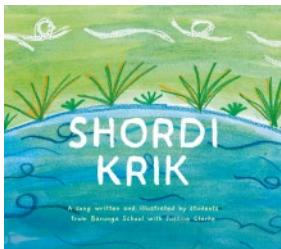
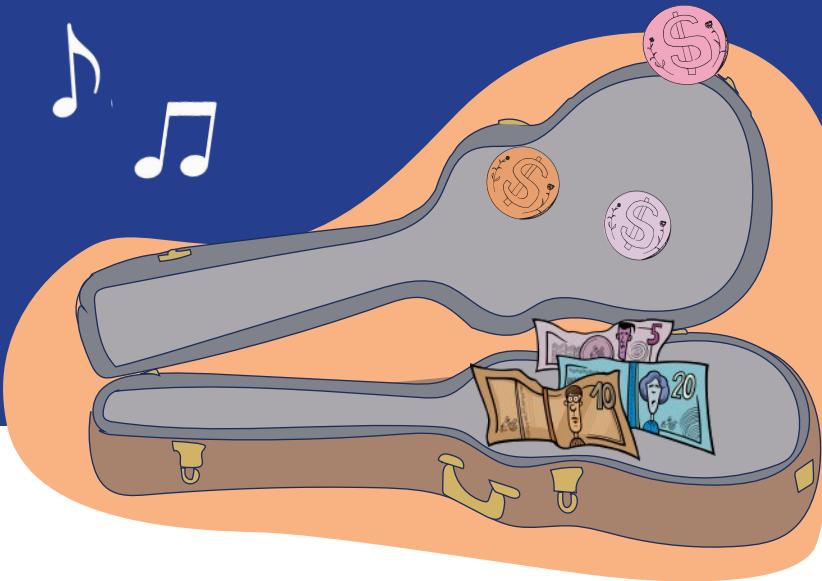


BUSKING FOR CHANGE



SHORDI KRIK FACT SHEET

Shordi Krik is a book and song written by students from the Barunga Remote Community School and ILF Ambassador Justine Clarke and published by the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. This story shares the joy of being at a nearby creek (Shorty Creek) where the children play, swim, sing and speak in their First Language, Kriol.

About the Story

One year, students had been down at the creek with teacher, Charlotte, and upon returning wrote down what they had seen around them. Justine Clarke then helped them turn it into a song, *Shordi Krik*, which was recorded in 2022 and turned into a beautiful book in 2023!

When asked what this book means to the Community, Barunga Remote Community School Principal, Malcolm, says *“These students, the Barunga kids, are the most amazing young people that I have ever worked with. They have great spirit; they are wonderful thinkers. And we now have this magnificent book that has been produced with the support of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.”*

This book illustrates the joy of time spent together at Shordi Krik, the water, the rocks, trees and breeze and crayfish and the playful activities that ensue. It shares a special place in the children's lives.

Watch the launch of *Shordi Krik* in Barunga Community [here](#).

Barunga Community

Barunga is a small Aboriginal Community, located approximately 80 kilometres southeast of Katherine in the Northern Territory. It is a Community of around 300 people and the main language spoken is Kriol. ILF Lifetime Ambassador Justine Clarke has been working with the students at Barunga Remote Community School for seven years, sharing literacy through joyful songs every time she visits.

Kriol Language

Kriol is spoken in Aboriginal Communities across a large area of northern Australia. It is the most widely-spoken Aboriginal Language in Australia today by an estimated 20,000 people.

Kriol is a real, full and vibrant language with speakers able to express anything that can be said in other languages. Kriol has also been used to translate Shakespeare and the Bible. Kriol is a 'new' Aboriginal Language with a special history, not an original traditional Aboriginal Language.

The roots of Kriol are in Aboriginal people's contact history on cattle stations, missions and reserves, where speakers of different languages used particular 'ways of talking', for communicating together. Such 'contact languages' bridged across all the different language groups, including English. In some places, the contact language has become the language that everybody in the Community speaks, so it isn't just a bridge across languages any more. When contact languages become the First Language of a whole generation, they are called 'creoles'.