

THE STORY OF TALWALPIN AND KOWINKA



CODE 020

Fertigkeit	Lesen
Relevante(r) Deskriptor(en)	Deskriptor 6: Kann einfache literarische Texte (z.B. fiktionale Texte, Lieder und Gedichte) verstehen. (B1)
Themenbereich(e)	Interkulturelle und landeskundliche Aspekte Einstellungen und Werte
Zeitbedarf	15 Minuten
Länge des Lesetextes	414 Wörter
Material- und Medienbedarf	Schreibmaterial
Besondere Bemerkungen, Hinweise zur Durchführung	---
Quelle	Oodgeroo Nunukul. „Talwalpin and Kowinka“. In: <i>Dreamtime Aboriginal Stories</i> . New York: Lothrop, Lee&Shepard Books, 1994. S. 88. Adaptiert von Kelly Watson, © 2000. Zitiert nach: http://www.zoomschool.com/cgi-bin/ imagemap2/school/Australia/Schoolroom. map?415,135 (22.2.2005). [adaptiert]



Read the text about Talwalpin and Kowinka, two young Australian Aborigines.

Then tick (✓) the sentences below true or false.

You will find the underlined words at the bottom of the page.

Talwalpin and Kowinka – An Aboriginal tale

Talwalpin was a beautiful woman of the tribe¹. She was tall, strong, and she loved to wear the bright yellow flowers that grew everywhere in her hair. Even while sleeping, Talwalpin had those flowers twisted in her hair. Kowinka was a young hunter who loved Talwalpin very much. He would often guard her while she slept.

Talwalpin and Kowinka spent a lot of time together in Kowinka's big canoe. Many times Kowinka would paddle the canoe to a place where there were many fish. The tribe was always well fed when Talwalpin and Kowinka went hunting. Strangely enough, Talwalpin did not know how to swim. However, she was never afraid when she was in the canoe as Kowinka was the best swimmer in the whole tribe. One day while out in the canoe a monstrous storm set upon them². Kowinka tried with all his might to paddle the canoe to shore, but he was unable to reach it. Talwalpin grabbed a paddle and tried to help him, but whenever they got close to shore a large gust of wind³ would carry them back out to the sea again. When the tribal elders⁴ realized that Talwalpin was missing they sent a group of young men out in their canoes to rescue⁵ her as they knew that she did not know how to swim.

When the men reached Kowinka's canoe they called to Talwalpin to jump so that they could rescue her. Talwalpin refused⁶ to leave Kowinka, so the men returned to shore⁷. Eventually Talwalpin and Kowinka began to feel exhausted after fighting the storm for so long. When they felt that they could no longer fight it, Kowinka jumped into the sea and tried to pull the canoe to shore. As he struggled to save them a huge wave overturned the canoe and they both drowned.

The morning after the storm the tribe found Talwalpin washed up on the beach. Kowinka was floating nearby in the water. The Good Spirit Biami felt sympathy for Talwalpin and Kowinka, and decided to place their shades⁸ near one another.

Today Talwalpin, the cotton tree with the bright yellow flowers, grows in the sand. Kowinka, the red mangrove⁹, stands in the water guarding Talwalpin. That is why these two always grow side by side. One on the bank and the other in the water. The love Talwalpin and Kowinka had for one another was so strong that they can never leave one another.

Vocabulary:

1 - tribe – *Stamm*

2 - a monstrous storm set upon them – *ein großer Sturm brach über sie herein*

3 - a large gust of wind – *ein kräftiger Wind*

4 - tribal elders – *die Stammesältesten*

5 - to rescue – *jemanden retten*

6 - to refuse – *sich weigern*


7 - to shore – *an Land*

8 - shades – *hier: ihre Seelen*

9 - mangrove – *ein Mangrovenbaum*



Tick (✓) the sentences true or false.

	true	false
 (1) Talwalpin was a beautiful young Aborigine woman.		
(2) She was so beautiful that young men often gave her flowers.		
(3) A young man named Kowinka liked her a lot.		
(4) Talwalpin and Kowinka often went together to hunt in the bush.		
(5) Talwalpin and Kowinka were very good hunters.		
(6) Talwalpin could not swim.		
(7) One day a storm broke out while Talwalpin and Kowinka were fishing out on the sea.		
(8) Talwalpin and Kowinka waited in their boat for the people of their tribe to help them.		
(9) Other people in the tribe came to help them after some time.		
(10) Talwalpin was very afraid of the water, so she didn't jump out of the canoe.		
(11) Talwalpin and Kowinka started swimming to the shore to save their lives.		
(12) Talwalpin and Kowinka could save their lives.		
(13) A good spirit turned Talwalpin and Kowinka into two trees.		
(14) Today the mangrove tree and the cotton tree stand very close to one another.		



	true	false
(1) Talwalpin was a beautiful young Aborigine woman.	✓	
(2) She was so beautiful that young men often gave her flowers.		✓
(3) A young man named Kowinka liked her a lot.	✓	
(4) Talwalpin and Kowinka often went together to hunt in the bush.		✓
(5) Talwalpin and Kowinka were very good hunters.	✓	
(6) Talwalpin could not swim.	✓	
(7) One day a storm broke out while Talwalpin and Kowinka were fishing out on the sea.	✓	
(8) Talwalpin and Kowinka waited in their boat for the people of their tribe to help them.		✓
(9) Other people in the tribe came to help them after some time.	✓	
(10) Talwalpin was very afraid of the water, so she didn't jump out of the canoe.		✓
(11) Talwalpin and Kowinka started swimming to the shore to save their lives.		✓
(12) Talwalpin and Kowinka could save their lives.		✓
(13) A good spirit turned Talwalpin and Kowinka into two trees.	✓	
(14) Today the mangrove tree and the cotton tree stand very close to one another.	✓	