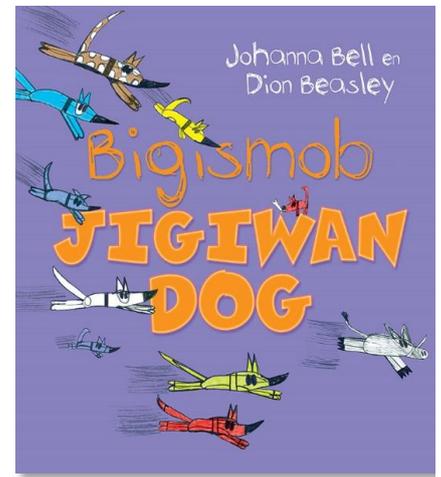


# Bigismob Jigiwan Dog

By Johanna Bell and  
Dion Beasley, translated  
by Meigim Kriol  
Strongbala



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Hardcover

Recommended for 3–8-year-olds (could be relevant for up to 12 year olds too – see below)

## Summary

**This much-loved book features the cheeky antics of dogs in a remote outback community – now it has been translated into Kriol by the Meigim Kriol Strongbala project of Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation in Ngukurr.**

Set in an outback community, the infectious humour and lovable misbehaving dogs can be appreciated by everyone. Incorporating counting and colours and careful patterning, the story has been specially designed to aid literacy in remote Indigenous communities and more widely.

This is a perfect Kriol language resource for communities spanning the Top End – great for schools, libraries and communities. It also contains a useful map and information about the translation at the back of the book.

'A fun way of helping young readers learn their colours and days of the week... a wonderful glimpse into life in a remote outback town.' *Kids' Book Review*

## Use in the curriculum

The Australian Curriculum framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages can be found here:

<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/languages/framework-for-aboriginal-languages-and-torres-strait-islander-languages/>

Language Revival (LR) programs that are being implemented in schools can illustrate different contexts for (and flexible ways of) using the Framework for Aboriginal Languages. For all students, learning an Aboriginal language or a Torres Strait Islander language provides a distinctive means of understanding Country/Place, including the relationship between land, the environment and peoples. The revival, maintenance and development of languages contribute to reconciliation.

Visit <https://www.allenandunwin.com/resources/for-teachers> for free down-loadable teachers notes, reviews by teachers, extracts and more. And sign up to the Allen & Unwin e-newsletter to receive monthly updates on new resources!

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**Curriculum connections for primary school learners:** Key concepts encountered in the Language Revival Learner Pathway (LR)

- Identity – identity, self, family, belonging (ACLFWC139 and ACLFWC161)
- Language variation and change – kinship, context (ACLFWU145)
- Socialising – relationship, kinship, family, experience (ACLFWC152)
- Systems of language – diacritics, intonation, spelling, word formation, word class, grammatical person and number, negation, metalanguage, kinship system, ways of talking, human relationships, interrelatedness (ACLFWU163, ACLFWU164 and ACLFWU166)

The NT Indigenous Languages and Culture Curricula can be found here:

<https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/indigenous-languages-and-cultures>

Northern Territory students using the book will be able to link their learning to:

- First Languages Maintenance (L1M) or First Languages Bilingual (L1B) pathways of the Indigenous Languages and Culture Curriculum
- Second Language Learner (L2) pathway of the Indigenous Languages and Culture Curriculum
- Language and Cultural Awareness Pathway (LAC) of the Indigenous Languages and Culture Curriculum

## Who is this book for?

The original English version of this book, *Too Many Cheeky Dogs*, is aimed at children aged 3-5. This Kriol translation has the potential to be used by a diverse range of audiences for a variety of reasons.

Because Kriol is closely related to English, all children reading this book will be able to think about and reflect on relationships between the Kriol words and the English words they are based on, which will help to increase their ability to think critically about English.

Children aged 5-12 who have little or no contact or exposure to Kriol or to Kriol speakers might find this book useful to them as a way to raise awareness of other languages, particularly Indigenous languages of Australia and expose them to new ideas about multilingualism and Indigenous Australia.

For children who already speak Kriol, *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog* (just like the original book), will appeal as an enjoyable story for children aged 3-8.

Some children (aged 5-12) reading this book may not speak Kriol fluently, but they may have Kriol speaking friends and family. This book may help them to improve their Kriol fluency.

In addition, Kriol-speaking children aged 7-12 who want to learn to read Kriol but don't have many resources or books to help them develop their Kriol reading skills might find this book useful too.

## Why is this book important?

*Bigismob Jigiwan Dog* is important for different reasons to different audiences. The most important audience for those who created the book is Kriol speakers themselves. There are many communities and schools where Kriol is spoken, but there are not many books in Kriol for those students and families to read – especially books as fun to read as *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog*!

With the release of this book, we hope that it brings a new joy of books and reading to Kriol speakers, helps more Kriol speakers become literate in Kriol and helps Kriol speakers feel proud of their language.

For readers of *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog* who don't speak Kriol (yet!) the book is a wonderful window into a language and way of life that is truly Australian. In the Northern Territory, Kriol is the second most widely spoken language after English yet not many Australians know about it. Many of the activities suggested in this teachers' guide will help teachers and their students understand some of the richness and complexity of the book as well as the lives and communities of Kriol speakers.

### Suggested activity

Check out the back pages of *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog* for a map of the Kriol speaking area of Australia. The map shows many of the remote communities and towns where Kriol is spoken.

**Choose one of the towns or communities shown on the map. What can you find out about that place? Can you find out anything about the schools there? Is there any mention of Kriol on the school's website or Facebook page?**

### Suggested activity

#### How Many Languages Are There in the World?

This is a general activity to get students to think about linguistic diversity and appreciate different languages

- Brainstorm languages that students know of in groups or as a class – how many can they list?

#### Question:

How many languages are there in the world? This can be incentivised as a 'nearest guess wins a prize' type question. (The answer is approximately 6,500, or if you want an exact figure, the ethnologue language guide says 7,117 -

<https://www.ethnologue.com/guides/how-many-languages>).

#### Extension:

Class discussion about why it is difficult to count an exact number of languages in the world – sometimes it's hard to agree on what a language is (e.g. English) and what a dialect is (e.g. Australian English), and also because some languages are being lost and no longer spoken. Do we still count them?

## What is Kriol?

Kriol is the name given to a language spoken across a large part of Northern Australia, mostly in the Katherine region of the Northern Territory and in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Kriol developed in the early days of European colonisation, after Pidgin English was introduced to these areas in the late 1800s. Kriol developed to be a fully formed language and in some places like Ngukurr (where this translation was done), it has been the main language of the community for about 100 years. Kriol is based on English, but because there are so many little differences in pronunciation, in how sentences are made, in changes in meanings of words as well as using words from Indigenous languages, Kriol is treated as a language of its own rather than as a dialect of English.

## Suggested activity

### Class Language Audit

This is a general activity to help students think about and appreciate different languages and the linguistic richness found in their own class.

With one in five Australians speaking a language other than English at home, most Australian classrooms are linguistically diverse. This activity can be done in groups (e.g. 6+) or as a class.

- Highlight the number of languages around us all the time and foster a better appreciation of the multilingual nature of Australian society which is often not very visible.

#### Step 1:

'What languages do you speak?' Each student writes down all the languages they speak.

Tip: to visualise each step as an expanding range of languages, use one colour for Step 1 and use different colours for each additional step.

#### Step 2:

'What languages do your parents speak?' Add to the list by writing down languages that students' parents speak

Additional steps: add to this further by including steps like 'what languages do your grandparents speak?' and/or 'what languages are you learning/do you know a little bit of but don't speak well yet?'

- How many languages were listed in each step? Are the results surprising or expected?
- Compare the class results to results from the Australian Census – an easy to understand outline can be found here: <https://profile.id.com.au/australia/language>. Under the heading 'Language Spoken at Home – ranked by size', you can adjust the results and zoom in to your own state, region or capital city.

**Take care and model sensitivity:** Some students may not know the actual name of languages they or their family speak, especially if it is a small, regional language. This is okay. Students can use a descriptor like 'language from region X' or 'my grandmother's language from her village/city/state' and can use it as an opportunity to find out more from their family as homework. Secondly, you may encounter negative language attitudes where students have a negative attitude towards languages they or their family speak, and they may be uncomfortable with identifying themselves with those languages. Such attitudes and values can be deeply ingrained and can be due to societal or familial attitudes. Be sensitive to students' values.

## Suggested activity

### Exploring World Creoles

Creoles are special kinds of languages that have only developed recently (between a few decades up to a few centuries ago). They are based on bigger languages like French and English and typically developed when different European countries set up colonies and made themselves powerful in different parts of the world. Today, there are creole languages in the Caribbean, West Africa, the Pacific and more. Kriol (the creole language of Northern Australia) is one of these creole languages.

- Look at this world map that shows some of the different creole languages in the world: <https://apics-online.info/contributions#2/30.3/10.0>. Can students identify which regions in the world you might find more creoles? Can the students find Kriol on the map? What do the different coloured dots signify?

### Explore:

Look for Papua New Guinea and the language Tok Pisin on the map. Tok Pisin has a blue dot, which means it is based on English. The ABC news website has a Tok Pisin news section: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/tok-pisin/>. Look at one of the articles on the website – can students recognise some of the words as English words? What are some words students can see where they can't tell what they mean? Listen to the audio recording – it should sound very different to English, which is why we say Tok Pisin is a language all on its own, not just a dialect of English.

### Explore:

Look for Haiti and Haitian Creole on the map. What language is Haitian Creole based on? (Hint: the colour of the dot tells you). In the same way Kriol and Tok Pisin are related to English but are very different, Haitian Creole is like French yet different enough that it is a language all on its own. It has its own alphabet and they have their own alphabet song as well: <https://youtu.be/6F6yK1HOhWI>. What letters are missing from the Haitian Creole alphabet, when compared to the English alphabet? How is the word 'creole' written using the Haitian Creole alphabet?

### Discuss:

In Haiti and Papua New Guinea, many people speak the creole languages from those places – they are national languages. In Australia, only a few people speak Kriol, and English is our national language. How might life be different for a Kriol speaker growing up in Australia when compared to someone growing up in Haiti or PNG speaking the creole of those countries? [Some answers: In Australia you might feel different or not very well understood, but in PNG and Haiti you would be speaking the common language and feel easily understood. In Australia, all our TV and music and schooling is in English, so a Kriol speaker might feel left out. In Haiti and PNG, you might grow up surrounded by many things that use your own language for entertainment and education.]

## Class Discussion

Can you think of different groups of people who might benefit from reading *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog*? [Possible answers: kids who speak/don't speak Kriol, kids who speak it but can't read it, Indigenous kids, non-Indigenous kids, teachers, parents, people who liked the English original].

## Suggested activity

### Life in A Kriol Speaking Town

To get a sense of life in a remote community, watch the Yugul Mangi Rangers' video 'Welcome to Ngukurr' - <https://vimeo.com/350681708>.

Ngukurr is the community where the book *Too Many Cheeky Dogs* was translated into Kriol and became *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog*.

- After watching the video, how would you describe the land/country where Ngukurr is? How would you describe the township itself?
- Make a list of all the places that are pointed out in the video. When you read *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog*, make a list of all the places mentioned in the book. What places are found in both the book and the Yugul Mangi rangers' video?

### Considering cultural interpretation

Near the start of the video, Ranger Simon is standing next to a billabong and points to it and says in Kriol "En dijan iya kenggurru bin meigim dis kantri – ol dis eriya iya" which means "That Kangaroo made this country. All this area here".

What is he really talking about here? Is he talking about an ordinary kangaroo?

[Simon is talking about the Dreaming or Totem that created the land in that area according to traditional/local Indigenous beliefs. It is a specific type of kangaroo called jardugal in the local language.]

## Class discussion

### What is a translator and what do they do?

A translator is someone who knows two or more languages very well and can take something written in one language and put into another language, taking care that the new version is just as good as the original!

There are many little steps a translator takes along the way. For the translators to turn *Too Many Cheeky Dogs* into Kriol they had to:

- Make sure they understood everything in the English version.
- Think carefully about which Kriol words fitted the English words best.
- Read through it many times so that the words were right and that all the sentences made sense and fitted together to make the story sound good.
- Look out for any confusing bits and fix them up to make them clear.

## Translating *Too Many Cheeky Dogs* into *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog*

*Bigismob Jigiwan Dog* is a Kriol translation of the English book *Too Many Cheeky Dogs*. The original English version included several themes and ideas that resonate with Kriol speakers, who mostly live in remote Aboriginal communities.

These themes include:

- Family as central to social life;
- Key places in remote communities like the shop, the oval, the health clinic and the police station;
- and, of course, dogs!

Translation from one language to another is very tricky! The job of translating the book had to be carefully thought through.

Here are some of the issues that were considered:

- Who do we think is going to be reading the book?
- What are we translating it for?
- Who is the audience?

The translation team at Meigim Kriol Strongbala thought that *Too Many Cheeky Dogs* would be a great book to translate into Kriol, and Johanna Bell and Dion Beasley (the author and illustrator) thought it was a good idea too.

Making sure the translation reads well is important. When the translators put *Too Many Cheeky Dogs* into Kriol, they had to make sure other Kriol speakers would think the book sounded just as good as the original one.

## Suggested activity

### Lost in Translation

Did your class do the Class Language Audit activity listed above? Some students who know languages other than English may like to have a go at doing some simple translations into other languages they know and sharing them with the class.

These examples are designed to show that even with simple sentences, it is very easy to get translation wrong.

- First, see if students can translate these eight easy English words into another language they know:

English	Other Language
do	
like	
you	
up	
school	
did	
throw	
what	

Now using the words from the table, try and translate these three simple sentences:

What did you do? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you like school? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did you throw up? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the sentences make sense, or did they sound funny? Can the students think of a better way to translate the sentences?

If you weren't able to do this activity with your students, here are two examples of how easy it is to get translation wrong:

- When somebody makes a phone call or knocks on the door, they often say 'It's me' in English. German speakers would say 'Ich bin es' (ich=I, bin=am, es=it). If a German speaker translated 'Ich bin es' word-for-word into English, then they would turn up to your front door and say, 'I am it' instead of 'It's me'!
- If a German speaker says goodbye, they might say 'wir sehen uns' (wir=we, sehen=see, uns=us). If this sentence was translated word-for-word it means 'we see us', which sounds strange to an English speaker. Instead, when we say goodbye, we just say 'see you', not 'we see us'.

## Dialects

English, Kriol, German and Japanese are all languages. So, what is a dialect?

A dialect is a way of speaking a language that belongs to a specific area or group of people.

The translators of this book knew that Kriol has different dialects. That is, Kriol is spoken a little bit differently depending on which community you come from. This meant they had to think about the best way to spell certain words so that Kriol speakers from right across Northern Australia could read the story easily.

Above the map in the back of *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog*, there's a table that shows a few words that are said and spelled different in different Kriol-speaking communities. Which spellings were chosen for *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog*?

### Class discussion

#### Dialects of English

- Can you think of different ways people speak English because of where they come from? Do Americans sound different to Australians? What about people from England or New Zealand – do they sound different too?
- What makes their English different? Is it their accent? Is it some of the words they use? (What do Americans call nappies and mobile phones? What do English people call trucks? What do New Zealanders call an esky?)

### Class discussion

#### Dialects of Kriol

Do you have family from other communities who come to visit, or do you go and stay in communities where everyone speaks Kriol? Have you ever noticed that they say some things a little bit differently or use different words to you, but you can still understand them because they are still speaking Kriol?

For example, people in Ngukurr say 'gajim', meaning 'get' and 'gabarra', meaning 'head', but in many other communities, they say 'gedim' instead of 'gajim' and 'hed' instead of 'gabarra'. Have you noticed these differences? Can you think of any other examples?

We might be able to say Ngukurr Kriol is a dialect of Kriol because only people from Ngukurr say 'gajim' and 'gabarra' all the time. If you use these words when you talk to people from other communities, they might think 'Oh, that person might come from Ngukurr!'

## Unpacking Kriol

Because Kriol is a different language to English, it has different sounds and letters, and it has its own vocabulary. Kriol speakers have their own ways of expressing themselves and things they like to talk about.

### Class discussion

#### Listen to Kriol sounds, consider the spelling

Listen to the audio recording of *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog*

[https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en\\_au/resource/bigismob-jigiwan-dog-too-many-cheeky-dogs/](https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en_au/resource/bigismob-jigiwan-dog-too-many-cheeky-dogs/) Close your eyes and just listen. How much do you understand?

- Listen again and try to listen for any words you understand? Make a list on the board or in groups. If you did this without looking at the book, you can review your list and compare it to what is in the book. Did you hear the words right? Look at how the Kriol word is spelled – did it match what you wrote on the board?
- Try listening to the recording while reading along with your teacher. Can you follow all the words along with the recording? Does it make a lot more sense now? What is helping you to understand more? (Is it the pictures? Reading words that look a bit like English words? Are the spaces and full stops and question marks helping you to know where the words and sentences start and end?)

### Suggested activity

#### The Kriol alphabet

The Kriol alphabet is very similar to the English alphabet, but there are some differences. That's why Kriol looks different when you read *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog*. The English alphabet has 26 letters. Kriol only uses 21 of them.

- Read through *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog*. Can you figure out which five English letters aren't used in Kriol? [This activity can be done even when students don't understand all the words or how to say them].

This webpage will help you learn more about the Kriol alphabet:

[https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en\\_au/resource/kriol-elfabet-poster/](https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en_au/resource/kriol-elfabet-poster/). Here, you will find links to Kriol alphabet resources that you may like to buy as a supporting resource to *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog*.

## Suggested activity

**Mom or mum?** Have you ever read an English book and noticed different ways of spelling the word 'mum'? In America, they write 'mom', but in England and Australia, we write 'mum'.

Do you know of any other words that you've seen in books that give it away that it's not an Australian book? Some other words that are spelled differently are gray/grey, center/centre and tire/tyre. Here's a link to more examples:

<https://www.abc.net.au/education/learn-english/australian-vs-american-spelling/11244196>

## Class discussion

### Kriol words and meanings: Grandparents

In Ngukurr, Kriol speakers are very specific when talking about grandparents. A grandpa on mum's side (mum's dad) is your abija. A grandpa on dad's side is your amuri. To translate *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog*, the translators had to choose abija or amuri, because there's no one word in Kriol that just means 'grandpa' or 'grandfather'.

Towards the end of the book, is the phrase "Yestadei ai bin wok la main amuri kemp...". This is translated from the English original "Yesterday I walked to Grandpa's camp."

- What do students call their own grandparents? Do they use different words for different grandparents? Why? Maybe grandparents from dad's side are called something different from grandparents from mum's side.

## Suggested activity

### Kriol signs at the shop

Check out Dion Beasley's wonderful drawing of the local shop (it's the page after Sadadei/Saturday with all the pink dogs).

- Can you figure out what all the words are? How are those words spelled in English? Which words are spelled the same in both Kriol and English and which words are spelled differently?

Hint: go to the page in the back with the translation – there's a small image of the shop drawing page from the English version of the book.

### Tricky question:

One of the English words in the shop drawing – meat – has a different word in the Kriol translation. What is it? [Answer: bif.] What English word does the Kriol word bif come from? [Answer: beef – in Kriol, all kinds of game meat are called bif.]

## Suggested activity

### Kriol can be very different to English

A lot of the Kriol words in *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog* start to look more and more familiar to those who are used to reading English and know English well.

Look for these four words in the book: Sabi, Bambai, Rijimbat, Daga

- What do these words mean in English? Use the translation page for clues if you need to.

Here are answers and further info:

**Sabi** – means 'know' or 'understand'. (If students thought 'sabi' means 'guess', that's because the English version says, 'guess what I saw?' which was translated as 'yu sabi wanim aibin luk?'. 'Yu sabi wanim aibin luk' actually means 'do you know what I saw?'). Sabi is related to the Latin word for 'know', which you find in languages like French ('savoir' means 'know') and English ('savvy').

**Bambai** – means 'if' (In the context it is used in the book it means 'if'. It can also mean 'later'). 'Bambai' originates from an older English phrase 'by-and-by' which isn't really used in English anymore

**Rijimbat** – means 'chasing'. The first part of this word is from the English 'reach'.

**Daga** – means 'food'. It's from the English word 'tucker'.

## Suggested activity

### Doubled-up words

In Kriol, words are sometimes doubled-up. (The technical term for this is 'reduplication'). This happens in many languages.

- Search through *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog* and look for doubled-up Kriol words. What can you find? Can you figure out what they mean in English? (Use the translation page to help you)

[Answers: silipsilip = sleep, bigibigi = pig, traitrai = try, attempt, faitfaitbat = fighting, dagatdagat = eat]

**Fun fact:** The word bigibigi appears in the title of another Kriol book, *Moli det Bigibigi!* More info here:

[https://meiqimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en\\_au/resource/moli-det-bigibigi-molly-the-pig/](https://meiqimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en_au/resource/moli-det-bigibigi-molly-the-pig/)

- Can you think of words in English that are doubled-up words?

[Answers: There are actually a lot! In English, they aren't always perfect reduplications. Some examples: walkie-talkie, higgledy-piggledy, zigzag, wishy-washy, so-so, tick-tock, teenie-weenie, teenie-tiny, chit-chat, etc.]

**Further notes:** the way Kriol doubles up words has historically been a way in which English speakers have made fun of the language or thought it was somehow childish or inferior. When Kriol speakers use words that are doubled up, they aren't thinking about the English words they came from – they just use those words because that's what you do when you speak Kriol! Use this activity to encourage an appreciation of the richness of Kriol and discourage the language being made fun of. After all, we do the same thing in English!

## Reading and pronunciation guide

### Why does Kriol have its own writing system and spelling rules?

Looking at *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog*, you will notice that Kriol has its own alphabet and its own way of spelling and pronouncing words. Kriol is quite a new language and its writing system was only developed in the 1970s. When people wanted to get serious about writing down Kriol, they realised that writing Kriol using only English ways of spelling wasn't going to work very well. Here's why:

- There are some sounds in English that you don't get in Kriol and there are some sounds in Kriol you don't get in English. Writing Kriol using only the English way of spelling is like a sports team with half its players missing. It's just not very effective.
- The English writing system can be very irregular which means that if you try and read an English word you don't know, you can have all sorts of problems
- Look at words in English that have '-ough' in them: through, cough, dough, thought, although... there are many ways 'ough' is pronounced.
- Kriol has a more regular spelling system. Once you know what sound a letter or two-letter combination makes, you can read most words and say them quite well. So, if you can get used to what sounds all the Kriol letters and letter-combinations make, you will be able to read *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog* pretty well!

### Reading Bigismob Jigiwan Dog

Here are some things to help you read *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog*:

Listen to the audio recording posted on the Meigim Kriol Strongbala website:

[https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en\\_au/resource/bigismob-jigiwan-dog-too-many-cheeky-dogs/](https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en_au/resource/bigismob-jigiwan-dog-too-many-cheeky-dogs/)

Follow our handy pronunciation guide:

- Many Kriol letters and sounds are the same or almost the same as in English. These letters shouldn't give you too many problems:
  - **b, d, f, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, w, y, sh**
- But there are a few letters and sounds that take a bit of practice: **g** is always a 'hard g', as in 'girl', not like the 'soft g' in 'gym'. Kriol examples from the book: jigiwan (cheeky one), bigibigi (pig), dog (dog)
- Kriol has both **r** and **rr**. They are different sounds. Single **r** is the 'r' sound we use in English. Double **rr** is like a quick rolled r – a bit like the 'tt' when you say 'gotta' or 'butter' quickly. Examples from the book: garra (sounds like 'gotta' but means 'with' or 'will/going to')
- **tj** sounds like 'ch' as in 'church'. We use **tj** in Kriol because the Kriol alphabet doesn't use the letter 'c' in at all. Examples: Tjusdei (Tuesday), dogketja (dog catcher)
- The vowels are probably the part that looks trickiest at the start, but once you know what to do, it's easier than English!
  - **a** is ALWAYS like the sound in 'farm', not like the 'a' in 'fat'. Examples: daga (food – this word comes from tucker!), sabi (know, understand)
  - **e** is like the 'e' in 'bed'. Examples: beda (better), en (and)

- **i** can be like the 'ee' in 'meet' or like the 'i' in 'bit'. It's never like the 'i' in 'kite' or 'might'. Examples: thribala (three), mi (me)
- **o** can be like the 'o' in 'hot' or sometimes like the 'o' in 'fork'. Examples: dog (dog), wok (walk), obul (oval)
- **u** is like 'u' in 'put' or sometimes like the 'oo' in 'boot'. Examples: yu (you), luk (see, look)

So far so good? Practice reading these Kriol words from the book. They actually sound like the English words they are based on – they are just spelled differently because of the Kriol spelling rules!

- Siso (see-saw)
- Kemp (camp)
- Fut (foot)
- Grinwan (green one)

Lastly, let's look at when Kriol puts two vowels together. These might look tricky but once you know what sound these two-letter combinations make, it's pretty easy!

- **ai** ALWAYS sounds like 'eye' (and 'I' too!), never like the 'ai' in 'paint'. Examples: main (mine), taim (time), trai (try)
- **ei** ALWAYS sounds like the 'ay' in 'day' or the 'ai' in 'pain'. Examples: Mandei (Monday), ranawei (runaway)
- **au** sounds like the 'ou' in 'sound' or the 'ow' in 'clown'. Example: braunwan (brown one)
- **ou** sounds like the 'ow' in 'flow' and the 'oa' in 'boat'. Example: roud (road)

Got it? Great! Well done! Don't forget – listen to any recordings of the book as a guide.

There are other resources to help with Kriol sounds and spelling, like these Kriol Elfabet (alphabet) posters: [https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en\\_au/resource/kriol-elfabet-poster/](https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en_au/resource/kriol-elfabet-poster/)

## Tips for further learning and practice

To keep developing Kriol reading and speaking skills and to get better at reading *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog*, here are some more tips:

- If you know a Kriol speaker, ask if they can help you practice words with them and listen carefully to their pronunciation. Keep in mind though – not many Kriol speakers have had the opportunity to learn how to read Kriol because it is rarely taught in school, so it may be difficult for them to be confident when reading *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog* too. That's okay, you can practice together!
- Look and listen to the Kriol videos shared on the Meigim Kriol Strongbala website. They will give you a feel for how the language sounds: [https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en\\_au/resource-type/videos-in-kriol/](https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en_au/resource-type/videos-in-kriol/)
- And don't forget to listen to the audio recording - [https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en\\_au/resource/bigismob-jigiwan-dog-too-many-cheeky-dogs/](https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en_au/resource/bigismob-jigiwan-dog-too-many-cheeky-dogs/) - and keep an eye out for more *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog* multimedia resources that are in the pipeline!

## Themes

- Indigenous life • counting • colour • animals • humour • cultural awareness • community •

Johanna Bell and Dion Beasley

## The author and illustrator

Johanna Bell lives in Darwin with her partner, daughter and a backyard full of green tree frogs. Her writing career got off to a bumpy start when she was so busy composing a story in her head that she accidentally drove into the back of a taxi. It was while driving on a bumpy stretch of road outside Alice Springs that the beginnings of the Cheeky Dog books, took shape. Working with Dion has changed the way Johanna sees the world and tells stories. Johanna and Dion's books include *Too Many Cheeky Dogs*, the CBCA Book of the Year, *Go Home Cheeky Animals*, and the illustrated memoir *Cheeky Dogs: To Lake Nash and Back*.

Dion Beasley lives in Tennant Creek and is well known across the Territory as the artist behind the much-loved T-shirt brand, Cheeky Dogs. Dion's formal art career started in 2006 when the first Cheeky Dogs T-shirt line was launched. Since then, his reputation as an accomplished visual artist has grown from strength to strength. His latest collaboration with Johanna Bell is his memoir, *Cheeky Dogs: To Lake Nash and Back*. Dion's talents are particularly remarkable given he has muscular dystrophy and is profoundly deaf.



## Related texts/Further reading

### Meigim Kriol Strongbala websites:

- In English: [https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en\\_au/](https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en_au/)
- In Kriol: <https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/rop/>

### Learn more about Kriol:

- Read: Kriol explainer article in The Conversation: <https://theconversation.com/explainer-the-largest-language-spoken-exclusively-in-australia-kriol-56286>
- Listen: ABC News in Kriol: <https://soundcloud.com/darwinabc/sets/kriol>
- Read: Meigim Kriol Strongbala's fully bilingual website [https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en\\_au/](https://meigimkriolstrongbala.org.au/en_au/)
- Watch: Yugul Mangi Rangers' 'Welcome to Ngukurr' video (7mins): <https://vimeo.com/350681708> - parts are in Kriol, also gives an overview of the Kriol-speaking community where the translation of *Bigismob Jigiwan Dog* was done.