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## LITTLE LION: A LONG WAY HOME

WRITTEN BY SAROO BRIERLEY ILLUSTRATED BY BRUCE WHATLEY

A stunningly illustrated picture book of Saroo Brierley's extraordinary true story of survival dramatised in the award-winning film, *Lion*, starring Nicole Kidman and Dev Patel. Illustrated by multi-award-winning illustrator Bruce Whatley, Saroo became lost on a train in India at the age of five. Not knowing the name of his family or hometown to find help, Saroo survived for weeks on the streets until he was taken to an orphanage and adopted by a family in Tasmania, Australia. Despite being happy in his new home, Saroo spent years searching on Google Earth until he found his old village via grainy satellite images.

**Saroo says:** *Imagine being totally lost as a tiny child. It amazes me now when I think about how I managed to survive and then thrive.*

*When I was on the streets, so hungry and alone, I wondered what would happen to me. Would I be okay? I was by myself every day, even though I was among thousands of people. I truly had to trust and rely on my instincts.*

*When I was taken to Liluah Home it was almost a relief because I didn't have to face the fear of the unknown. When I was given the option of accepting a new family, I had real hope for my future – I thought that maybe I would be loved and cared for again. The idea that complete strangers would want to look after me as their own son was a concept I could hardly believe. I am so glad I accepted the opportunity to become part of a family again, and to begin my new life.*

*I wrote this book to show how powerful you can be if you put your mind to it*

*and use every resource and opportunity available. I went from a child without the benefit of education to a strong and healthy guy who wrote a book – WOW! I hope that my story will bring enlightenment to you on many levels.*

*Life is good.*

### RESPONDING TO THE TEXT

How do you feel after reading the book? What do you think of the story? Do you know of any other true stories of being lost and found?

Have you ever had an experience of being lost? What did you do? What should you do? Do you know your family name and your address? Who should you ask for help?

### GEOGRAPHY

Find India on a map. Use a physical map or Google Earth, both of which Saroo used in his search.

Find Saroo's home town of Ganesh Talai and the big city of Kolkata, where he ended up after his train journey as a child. Display both of these on a map of the world.

Find Hobart, Tasmania, on a map. Display it on the map of the world that you used above.

Discover 10 facts about India – the place, people, food, culture – and 10 facts about Hobart, Tasmania.

Compare the two and discuss the similarities and differences between the two places.

### INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING / IDENTITY

Describe Saroo's home in India.

Describe Saroo's home in Tasmania.

Think about the different experiences of children in different countries around the world. How is life different for other children? How is life the same?

What do you think it would be like to go and live with another family in another country where you didn't speak the language?

Have you ever had that experience? What things would make you feel at home? What things did the Brierleys do to make Saroo feel at home?

What would be different?

What things would make you feel welcome?

Draw a picture of yourself and give it the heading: Who am I? Write down some of the things that make you special/unique. Write down your dreams for yourself. What do you want to be when you grow up?

Share a story about a time you felt proud/achieved something, a story that reminds you of a family time, a story about a journey you have taken. Bring in objects or photos to support your storytelling. Make a class display of your stories, objects and photos