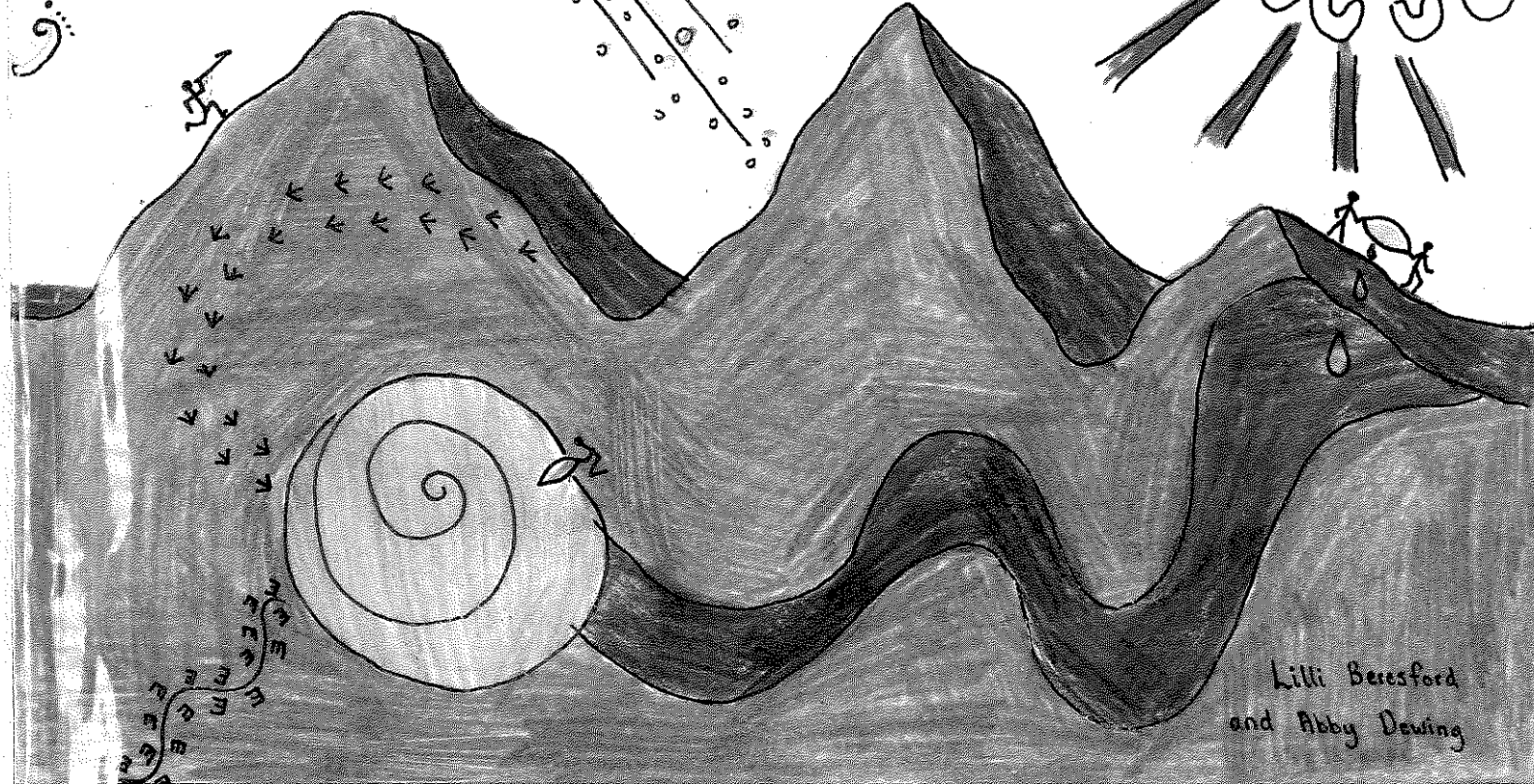
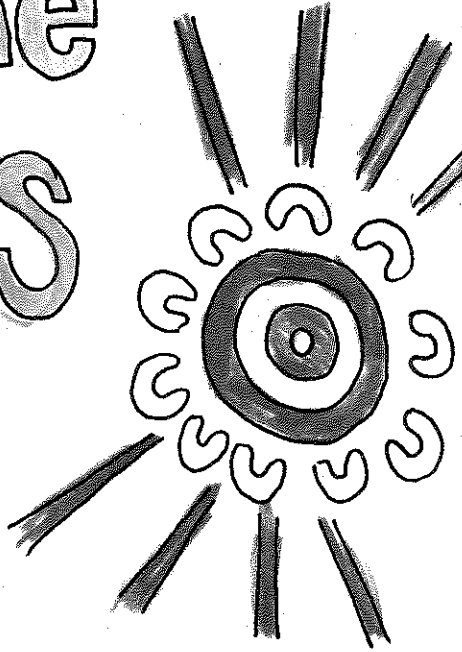
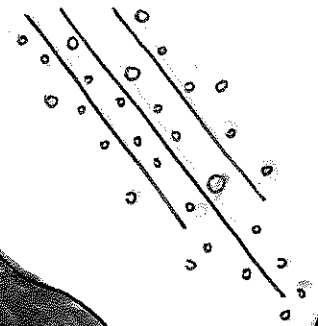
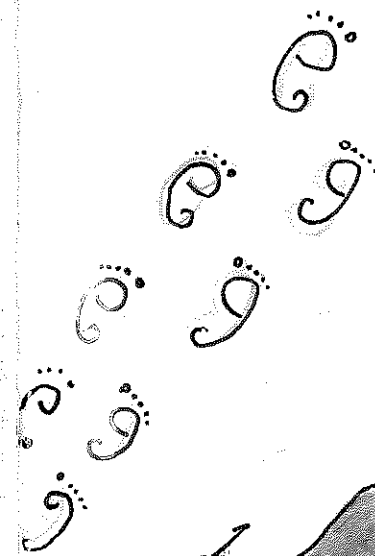


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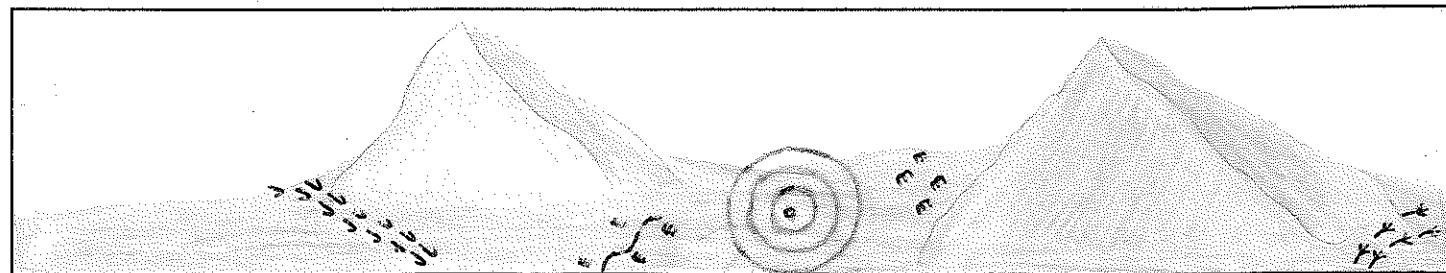
WATER

Got to the

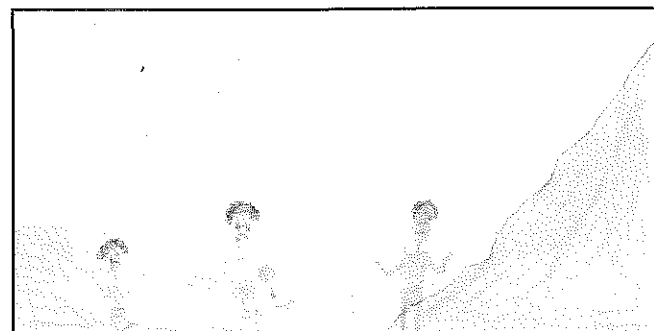
PLAINS



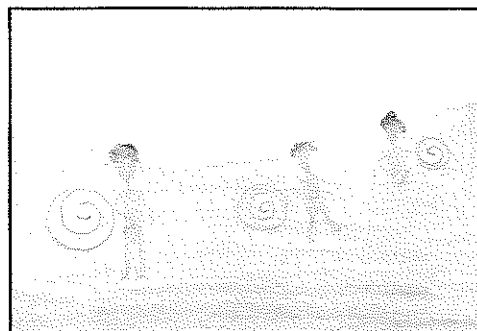
Lilli Beresford
and Abby Dewing



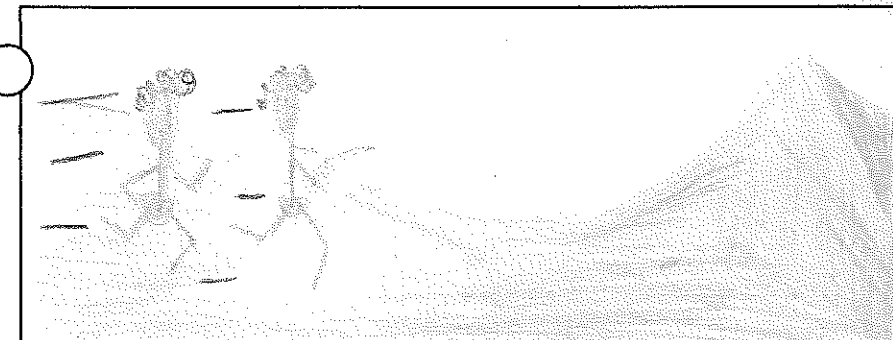
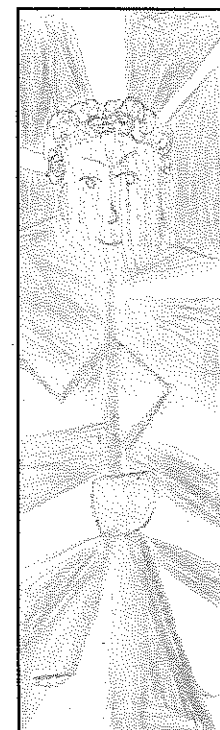
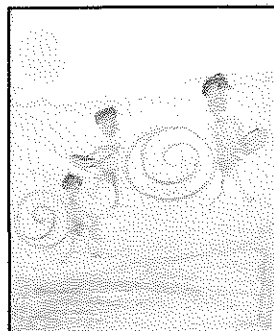
Long ago, there was a group of Aboriginal people living on a mountain. It was a lovely place, but everyone was worried.
Kwedjang mart Aboriginal moort koomba kart kornt. Djerop-djerap djookoorniny, moort wayarniny.



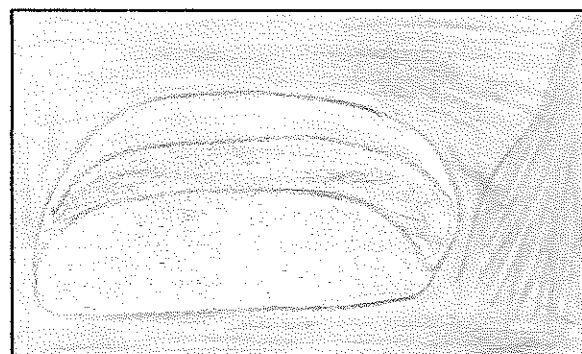
It had not rained for a long time and they were very short of water.
Noongkoep koorling kwidja moorat nongka kep baort.



They had some wells, however, all except for one were empty.
Kap wari wirt. Djer kany kabi.



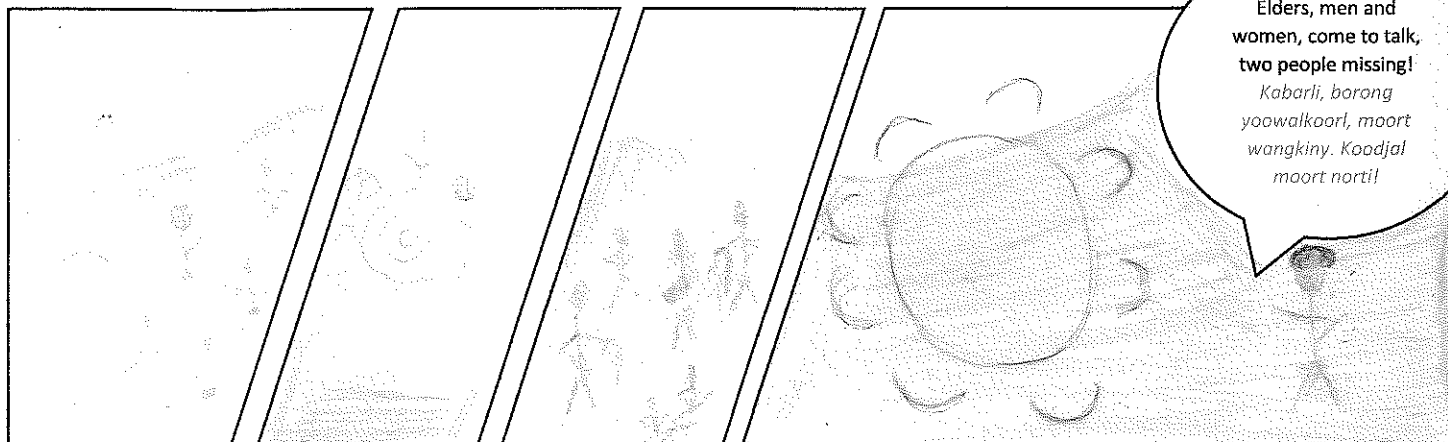
They decided to steal the last of the water for themselves and then run away.
Kadiny koolymitj mart moort darlininy kabi.



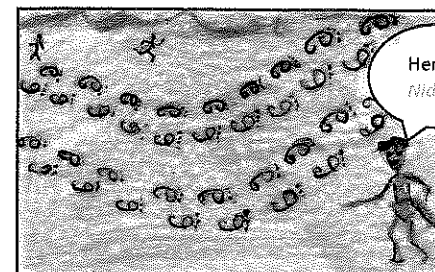
Quietly, they made a big water-carrying dish, called an eel-a-mun. Then, whilst everyone was sleeping they stole the water and fled.

Borl worl, Balang warniny doolyaa kabi. Mirkoom eel-a-mun. Moortngoorndiny kabi kap wari. Balang bordang.

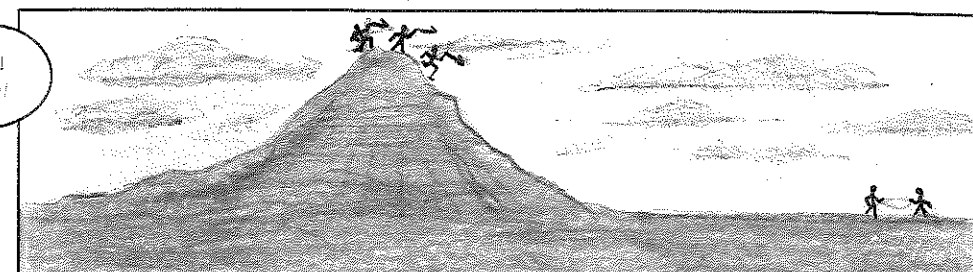
There were two greedy men, Weeri and Walawidbit.
Koodjal ngambali. Weeri kidji Walawidbit.



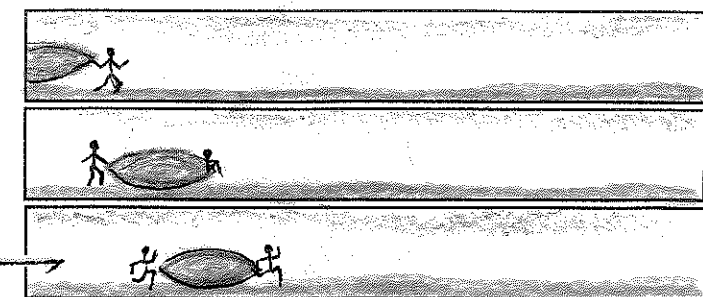
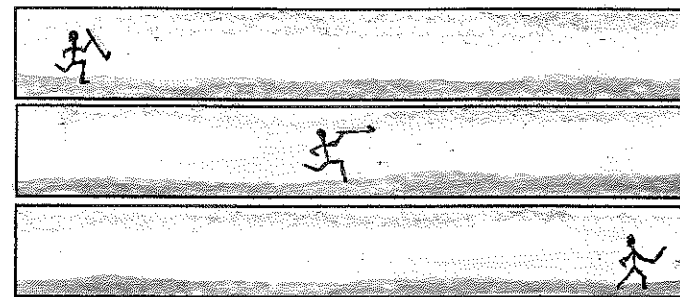
When the people woke, there was no water. This was very bad, because it was hot and babies, children and elders were thirsty. A meeting was called.
Moort biyoo kabi noongka. Koorlangka kidji mandjang kep baort, karlang. Moort wangkiny.



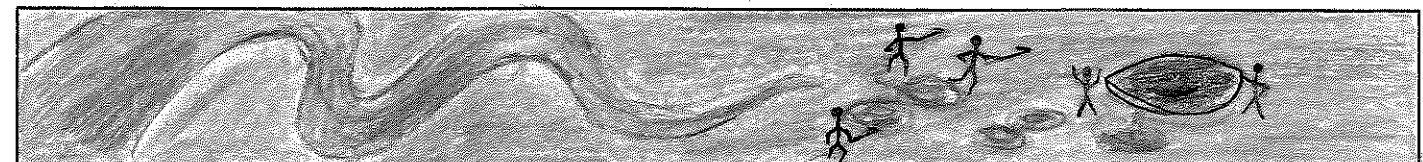
Looking around, they found the tracks of two men
Waadling djooraot noongar koodjal.



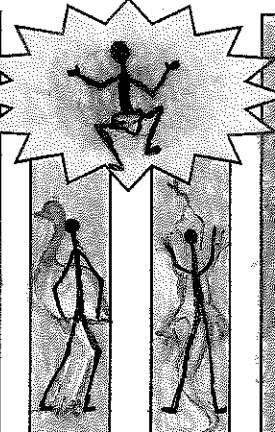
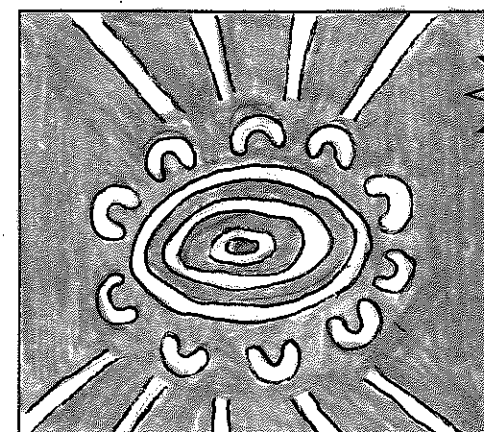
Quickly, the warriors followed these tracks over the mountain to the plains. They could see the men on the horizon.
Kerdiba mart moort kidji ketj baoging am kart koomba. Bokadja djoal kanana koodjal noongar.



The eel-a-mun was very heavy so Weeri and Walawidbit were slow. The best spearman ran forward and threw a spear. It hit the eel-a-mun, leaving a hole.
Eel-a-mun moardam, Weeri kidji Walawidbit dabakam. Medjil kany djakoorling kidji koodidjing.

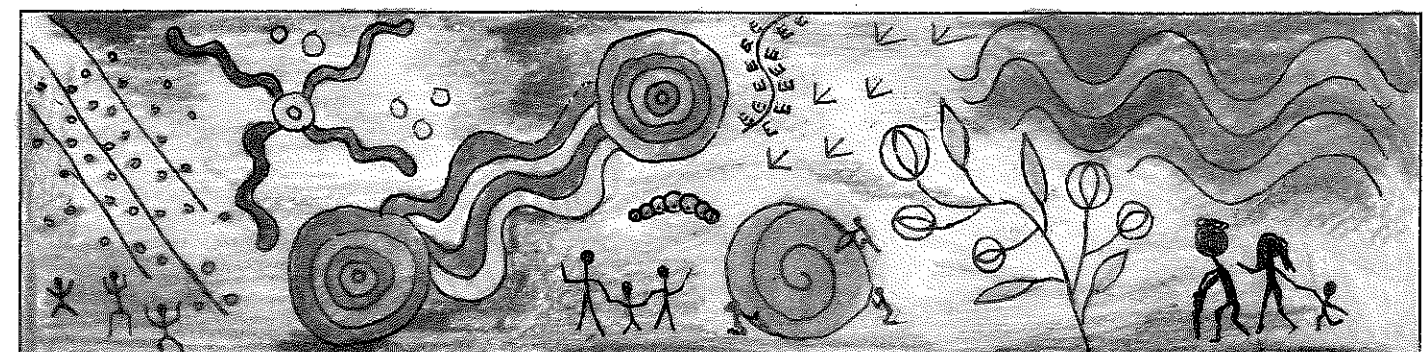


Weeri and Walawidbit did not realise the eel-a-mun was leaking until it was almost empty. Despite the reduced weight, the warriors still caught the men.
Weeri kidji Walawidbit noongka kutij kabi bangal. Mart moort barang koodjal ngambali.



The warriors took Weeri and Walawidbit back to the elders who decided they should be punished for stealing and thinking of themselves first, not the community.
Barn Weeri kidji Walawidbit borong yoomp nyornidj noonganoonga.

This was back in the first time, when strange things happened. The Wonmutta, the clever man made some very strong magic. Weeri was changed into the very first emu and ran down the mountain in shame. Walawidbit was changed into the first blue-tongued lizard and shamefully crawled away.
Kwedjang mararakool madjitil. Dookatj warniny moordijitj madjitil. Weeri ngangany waltjardang djo. Walawidbit ngangany diert barniny djo.



But a wonderful thing had happened. Wherever the water had leaked onto the plains, there were now beautiful billabongs and waterholes. There was grass and flowers, and lovely water lilies and shrubs, trees and birds. And soon, everyone was happy because there was enough water for everyone.
Koobidak. Naditj kabi boodjera kap warl kidji ngamar. Kidji kookoorniny, djirap, djet, kooroop, warnt, dirl-dirl. Moort djerap-djerap kabi.