

## Kangaroo gets a pouch

Based on an Australian Aboriginal Legend - retold by Oban

<b>Mother Kangaroo</b>	Joey! Where are you? Come here now.
<b>Narrator</b>	Mother Kangaroo looked around, under all the bushes, but couldn't see her Joey.
<b>Mother Kangaroo</b>	That boy has too much energy she mumbled to herself He's always hopping off.
<b>Narrator</b>	Using her paw, she shaded her eyes from the bright sun and looked around for her Joey again.
<b>Joey</b>	Here I am! (Excited voice)
<b>Mother Kangaroo</b>	Aaah! Joey, you frightened me! she said. (Mother jumps into the air)
<b>Joey</b>	Sorry Mother,
<b>Mother Kangaroo</b>	That's alright, but you shouldn't hop off by yourself. It can be dangerous.
<b>Joey</b>	But Mother, there are so many exciting things to see. I get bored standing here eating grass.
<b>Mother Kangaroo</b>	Grass is good for you. Now be a good Joey, and don't go hopping off again.
<b>Narrator</b>	She put her head down and munched the sweet grass. When she looked up, Joey had disappeared again. She gave a big sigh and started looking for him again.  Up ahead she saw the leaves on a bush shaking.
<b>Mother Kangaroo</b>	Ah! That's my Joey,
<b>Narrator</b>	She hopped over quickly, and bumped into a fat old wombat.
<b>Wombat</b>	Ouch! Watch were you're going
<b>Narrator</b>	Yelled the wombat.

<b>Mother Kangaroo</b>	I'm very sorry. I didn't mean to bump into you.
<b>Wombat</b>	You big animals never think about us with our short legs, closer to the ground, grumbled Wombat. Now you're here, you can help me find some good grass to eat.
<b>Mother Kangaroo</b>	I'd like to, but I'm looking for my Joey at the moment, said Mother Kangaroo.
<b>Wombat</b>	That's right, nearly knock me over, a half blind poor old Wombat, and now you won't even help me find food.
<b>Mother Kangaroo</b>	Of course I'll help you. Grab onto my tail and we'll look for good grass.
<b>Narrator</b>	As Mother Kangaroo hopped along with Wombat holding her tail Joey came bounding by and hopped right over old wombat.
<b>Wombat</b>	What was that? (yelling)
<b>Mother Kangaroo</b>	That was my Joey. Come back Joey
<b>Wombat</b>	Kids! No respect grumbled Wombat.
<b>Narrator</b>	Joey kept going. Wombat stumbled into a hole.
<b>Wombat</b>	Stop, you're going to fast. I need to rest. (complaining voice)
<b>Narrator</b>	While Wombat rested Mother Kangaroo kept looking around. She was worried about her Joey but wouldn't leave poor old Wombat. It was too dangerous for someone who couldn't see properly to be alone.
<b>Wombat</b>	Now I'm thirsty complained Wombat Take me to some water
<b>Mother Kangaroo</b>	All right said Mother Kangaroo I hope nothing has happened to my Joey she thought to herself.

<b>Narrator</b>	They headed towards the waterhole with Wombat holding onto Mother Kangaroo's tail and grumbling all the way. When they reached the waterhole there was Joey asleep under a shady gumtree. Mother Kangaroo bounded over to him.
<b>Wombat</b>	That's right. Just leave me standing here all alone not able to see yelled Wombat.
<b>Narrator</b>	Just then Mother Kangaroo saw some men coming towards the waterhole carrying spears. They were hunting something for their dinner.
<b>Mother Kangaroo</b>	Quickly we have to hide! Hunters are coming. Grab my tail.
<b>Narrator</b>	They rushed towards the bushes with Wombat complaining as he hung onto the tail and bounced up and down. Hiding in the bushes Joey dug his little paws into his mother's fur, holding on as tightly as he could.
<b>Joey</b>	I'm scared said frightened Joey.
<b>Mother Kangaroo</b>	Shh, it will be all right dear. (speaking softly)
<b>Narrator</b>	When the hunters had passed Mother Kangaroo looked around for grouchy old Wombat but he wasn't there. He had turned into Father of all Creatures. He explained to Mother Kangaroo he had disguised himself as a wombat and come down from his sky world to find the kindest animal in this land.
<b>Wombat</b>	And the kindest animal is you Mother Kangaroo. Even when you were worried about your Joey you were still kind to a grumpy complaining old wombat.
<b>Narrator</b>	He took some bark from a tree and handed it to Mother Kangaroo.
<b>Wombat</b>	Now I am going to give you a special present. Tie this bark around your waist
<b>Narrator</b>	Mother Kangaroo tied the bark around her waist and it turned into the pouch that all kangaroos have today.
<b>Wombat</b>	Now you have somewhere to keep Joey from wandering off and when he gets frightened he has some where to hide.
<b>Narrator</b>	Joey climbed into his mother's pouch
<b>Joey</b>	This is really cool. Can I have friends over to visit?

<b>Narrator</b>	Mother Kangaroo thanked the Father of all Creatures
<b>Mother Kangaroo</b>	This is a very special present but I feel sad for all the other animals who don't have a pouch for their children.
<b>Father of all Creatures</b>	You are definitely the kindest animal.
<b>Narrator</b>	Because of Mother Kangaroo's kindness, all marsupials have a pouch to carry their babies and young children.
	THE END