
The Way of the Weedy Seadragon

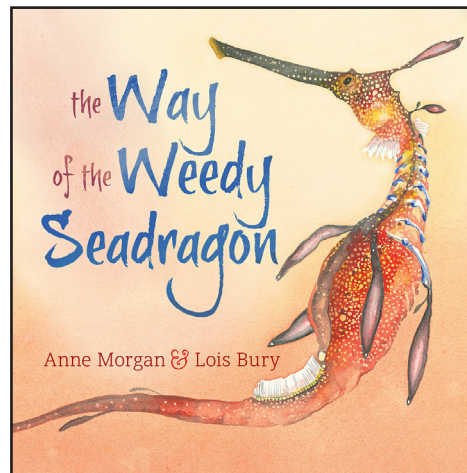
Written by Anne Morgan

Illustrated by Lois Bury

Published by CSIRO Publishing

(<https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/7982/>)

Recommended for ages 6–9



The Way of the Weedy Seadragon is a stunning book that provides readers with a glimpse of the underwater world and the incredible lives of the mysterious and colourful weedy seadragons. Written by Anne Morgan, this story draws you into the plight of this Australian protected species with an enchanting narrative detailing the weedy seadragon's life cycle and their incredible ability to camouflage and protect themselves from predators.

Lois Bury's mesmerising watercolour illustrations are bright with intricate details, capturing the beautiful colourings of the weedy seadragons and their natural habitat in the underwater kelp forests and seagrass meadows.

This wonderful book is an excellent and engaging resource for any primary classroom. There are many possibilities for students to delve deeper and engage in inquiry and project-based learning while exploring the themes of adaptations, life cycles and conservation. At the end of the book, there is a section that includes further information about seadragons and the threats to their survival. This section of the book provides insight into the research scientists are undertaking to work out the best ways to protect seadragons and prompts readers to think and act sustainably so as to play their part in protecting seadragons and their natural habitat.

To complement the educational themes of the book, there are teacher notes for Years 2–5 that can be downloaded from the CSIRO Publishing website. The teacher notes are aligned to the Australian Curriculum key areas

of Science Understanding: Biological Sciences; Arts: Media Arts; English: Language; and English: Literature. Suggested learning activities include designing an aquarium, exploring the features and adaptations of weedy seadragons that help them to survive in their environment, experimenting with watercolour paints, and considering how human behaviours can either harm animals like the weedy seadragons or help conserve their numbers so future generations can appreciate these truly remarkable creatures.

I have read *The Way of the Weedy Seadragon* in my primary STEM classroom to spark my students' curiosity and interest before starting a new inquiry unit. Students responded positively to this beautiful book and striking illustrations, asking many thoughtful questions about how they could help to protect this precious species. I highly recommend this resource for all primary school teachers and librarians.

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