

Stage 4 – Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

My Girragundji

Synopsis

The book *My Girragundji* tells the story of a young Aboriginal boy and his experiences at school and with his family. As the narrator, he talks of his fear of the ‘hairyman’, the bad spirit in his house, and how this affects him at night. He talks of his shame about wetting the bed and his lack of confidence in interacting with Sharyn, a micaloo (white person) who smiles at him. He is bullied at school and struggles to manage this effectively.

One night, a little tree frog (Girragundji) jumps through his bedroom window and lands on him. This is the start of a wonderful connection between the young boy and his Girragundji, enabling him to develop a positive sense of self, strength to overcome his fear of the ‘hairyman’ and the skills to manage the bullies at school. The story shows the importance of strong connections with family and how learning about Aboriginal culture helps to build a positive sense of self. The young boy experiences loss with the death of his frog, but maintains the confidence, courage and sense of self she helped him to develop.