

# VIBE ACTIVITIES

## Vibe Wire – Creative Start page 13

# Creative start

## Torres Strait Islander illustrator gets literary scholarship boost



**T**HE ANCIENT ART OF STORYTELLING IS A FUNDAMENTAL FOUNDATION OF TRADITIONAL CULTURE, PROVIDING A PLATFORM FOR KNOWLEDGE TO BE PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS. ONE SUCH STORYTELLER HAS RECEIVED A GRANT TO HELP HER CONTINUE THIS ART FORM.

Tori-Jay Mordey is an 18-year-old illustrator studying a Bachelor of Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art. She recently received a \$2680 scholarship under a new nationwide literary scholarship program.

She is one of the first recipients of the Australian Indigenous Creator Scholarships scheme, which was established this year by Broome-based Indigenous publisher Magabala Books. She says it will help her to continue pursuing her passion.

"The Magabala Scholarship has made it possible for me to enhance my skills and express myself creatively," she says.

"Without the scholarship I wouldn't have been able to afford the software and projector I have now been able to get."

But Tori-Jay is already a published illustrator with Magabala Books. The book *Bakir and Bi*, written by Jillian Boyd, is an exuberant and aesthetically engaging book based on Torres Strait Islander creation stories.

Originally from Hervey Bay, she now attends Griffith University at Southbank, Brisbane, and loves her studies because of the knowledge she is acquiring and poetic freedom allowed.

"It's so down to earth and enables me to learn more about my culture and myself," Tori-Jay explains.

"We get to create the art – it's not just based on the traditional stuff. We look at the traditional art and reinvent it in a contemporary way and give it a new angle."

**"We get to create the art – it's not just based on the traditional stuff. We look at the traditional art and reinvent it in a contemporary way and give it a new angle."**

Tori-Jay decided to pursue illustrating in her last year of high school when some of her artwork turned out "really good", but she says she will keep her "contemporary and mainstream style".

"It feels amazing because I've already taken that big leap into what I want to do in life – being an illustrator. It's good to see how close I am to being there already at such a young age," she says.

"I try to achieve a meaning and get some type of point across, but all the while making it appealing to the viewers."

After completing her studies she wants to make a name for herself on an international scale and explore different mediums. Still however far she diverges from home she will always know the significance of our stories.

"Hopefully I'll be doing more books and lots of illustrations, maybe even some album covers. I want to get my work out there and all over the world," she says.

"I think it's very important because passing down stories to different generations keeps our culture alive."

The scholarship program has been funded through private donations, and Magabala's Philanthropy Manager Sharon Griffiths said the grants provide crucial support to the development of both the creators and their future work.

"It is exciting that a small independent publisher like Magabala can initiate and garner the support of the wider community for a program of national significance and we are very proud of the outcome," says Sharon.

Sharon said a fundraising appeal was now underway to enable the scholarship program to continue next year and to continue to open windows of opportunity for more Indigenous artists.

Storytelling has always been an important part of Aboriginal culture, allowing knowledge to be passed down from generation to generation. **Tori-Jay Mordey is an illustrator who has just won a scholarship, which will allow her to continue to increase her skills .**

**READ *Vibe Wire – Creative Start* on page 13**

**ACTIVITY 1**  
**BUILDING READING SKILLS**



- skimming and scanning for information.
- reading headings, text boxes and pictures.
- reading for meaning.
- making connections between the text and your world.

**There are three levels of comprehension questions:**

- Literal**            The answer is located in one sentence in the text.
- Inferred**        You need to make links between sentences and graphics (such as illustrations, maps and tables) and what you already know.
- Applied**         The answer is in your background knowledge, what you already know or feel

**1 Identify the course that Tori-Jay is currently studying.**

(literal)




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**2 Identify the company that hosted the scholarship that Tori-Jay recently won.**

(inferred)

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**3 Identify one book that Tori-Jay has already illustrated.**

(literal)

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**4** Explain what Tori-Jay loves about telling stories.

(inferred)




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**5** Explain the relationship between the photos, the heading and the main text.

(inferred)

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## ACTIVITY 2

### LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – SPELLING

**1** The spelling mistakes in these sentences have been underlined. Write the correct spelling for each word in the box.



She recently receeved a scholarship.

She has already illustrated a book.

She can now afford the projecter that she wants.

**2** Each sentence has one word that is incorrect. Write the correct spelling of the word in the box.

She is originaly from Queensland.

It is an esthetically-engaging book.

She is studing at university.

# ACTIVITY 3

## GRAMMAR



**1** Change these sentences from **direct** to **indirect speech**.  
The first one has been completed for you.

### Direct speech

"I try to achieve a meaning and get some type of point across as well as making them appealing to readers," said Tori-Jay Mordey.

### Indirect speech

Tori-Jay Mordey said she tried to give her illustrations some meaning, while making them appealing to readers.

**"Passing down stories keeps our culture alive," said Tori-Jay.**

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**"I'm very proud of my illustrations," said Tori-Jay.**

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