even some other moves not shown on this page.



1) ndsat no uoyr dhae



2) ohp no uoyr fetl egl



3) mpju



4) urosmltsae



5) rlwit

For a more advanced (yet less active) feat, see if you can name the above maneuvers. The letters have been scrambled (see Answer Key below).

Answer Key: 1) stand on your head, 2) hop on your left leg, 3) jump, 4) somersault, 5) twirl