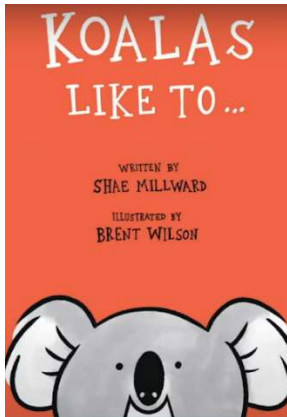


Teaching notes and comprehension questions for



Koalas like to

Based on Auslan performance by Shana,
for Queensland state library

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Discussion questions

1. Did you notice where mime and enactment were utilized in the story?

Examples :

Fast cars: (3:20 min)

English “Koalas like to drive fast cars”

Auslan : Koala – like-drive-fast (mime driving then uses pointer finger to mime fast back and forward driving with driving sign at start and end of mime)

Rolling in mud: (4:30 min)

English “and roll around in mud with pigs”

Auslan Koala-like-mime roll -in-M-U-D-with-pig

Two thumbs (5:37 min)

English “they have two thumbs..”

Auslan I-know-know-they-have (two handed for emphasis)-
P-A-W (draw paw to thumb)-(point to thumb)-two- mime /
enact two thumbs on both hands)

In caption right she is blending the two sign and the hand as
an on the fly enactment of “two thumbs”. If she had used one
pointer finger instead do you think the “two” meaning would
have been lost or altered? Remember hand shapes have
meaning even when used in enactment and mime!



2. Did you notice how she used her face as a form of role shift?

What is Role shifting ?

Role shifting is where you alter your body to help identify which character in a story is taking

So when signing about a discussion between an adult and child you might face downward when being the adult, and sign angled upwards when being the child, for example.

Here Shana inflates her cheeks when “being the koala”, especially when coupled with enactment like riding kangaroo (4:03) this is a very effective tool. Also every time she signs “eat gum leaves. When the children talk to the father she angles her face up slightly to “be the child looking up at dad” and down to be the dad looking down to talk to children.



3. Use of negative preposition Eg "no-have wings" “no-have phones”

Comprehension questions

1. Where do koalas like to sleep?
2. What do they eat?
3. What does dad say they like to wear?
4. What other animals are named in story?
5. How long do they sleep?
6. What is special about their bottoms?