

MEET KIRLI SAUNDERS

PRIMARY YEARS 3–6

About the event

Kirli Saunders is many things—a proud Gunai woman, a teacher, an artist and the 2020 NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year. She's also the award-winning writer of novels, poetry and plays, and her latest book *Bindi*, written in both Gundungurra and English verse, is a remarkable tribute to family, friends, Country and creativity.

Follow Saunders as she shares her creative process and lets you in on how to tell your own stories through art and writing.

Read and respond

We talk about the land being our mother. The land that we are born from, that we live for, protect and care for, and that when we die we return to her. When we're talking about personifying the land as a character in a story, or the setting as an additional character, well then Mother Earth might have some really interesting things to say to us. – Kirli Saunders

What are three things you think Mother Earth might have to say to us? Use your imagination.

#The following two activities are recommended by Kirli Saunders!

Research and act: caring for Country

Go for a walk in your local reserve or national park and identify native local plants and creatures as you walk on Country. Create a list of five ways that you can care for Country.

Writing activity: writing in verse

In *Bindi*, Kirli described Bindi's mother in this way:

*Her kind eyes
have seen so much,
but she doesn't let it show.*

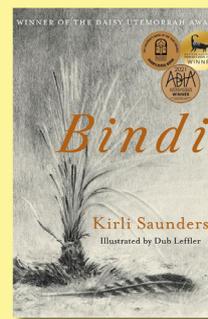
*Mum/Rosie
is warm butter sliding down toast:
she melts people
wi her kindness,*

*leaves them feeling
fuller.*

– P. 9, *Bindi*



Kirli Saunders



KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, languages

Capabilities: ethical understanding, intercultural understanding, personal and cultural

Cross-curriculum priorities: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, sustainability

Think about all the characters in *your* family. Create a poem describing the spirit of three of them. You might use nicknames. Paint a family portrait with your words.

About the author

Kirli Saunders is a proud Gunai Woman and award-winning international writer. She is a teacher, consultant and artist. In 2020, Saunders was named the NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year. Her books include *The Incredible Freedom Machines*, *Kindred* and *Bindi*, which won the 2020 Daisy Utemorra Award.