



## Lesson Plan 2 – Creating Visual Artworks

### Overview

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVE

- Examine the images and illustrations in May Gibbs Gumnut Babies and The Complete Adventures of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie to create your own illustrations and characters based on local habitat and flora.

#### LEARNING OUTCOME

- Create new visual artworks informed and inspired by the artworks of May Gibbs.

#### SUGGESTED AGE GUIDELINES

- 7-10 years.

#### BOOK REFERENCE

- Gumnut Babies.
- The Complete Adventures of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie.

#### CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS

- Literacy, Art.

#### RESOURCES

- Pictures from the books, Local plant cuttings and/or images and Craft materials.



#### INTRODUCTION

The illustrations in Gumnut Babies and The Complete Adventures of Snugglepot and Cuddlepie are rich wonderful works of art in themselves. The illustrations of gumnut and blossom babies are very endearing, expressing a strong sense of personality and life, and the uniqueness of Australian flora.



#### MAIN TEACHING ACTIVITY

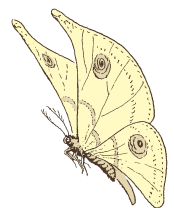
- As a class group, look at some of the illustrations and characters in Gumnut Babies and Snugglepot and Cuddlepie.
  - Record and share what you learn about the characters from the illustrations.
- Collect both real examples and images of your local flora. Use a grevillea spike or wattle flower as a starting point. Examine a spiky cycad, or native orchids for inspiration.
  - Discuss the features of these local flora examples with the children.

#### GROUP OR INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY

- Independently, the children draw new characters based on the features of these local plants.

#### PLENARY

- The children introduce the new characters to each other.





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### OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Draw, paint or sculpt a favourite character out of things you find in the bush, playground, park or garden. (5-10 years)
- May Gibbs reinterprets the scribbly marks found on gumtrees as messages for the inhabitants of her bushland fantasy. We see shop signs such as the Secondhand Home shop scribbled on a gum leaf, and the newspaper scribbled on a tree trunk. Experiment with making your own signs and messages using gum scribble. (7-10 years)
- Look closely at the colours used in the illustrations of the books. The tones and colours chosen are strongly reminiscent of the Australian bush. How would the colours change if the setting was the beaches of the east and west coast? The rainforests of Far North Queensland? The Great Barrier Reef? Your garden at home? (7-10 years)
- Many of the illustrations in The Complete Adventures of Snugglespot and Cuddlepie depict the everyday lives of the bush babies as if they lived in a human town or city, creating a whimsical bushland fantasy world. May Gibbs' deep knowledge of native flora and fauna allows her to create very convincing images of town life using the bush habitat as the setting. Examine images such as the hat shop, with lovely blossom babies trying on a range of blossom hats using a puddle as a mirror, a blossom taking a shower, from the drops of rain collected on the gum leaves above her, a bushland park as a temporary home for some homeless blossom babies and ladies, wrapped in gum leaf blankets as their only source of warmth. Create your own illustrations of town life using the natural features of your local habitat. (8-10 years)

### Australian Curriculum – content codes

English	Foundation	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Literacy/Interpreting, analysing, evaluating					ACELY1701	ACELY1703
The Arts	Foundation	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Visual Arts	ACAVAM107	ACAVAM107	ACAVAM107	ACAVAM111	ACAVAM111	

### NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum

English	Early Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Speaking and Listening	ENe-1A	EN1-1A		
Thinking Imaginatively and Creatively	ENe-10C	EN1-10C		
Thinking Imaginatively and Creatively, Interpretively and Critically				EN3-7C

### NSW Syllabus – Creative Arts Outcomes (pending introduction of new Syllabus)

Subject	Objective	Early Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Visual Arts	Making	VAES1.1, VAES1.2	VAES1.1, VAES1.2	VAES2.1, VAES2.2	



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### FURTHER RESOURCES:

The Australian Curriculum Online  
[www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au)

Board of Studies NSW  
<http://syllabus.bos.nsw.edu.au>

The State Library of NSW features the work of May Gibbs in their Discover Collection series.  
[http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/discover\\_collections/society\\_art/gibbs.html](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/discover_collections/society_art/gibbs.html)

The Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust  
[www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au)

The official website of Nutcote, May Gibbs' Neutral Bay home.  
<http://www.nutcote.org>

A detailed online biography of May Gibbs and her father Herbert Gibbs  
<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/gibbs-cecilia-may-6373>

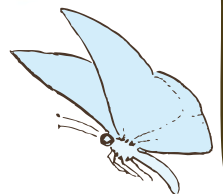
The Australian Children's Literature website provides a comprehensive list of Australian children's publications from 1830 to 1950  
<http://www.australianchildrensliterature.com/1830-1950.htm>

The ABC Splash site has a 5 minute video explaining how May Gibbs took inspiration from the Australian bush to write her classic Australian bushland fantasies.  
<http://splash.abc.net.au/media?id=104738>

### EXCURSIONS:

Contact the following organisations for details of excursions related to Snugglepot and Cuddlepie in the Greater Sydney area:

- CDP Theatre Producers for details of when and where the Snugglepot and Cuddlepie stage show is touring to your area –  
<http://www.cdp.com.au/snugglepot.html>
- Nutcote - <http://www.nutcote.org>
- Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, NSW – <https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/Learn>
- Botanic Gardens in your local area



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This resource was compiled by Catherine Threlfall (BMus, BTeach, MEd)  
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