



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

This article was originally published in printed form. The journal began in 1973 and was titled *The Aboriginal Child at School*. In 1996 the journal was transformed to an internationally peer-reviewed publication and renamed *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*.

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Book Notes

Caden Walaa

Written and illustrated by K. Calley, Guugu Yimithirr translation by N. Pearson

University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, 1994, 29 pp.

Reviewed by Kathleen Price

Consultant in Aboriginal Education and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Curriculum and Resource Development

Caden is Noel Pearson's nephew and the title literally means, *Caden Watch Out*. It is written in two languages, Guugu Yimithirr and English, and it includes a pronunciation guide. Meanings of Guugu Yimithirr words that Caden uses in everyday speech are also given.

The story is set in Hopevale, an Aboriginal community in north Queensland, and the last page gives a little of the history of that community. It tells of Caden's adventures with the Yigi after wandering off alone into the bush in the 'pitch-black-dark dark night-time' (p. 9).

There are no page numbers to distract from the richly coloured illustrations which, although not true to life, are amazing. On each page, there are many creatures and features for children to find: butterflies, echidna, birds, kangaroos, insects, different types of trees, flowers, expressions on the characters' faces. Plants twist their way around verandah posts, legs and trees; there are frogs and bats, lizards and centipedes, and a bicycle all woven into a story of mystery and wonder handed down from generation to generation.

Young children (and some adults) enjoy the story and have great fun with the illustrations. The hard cover and user-friendly size are well suited to the younger reader.

Winds

A. Taylor

Magabala Books, Broome, 1994, vii + 77 pp.

Reviewed by Kathleen Price

Alf Taylor has dedicated this work to the memory of his mother and father who, he says, he never had as a child or as a man. Many of his poems are about love, for his family and others, yet each one is tinged with sadness. His work evokes images of chilling realities of isolation and solitude and half-hidden memories of cultural icons and mission life. Each of the poems has something to teach us, none more than *Hopeless Case* which describes a self-fulfilling prophecy

You are
Not going
To make it
In life,
How
He used
To dread
Those words
He heard
So often
As a child

Alcohol
Will be
Your master
Believe
In God
You'll be
Happy in
Heaven
But — you
Are a
Hopeless Case