

The River Which was Made from Tears



Once there lived a great hunter who found a giant brolga with a broken wing. At first the hunter felt frightened and tried to run away, but then he felt sorry for the brolga so he went up to the brolga and asked kindly how the wing was broken. The brolga told the hunter his story and as he did so great tears fell from the brolga's large sad eyes. The tears fell into the tracks he had made while he crawled along in pain, and each tear was as big as the water of a billabong. They turned into fresh cool water and formed a river, flowing very fast along the brolga's tracks. After he had told his story, the poor brolga died of sorrow and woe and the hunter rose into the sky and became the Morning Star, where he watches over the poor brolga. The river, which was made from the brolga's tears, is called the Giddy River today and is not far from Yirrkala in the Northern Territory.

1. What is a brolga? Give evidence (word or phrase) from the text to prove why you think this?
2. It says 'each tear was as big as the water of a billabong'. What type of technique is the writer using when he says 'as big as'?
3. When it says 'the poor brolga died of sorrow and woe', can you give 2 other ways of saying (synonyms) poor? (e.g weak)
4. If you had to re-name the story, what would you name it and why?
5. What does 'woe' mean? You may use an on-line dictionary to find a definition.



The Giddy River today