



# UNCLE'S BOOMERANG



# Every day counts.

[qld.gov.au/everydaycounts](http://qld.gov.au/everydaycounts)

## About the author

Nola Turner-Jensen is a Wiradjuri (weir rad jury) woman from the river country in Central West New South Wales, although has happily called Queensland home for most of her life. Nola is a published Aboriginal author of several children's books that are celebrated on NITV and in schools and childcare centres around Australia.

## About the books

There is a strong correlation between school attendance and positive student outcomes. The *Every day counts* campaign focuses on the importance of attending school every day of the school year. The Department of Education has produced a suite of student-friendly resources promoting the importance of going to school, every day. Each of the books in this series has a different story and is at a different reading ability level.

The information supplied inside the back cover may assist teachers in their delivery of targeted reading instruction. The Fry's high frequency words are lists in order of the most common words used in print, developed through the research of Dr Edward Fry. Learning all 1000 words in the Fry's lists would equip a child to read about 90% of the words in a typical book, newspaper or website. Mastering these words supports students' reading development and forms part of effective literacy instruction.

**For more information and resources visit the *Every day counts* website at [qld.gov.au/everydaycounts](http://qld.gov.au/everydaycounts)**

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THESE TWO  
KNOW SCHOOL  
IS COOL!

"Today we are going to learn  
about Aboriginal tools," said Uncle.

Uncle held up a boomerang.

"I made this," said Uncle.





"How did you learn to make a boomerang?" asked Jimmy.

"I was taught by my father," said Uncle.





“First, you choose wood with a bend in it,”  
said Uncle.

“Then you carve it and smooth it to get the  
right shape,” explained Uncle.



"It was hard to learn. Like school is sometimes,"  
said Uncle, "but we listened to our teachers."

"Bet it was more fun than schoolwork,"  
said Jimmy.



"It was hard work in the old days, Jimmy,"  
said Uncle. "No Google then!"

"But it was worth it," said Uncle.

"Hard work helped feed and look after  
our family," explained Uncle.





"That's why you need to work hard at school and turn up each day to learn," said Uncle.

"Your families think you are all too deadly," said Uncle, "and you make an old Uncle proud too."



LATER THAT DAY ...



**“Now let’s go and throw some boomerangs!”** said Uncle.

# Did you know?

Boomerang is an Aboriginal language word and comes from the Tharawal (thar raa woll) people in the Sydney region.

# Did you also know?

In Queensland, there used to be more than 100 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander traditional languages and dialects spoken.

Language is important, it's how we communicate. Try posting on social media, texting or emailing without language!

**Every day counts when you  
are learning to read.**



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**Word count**

167

**Text type**

Narrative

**Independent readability age**

6–8 years

**Hard words (3+ syllable words)**

Aboriginal, boomerang, boomerangs, family, families

**Key vocabulary**

today, Uncle, Jimmy, taught, father, first, choose, bend, carve, smooth, learn, school, sometimes, listened, teachers, schoolwork, Google, helped, isn't, trying, turning, learning, deadly

**Aboriginal English words**

Uncle	a respectful name given to male Aboriginal Elders
deadly	cool, great, awesome
too deadly	totally awesome

**Fry's First 100 high frequency words in this text (45 words):**

the	at	an	some	my
of	this	each	make	than
and	by	do	like	first
a	but	how	look	now
to	all	up	more	day
in	we	about	go	did
is	your	then	no	get
you	said	so		made
that				
it				
he				
was				
are				
I				





## *MORE ADVENTURES WITH JIMMY AND SAM THE DOG*

Uncle's father taught him how to make a boomerang, and now Uncle teaches Jimmy. Jimmy learns that making boomerangs takes effort, just like school, but both are worth it.

Can you spot '**Team EDC**' on Uncle's shirt?

This stands for '**Every day counts**' because it's important to go to school every day.

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