

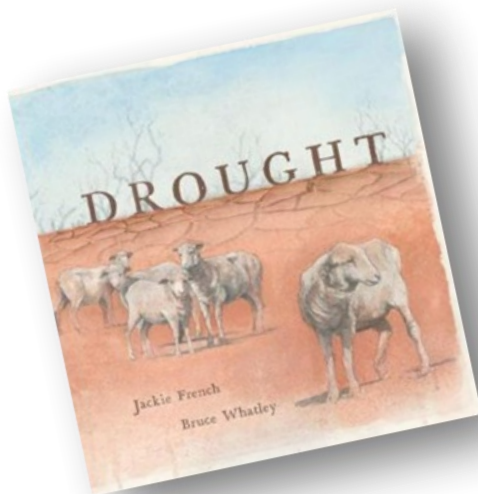
Drought

Author: Jackie French

Illustrator: Bruce Whatley

Published by Scholastic

ISBN: 9780734418302



Synopsis:

I remember when rain stopped, When day by day the water dropped, All across a sun-bleached land, Drought spread its withered, deadly hand. From the award-winning creators of Flood, Fire and Cyclone comes Drought a moving story about the devastating effects drought has on many Australians and their farms.

Author Bio

Jackie French AM is an award-winning writer, wombat negotiator and was the Australian Children's Laureate for 2014-2015 and the 2015 Senior Australian of the Year. In 2016 Jackie became a Member of the Order of Australia for her contribution to children's literature and her advocacy for youth literacy. She is regarded as one of Australia's most popular children's authors, and writes across all genres - from picture books, history, fantasy, ecology and sci-fi to her much loved historical fiction. 'Share a Story' was the primary philosophy behind Jackie's two-year term as Laureate.

<http://www.jackiefrench.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/authorjackiefrench>

Illustrator Bio

Bruce Whatley is one of Australia's most highly regarded and talented authors and illustrators for children, both here and internationally. Since 1992 Bruce has written and/or illustrated over 70 picture books. In 2002 he paired with author Jackie French and illustrated Diary of a Wombat, which was the start of an extraordinary creative collaboration.

www.brucewhatley.com



Year 6 Science

Earth and space sciences [ACSSU096](#)

- *Sudden geological changes and extreme weather events can affect Earth's surface (considering the effect of drought on living and non-living aspects of the environment)*

Year 7 Geography

Causes, impacts and responses to an atmospheric or hydrological hazard [ACHGK042](#) [ACHASSK187](#)

- *Explaining the physical causes and the temporal and spatial patterns of an atmospheric or hydrological hazard through a study of either droughts, storms, tropical cyclones or floods.*
- *Explaining the economic, environmental and social impacts of a selected atmospheric or hydrological hazard on people and places, and describing community responses to the hazard*

Pre Reading

Before reading the book, look at the end papers. What is the illustration on the end papers. (front only)

Have you ever seen the ground dry and cracked during a drought?

What other visible signs could we expect to see during a drought?

Read the book.

After reading the book, ask the questions:

What is a drought?

How are people's everyday lives affected by drought? (Read Jackie's note in the back of the book where she shares some of the comments she has heard from kids living through drought)

How might farming be affected by drought?

Watch the video on the link below to see how soil is effected by drought

<http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/29835/water-through-cracked-soil>

Video links for more information on droughts in Australia and overseas:

Droughts in Australia:

<http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/526215/mount-isa-faces-a-water-crisis>

<http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/524455/tassie-be-dammed-opening-the-meander-dam>

Kenya:

<http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/520935/water-shortages-in-nairobi-kenya-2000>

<http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/1225120/maasai-fighting-drought>

East Timor:

<http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/1225142/east-timor-in-the-grip-of-drought>

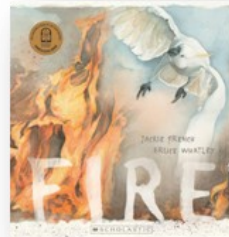
Year 6 English:

[ACELT1616](#)

[ACELT1614](#)

Look at the three other books that Jackie French and Bruce Whatley have written exploring other extreme weather events: Flood, Fire and Cyclone.

Obviously the weather events are different, but after sharing the books ask whether they can see similarities between the titles.



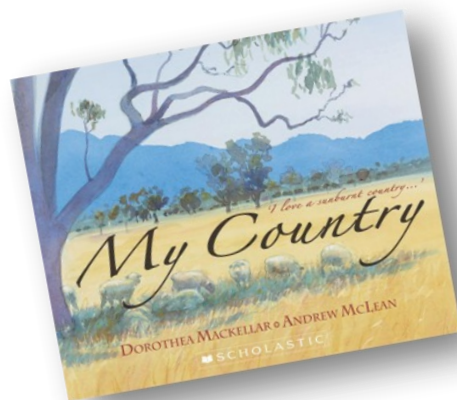
Another text to use as a comparison is **MY COUNTRY** by Dorothy McKellar.

Read this iconic poem aloud to the class and ask them to think about the 'Australia' that the language in the poem portrays.

How does it compare to the landscape portrayed in DROUGHT

<https://>

[www.dorotheamackellar.com.au/
archive/mycountry.htm](http://www.dorotheamackellar.com.au/archive/mycountry.htm)



Andrew McLean has illustrated the poem in the form of a picture book.

Look at the illustrations in this book and compare them to how Bruce Whatley's illustration style.

ISBN: 9781742990385