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Why?

Written & illustrated by Lila Prap

- Why *do* zebras have stripes?
- Why *do* whales spout water?
- Why *do* camels have humps?

The answer to these and many more of those vital questions are answered in the delightful new picture book by author/illustrator Lila Prap—the first Slovenian book ever published in Australia and New Zealand.

Why? is perhaps the most common question to spring from any child's lips. Lila Prap's innovative and entertaining picture book directs this question to 14 animals and their individual quirks. For instance: Why *do* Kangaroos have pouches? Why *don't* snakes have legs? Why *do* walruses have moustaches?

Prap provides both playful and scientific answers, encouraging children to have fun while they learn. Children will love the 'pretend' answers which are sometimes just plain 'silly'. For example: Why do crocodiles cry? Some of the answers are: 'they're spoilt', 'they're afraid of water' or 'because nobody will play with them'. The layout encourages children to have a few guesses of their own before their eyes are drawn to the 'real' answer.

Central to the spirit of the book are Prap's distinctive pastel-on-black-paper drawings. These have received rave reviews across Europe, where her books have been translated into several languages.

Why? is ideal for 5- to 8-year-olds (to be read out loud or as a read-alone book). A full set of free teacher's notes listing over 40 activities inspired by this distinctive book is available by emailing wilkinsfarago@optusnet.com.au.

About the author

Lilijana Praprotnik Zupancic ('Lila Prap') was born in 1955 in Slovenia where she studied architecture. She is now a freelance artist, earning her living in graphic design, interior decorating and writing and illustrating for children.

Her picture books (featuring her signature pastel-on-paper drawings) have been published in Korea, France, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Norway, India, Greece, the USA, Canada and Japan. This is the first time one of her books has been published in Australia and New Zealand.

She was inspired to write the book because of her love of animals and her memories of the questions and word games she used to play with her own son when he was little.

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