

# Tiger's Roar

By Alex Rance

June 2018

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Hardback

Recommended for 5-8-year olds

picture book

## Summary

An inspiring and hilarious picture book about a tiger who wants to be his best. A celebration of self-belief, perseverance and teamwork by 2017 AFL Premiership player, Alex Rance, and talented children's book illustrator, Shane McG.

Alex Rance's allegorical tale of a tiger striving to return to his treetop place in the jungle is an engaging story, with text and illustrations in a particularly close relationship.

Alex has drawn on his leadership role in the Richmond Tigers 2017 premiership-winning team to craft a story that rings true in life as well as on the page. *Tiger's Roar* is a funny, warm-hearted tale about the success and joy you can find in playing to your strengths, being genuinely yourselves and working together as a team.

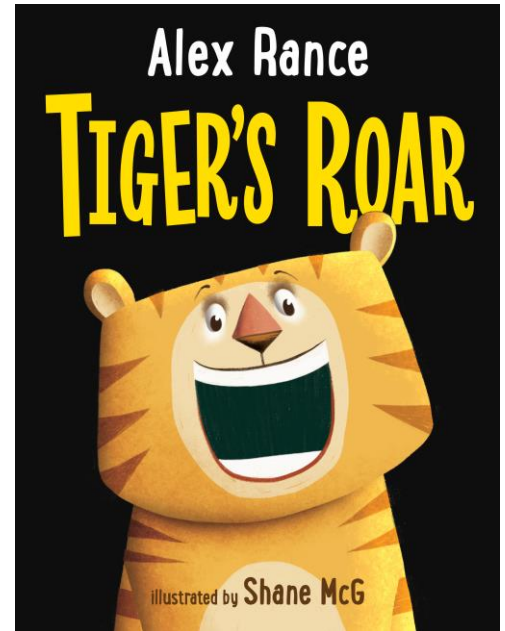
## Message from Alex Rance

'Being a big kid at heart, I have always loved picture books and cartoons, hoping that one day I would be able to come up with my own story. I have an inventive and crazy mind that is often flying from idea to idea—trying to come up with a way to make the world an easier, more fun place to be.

'When we won the grand final in 2017, I had an amazing opportunity to tell a great story about why we became the best team in the competition. But I don't like long, wordy books and I don't particularly like talking about myself. So, I thought the best way I could tell a story of triumph was through a child's eyes. Hoping that some core messages could help anyone travelling along the bumpy road of our lives.

'Each character in the book is a key character in our success story:

- The Tiger symbolises the history of the Richmond football club. We once were a strong, bold and proud football club with a strong history of success. But we fell from our lofty place and couldn't find our way back ... until 2017.
- The Howler Monkey symbolises me, I feel that I am a connector in the football club, giving people a voice to be heard. Also, I am not afraid to muck around and make people laugh.
- The Rabbit symbolises Jack Riewoldt, another connector of the group who has amazing energy and care. The super springy shoes go without saying. Jack has a spectacular leap and it is his greatest strength on field.
- The Rhino symbolises Dustin Martin, the most strong and powerful of the team who also has a very caring and generous side.
- The Silverback Gorilla symbolises Trent Cotchin, the calm wise influence of our football team, making others around him better and making sure he has all the facts before acting.



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'The book's core messages are: BE VULNERABLE – don't be afraid to ask for help, admit we have our imperfections. Share your burdens with your close friends. A team is far stronger than any individual can be. BE UNIQUE - don't be afraid to be yourself. Nobody can be you, better than you can. Know what makes you great and play to your strengths! BE GENEROUS – always look to help others, the best way to help yourself is to help others. BE PERSISTENT – never give up. Even though you may get knocked down, if you have good people around you, you can't fail.

'I hope you enjoy this story and you, too, can get to the top of your own tree.'

— Alex Rance

## Discussion questions

1. Before opening *Tiger's Roar*, look at the title and cover design. Discuss what students think the story might be about and the clues in the picture that make them think that. Ask questions such as:
  - Do you think this is going to be a funny or sad story? What makes you think that?
  - What do you know about tigers already?
  - What do you think the tiger on the cover is doing? Does the title help you guess?
  - Is he going to be friendly or scary in the story? Why do you think that?
  - What do you think is going to happen to the tiger?
2. Read the story through once and after finishing close the book and ask students the following questions to help them explore the story's main themes:
  - Why was Tiger 'the champion of the jungle'?
  - What happened to Tiger when the wind came?
  - Which jungle animals came to help Tiger get back to the top of the tree?
  - What advice does each animal give?
  - What does Tiger realise when he goes to get a drink of water?
  - How does Tiger finally get to the top of the tree?
  - What do you think this story taught you about working as a team?
3. Visual literacy:
  - a) Ask students if anyone can see the wind blowing. If they say no, encourage them to look closely and think about how the illustrator has 'shown' the wind approaching the tree as Tiger sits atop it, and the following page where the wind snaps the branch. What shape does the illustrator use to suggest wind?

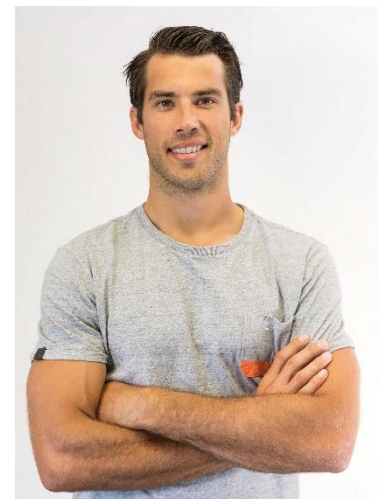
Now do the same thing on the following pages for the concept of hopping. How does the shape of the line showing Rabbit hopping differ to that of the line when Tiger hops? What do those different line shapes tell us about who is better at hopping?
  - b) Now try the same exercise looking at how the illustrator creates 'sound' on a page. Look at the last image in the book and talk about how colour, size and font thickness help us see that Tiger has a mighty roar.
  - c) Now ask students to describe Tiger's mood in this last image. What in the picture tells them how he is feeling? What is different about the frame here? Why do you think the illustrator changed the frame for this last image?

4. Break your class into groups of five (one student for each of the jungle animals) and encourage each group to perform the story on stage. Students should think about the specific characteristics of the animal they are playing and the sort of strengths each displays.
5. Whole class discussion: ask students what Tiger means when he says, 'It's good to be a tiger, but it's even better to be a tiger with a team.' Encourage students to talk about their own experiences working in a team, either in the classroom, in sport or in the playground. Do they agree with Tiger's opinion about teamwork?
6. For AFL-loving students point out that Alex Rance plays for the Richmond Tigers and that he says that this story is about his club and teammates. Does this make the story even more interesting when they know this? Why?
7. Ask students to come up with ideas about what might happen next in the story if it continued.

## The author

A four-time All-Australian, Alex Rance was a key player in Richmond's drought-breaking 2017 AFL Premiership win.

Off-field, Rance looks to inspire the next generation to realise their dreams. He and two business partners started The Academy, a school for Year 11 and 12 students that is based on teaching real world skills and keeping students engaged in their schooling by following their passions.



## The illustrator



Shane McG is a Melbourne-based illustrator who writes and illustrates his own picture books as well as illustrating a wide range of books for other authors.

Shane has been drawing ever since he can remember. At school, he created his own comic strips and now he makes picture books and illustrations for people all around the world.