



Ernie Dances to the Didgeridoo

By Alison Lester

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Ernie says goodbye to his friends Rosie, Frank, Tessa, Nicky, Clive, and Celeste, and promises to write to them. He flies over the desert and crosses the floodplains and the East Alligator River to his new home in Arnhem Land in the Australian outback, where he will live for a year while his parents work in a hospital there.

Ernie writes to each friend about a different season — Kudjewk, Bangekerreng, Yekke, Wurrkeng, Kurrung, or Kurnumeleng — explaining what that time of year brings and revealing the exciting things that he and his new friends are doing. Back home, his six old friends share what they have learned and try some of the activities of the Australian outback.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

K-Gr 2-Lester first introduced these characters in *Clive Eats Alligators* (Houghton, 1986; o.p.), and this book is their sixth adventure together. Here, Ernie is going to live in an area of the Australian Outback for a year, and will write a postcard during each of the area's six seasons. With each postcard comes a little vignette of the boy's new friends engaging in typical activities for that time and place, with one child being showcased at the end of each section. The text is appropriately simple—"Patrick spears a barramundi" needs no embellishment for dramatic effect-and serves primarily to support the illustrations. Lester's watercolor and fine black-line creations are crisp and engaging. They portray happy children having fun and at the same time convey a wealth of information about life in Arnhem Land. This is a nicely designed, informative, and enjoyable addition, perfect for use with multicultural units. An author's note, glossary, and pronunciation guide are included.-Grace Oliff, Ann Blanche Smith School, Hillsdale, NJ

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From [Booklist](#)

Ages 4-7. The gang from *Celeste Sails to Spain* (1999) and other adventures returns in this entertaining picture book. This time the friends bid farewell to Ernie as he departs for a year's stay in Arnhem Land, an aboriginal reserve in Australia's Northern Territory. Ernie writes each of his six friends a letter describing one of Arnhem Land's six seasons and relating the activities of his new friends. Lester's colorful, snapshot-size illustrations depict the activities, a few familiar (catching frogs and playing football) and many new and different. The ending double-spread shows Ernie's American friends playing Arnhem Land style: "Celeste is a stilt dancer. Clive wears body paint. Rosie makes damper." There isn't a lot of information here, but the book provides bits and pieces about the climate and some aspects of the aboriginal culture. A glossary explains new terms. *Lauren Peterson*

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About the Author

Australian author Alison Lester is perhaps best known for her picture books. However, she captivated her audience with her first novel, *The Quicksand Pony*. In a starred review School Library Journal called it "a gripping adventure story, a tale of survival, an engaging mystery, a touching animal story, and a family saga."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Hernandez:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or even read a book allowed *Ernie Dances to the Didgeridoo*? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you

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