

PRIMARY GRADES 3–6

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. Why is it important to listen to what Mother Earth is telling us?

Gundungurra Language

Read *Bindi* and write down any new or unfamiliar words along the way. Are any of them from the Gundungurra language? What do these words mean? Cut out the words with their definitions and display them somewhere in your classroom.

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. You might like to ask an adult to help you or do your own research to discover the correct names.

Create a list of five ways that you can care for Country.

(These are two activities recommended by Kirli Saunders!)

Write in Verse

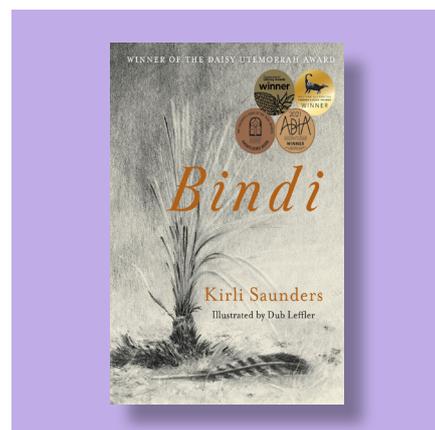
In *Bindi*, Kirli described Bindi’s mother in this way:

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
with her kindness,
leaves them feeling
fuller.
—P. 9, *Bindi*

Think about all the characters in your family. Create a poem describing the spirit of three of them. You might use nicknames, descriptions of their personalities or memories you have of them. Paint a family portrait with your words.



Kirli Saunders



KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, languages

Capabilities: ethical understanding, intercultural understanding, personal and social

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

About the Author

Kirli Saunders is a proud Gunai woman and award-winning writer, artist and consultant. An experienced speaker and facilitator advocating for the environment, gender, racial equality and LGBTIQ+ rights, Saunders was the 2020 NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year. Her celebrated books include *The Incredible Freedom Machines*, *Kindred*, *Bindi*, *Our Dreaming* and *Returning*.