



Luna Roo the Kangaroo Baller

Educator Notes



Written by Adam Jackson
and Adrian Lloyd
Illustrated by Jake A Minton

Published by Little Book Press, October 2025
Recommended for: ages 4-7 (lower primary)
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Plot Summary

Written by football veterans Adam Jackson and Adrian Lloyd, *Luna Roo* captures all the intense excitement of the game, with a heartwarming message that courage and determination are a winning combination.

Themes

- Soccer
- Courage & determination
- Resilience
- Teamwork
- Action & sport

Rich and interesting words: skippy, superb, oozing, jeering, sublime

Key Curriculum Learning Areas

Early Years Learning Framework:

Learning Outcome 2. Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and agency

This story has a strong theme of resilience and overcoming self-doubt. Both the collaborative teamwork and the self-belief displayed throughout the story reinforce the value of resilience and determination, and can be applied not only in the context of sport, but through other examples of daily life.

Sub-outcome 3.1 - Children become strong in their social, emotional and mental wellbeing

Throughout the story, Luna rouses her team with uplifting words, and they work together as a team to win the game. This display of leadership within a team is an example for children to be able to acknowledge and accept affirmation of themselves by others, as well as assert their capabilities and independence while demonstrating increasing awareness of the needs and rights of others.

Australian Curriculum

Learning Area: English

Foundation

Language: Language for interacting with others	Explore different ways of using language to express preferences, likes and dislikes (AC9EFLA02)
Phonic and word knowledge	Recognise and generate rhyming words, alliteration patterns, syllables and sounds (phonemes) in spoken words (phonological awareness) (AC9EFLY09)
Literature: Examining literature	Recognise different types of literary texts and identify features including events, characters, and beginnings and endings (AC9EFLY03)

Year 1

Literature: Engaging with and responding to literature	Discuss literary texts and share responses by making connections with students' own experiences (AC9E1LE02)
Literacy: Interacting with others	Use interaction skills including turn-taking, speaking clearly, using active listening behaviours and responding to the contributions of others, and contributing ideas and questions (AC9E1LY02)



Conversation Starters

Before Reading

- The front cover is very bright and colourful. What can you see on the cover?
- This book is called Luna Roo, the Kangaroo Baller. Do you know what a baller is?
- Make a prediction. What do you think the story is about?
- There are quite a few soccer references and terms used throughout this story. Familiarise yourself with these terms below so you can be prepared to introduce them when reading:
 - **FC** – football club
 - **Skipper** – the captain. A team member chosen to be the on-pitch leader of the team
 - **Winger** – a player who typically operates on the flanks (left or right side) of the field, near the touchlines
 - **Striker** – a player whose primary job is to score goals for their team
 - **Keeper** – goalkeeper
 - **Baller** – an exceptionally skilled player
 - **Header** – when a player hits the ball with their head

While Reading

- “The jeering crowd makes Luna think, perhaps I don’t belong.” Use this as an opportunity for discussion around feelings of inadequacy and even good sports etiquette. How do you think Luna is feeling with everyone booing her? What would you do if you were Luna?
- “The cheers from the fans make Luna feel two feet taller.” You may like to explain that Luna doesn’t actually grow two feet taller, but that this is an expression when someone feels confident in themselves, they feel taller. What other expressions or words could you use to describe that you are feeling confident?
- There are plenty of examples of rhyme throughout this story. Point this out to children as you read. Stop at these points to see if children will fill the gaps with a word that rhymes.

After Reading

- The teams are made up of various Australian animals. Discuss with children which animals they would pick on their own team and why – this opens up opportunity for discussions about animal attributes (snakes are speedy, kangaroos have powerful legs, etc). It also presents an opportunity to discuss diversity in general, and is applicable to the diversity of human athletic attributes on any team.
- Have a discussion about the order of events that unfolded to support comprehension and retell.
- Check out the activity sheets on our website: littlebookpress.com.au
- You may like to explore the World Cup and teams around the world that play against one another.



About the Authors

Adam Jackson has worked in football for nearly 20 years, starting his career at Manchester United then moving to Australia to work in sports publishing. He is currently the Head of Marketing at global sports broadcaster beIN SPORTS.

Adrian Lloyd is a Football Association qualified coach. He has coached children in the United States for 2 years, as well as coached at Fulham FC in London. Adrian has also spent the last 20 years working in publishing, marketing and digital advertising.

About the Illustrator

Jake Minton lives on Bundjalung Country near Byron Bay. Jake is the illustrator of the popular illustrated junior-fiction series *Zombie Diaries*, and will launch the new Australian graphic novel imprint Figment with his title *Inked* in April 2025.

