



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*.

In 2022 *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education* transitioned to fully Open Access and this article is available for use under the license conditions below.



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

Book Notes

For a child
 Not even
 Thinking wild,
 How
 Those Words
 Will forever
 Affect
 His life

The thoughts expressed by Alf Taylor are wondrous in their beauty and simplicity and should be valued for this alone. Yet I can imagine introducing topics in the secondary school curriculum through these poems, as a way of understanding mission life and separation from family or inviting students to look at the way he uses words to convey feeling.

Taylor has bared his soul in this, his second book of poetry.

Winin: Why the Emu Cannot Fly

Mary Charles, translated by Bill McGregor, illustrated by Francine Ngardarb Riches

Magabala Books, Broome, 1993, 16 pp.

Reviewed by Kathleen Price

One expects this to be a traditional story, but in terms of teaching children how to behave, it misses the point.

It tells how the emu lived in the Milky Way while all the other birds flew down near the ground and were jealous because it could fly higher than them. The brolga told the emu that if its wings were cut, it would be able to fly high up in the sky (which it could already do; in fact, it could fly higher than them). The emu let the other birds cut off his wings and of course couldn't fly at all and remains unable to today. Perhaps the teaching point in the story is that we should all be happy with the way we are, and shouldn't wish to be like other people, but it doesn't come across very clearly.

The illustrations are quite humorous, but are separated, so that an open page looks disjointed. It is written in Nyulnyul and English. Nyulnyul is the traditional language spoken by the people who live in the Beagle Bay area in the north-west of Western Australia. Word lists from Nyulnyul to English and English to Nyulnyul are included, as well as a pronunciation guide.

Editor's Note: These reviews originally appeared in *Australian Aboriginal Studies* 1995 Number 2: 70-73. We thank *Australian Aboriginal Studies* and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies for allowing us to reprint them here.

