

Steve goes to Carnival

By Joshua Button and Robyn Wells

Notes by Robyn Wells, March 2018

8. BEAUTIFUL DANCER

Manila folder containing 5 pieces of original artwork

The Beautiful Dancer is a character that is a little like Beauty in *Beauty and the Beast*; a young woman who is without judgement and who shows kindness to a stranger at a time when others may have well chosen not to. We did not name the dancer, she simply remained the 'Beautiful Dancer' which is the essence of her character.

We based the look of the Beautiful Dancer on the lovely Rachel bin Salleh, from Magabala Books. We took several photos of Rachel dancing around her office, and, later, looking at them more closely, Joshua remarked on her 'zig-zag' hair. We kept this phrase in the final text!

Rachel went to primary school with Joshua's mother, Dolores Button, and has known Joshua since he was born, so it was very lovely to have Rachel as the inspiration for these illustrations.

The body language for the illustration of the dancer sitting on the barstool in the Blue Jaguar Jazz Club was modelled by my daughter Eva Mitchell, who has grown up with Joshua. We wanted a particular feel for this piece, a self-composed woman sitting watching other people dancing. I stole the perfect red stool from our friends Anna McDonald and Ben Collins's bathroom, and took photos of Eva sitting on it as if she was in a jazz club!