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Bilba and the Big Rain

A note for grown-ups

Bilba's rainy adventure is rooted in real bilby science. Here are some wonderful facts to share with your child — and a few questions to spark a conversation about being brave when everything changes.

Bilbies never drink water

This is the heart of the story! Bilbies get every drop of moisture they need from their food — insects, seeds, and bulbs. Even in a flood, Bilba was never in danger of thirst. She just didn't know it yet.

Desert rain is rare and magic

In the Australian outback, rain can be months or even years apart. When it finally comes, it transforms everything — seeds burst to life, insects appear, and the desert turns green almost overnight.

Bilba felt the storm coming

A bilby's enormous ears can detect tiny changes in air pressure — like the drop before a storm. Bilba would have known the rain was coming long before the very first drop fell.

Superb diggers, even in floods

Bilbies dig spiral burrows up to 2 metres deep with powerful front claws. If a burrow floods or collapses, a bilby can simply dig a new one — they're the outback's master builders.

Meet Bilba's friends

Old Gerald is a sand goanna — a large Australian monitor lizard that loves to bask on warm rocks. Dot is a budgerigar, a small, chatty parrot that flies in big flocks across the outback.

Rain brings a feast

After rain, floods wash seeds, insects, and underground bulbs to the surface. This is when bilbies eat more than at almost any other time of year — just like Bilba's happy feast at the end of the story!

Talking points for after the story

- Bilba was scared of the flood at first. Can you think of something that seemed scary but turned out to be okay?
- The desert looked completely different after the rain. What changes when it rains where we live?

- Bilba discovered she was never really in danger. What helps YOU feel brave when things change?
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