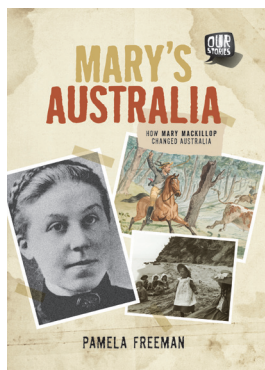


# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Our Stories: Mary's Australia

Author: Pamela Freeman  
ISBN: 9781922077905  
ARRP: \$17.95  
NZRRP: \$19.99  
June 2014

\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

Walker Books Australia  
Locked Bag 22  
Newtown, N.S.W., 2042

Ph +61 2 9517 9577  
Fax +61 2 9517 9997

These notes were created by Steve Spargo.  
For enquiries please contact:  
educationwba@walkerbooks.com.au

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## Outline:

Mary MacKillop watched Australia grow from a collection of small colonies into a nation – and she was proud of the country she had a part in creating. How did Australia change in her lifetime? And how much influence did Mary MacKillop have in shaping Australia?

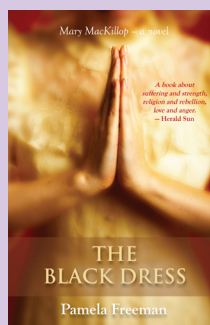
## Author/Illustrator Information:

Pamela Freeman is an award-winning children's author who has also worked as a freelance business and technical writer. Pamela's work ranges from picture books to young adult novels and she is best known for her Floramonde series of fantasy novels which include *The Willow Tree's Daughter*, *Windrider* and *The Centre of Magic*. The Castings Trilogy is Pamela's highly successful fantasy series for adults published by Hachette Australia. In addition to this, she teaches creative writing to adults at the Sydney Writers' Centre. *Victor's Challenge* won the 2009 Aurealis Award for Best Children's Short Fiction/Illustrated Work/Picture Book and was a Notable Book in the Younger Readers Category, Children's Book Council of Australia Awards, 2010. For more information about Pamela and her books, please visit her website: [www.pamelafreemanbooks.com](http://www.pamelafreemanbooks.com)

## How to use these notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

### For more information on Mary MacKillop



**The Black Dress**  
Pamela Freeman  
9781742031637  
AU\$19.99/NZ\$21.99

Classroom ideas available

### These notes are for:

- Primary year 5
- Ages 8+

### Key Learning Areas:

- English
- History

### Example of:

- Non-fiction
- Picture book

### Themes/Ideas:

- Australian history
- Catholicism
- Activism
- Feminism

### National Curriculum Focus:\*

English content descriptions:

English  
Year 5  
ACELA1504  
ACELY1699  
ACELY1796  
ACELY1701  
ACELY1702  
ACELY1704

History  
Year 5  
ACHHK094  
ACHHK095  
ACHHK096  
ACHHK097  
ACHHS098

\*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

## Discussion Questions and Activities

### English

View the cover and title. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author
- The publisher

Discuss the following: What is the role of the author?  
What is the role of the publisher?

From the front and back cover what information can you learn about the book? What do you think this book is about? What information do you think will be covered in this book? What type of book is this and where would you expect to find it in your library?

How does the layout of this book affect the readability of the text? Consider the large illustrations and photos, small blocks of text, and bold and coloured sections of text.

Find the following sections in *Mary's Australia* and explain their purpose. In what kind of books might you find these sections?

- Contents
- Glossary
- Index

In what order is a glossary set out? How does this help when using it?

What is the purpose of an index? In what sort of books would you find one?

Who is the audience for this book? What makes you think that? Who do you think might enjoy this book other than the intended audience?

What is your favourite photograph or drawing in this book? Why did you pick this picture? What did you learn from it?

Several pages throughout the book have information on Mary and what life was like in a particular year. Why do you think the author has chosen to present information this way? How would the reader interpret the information differently if the "Life in ..." section wasn't included?

### History

Have a class discussion on how you would go about seeking further information on Australian federation. Discuss the places information can be found and the reliability of the information based on the author. Also discuss the difference between primary and secondary sources.

Draw a timeline of Mary's life from information in this book and other resources in your library or online. Use an online interactive timeline creator such as Time Toast ([www.timetoast.com](http://www.timetoast.com)) or Tiki-Toki ([www.tiki-toki.com](http://www.tiki-toki.com)).

"Mateship was very important, especially in the bush." Page 11. What is mateship? Write a paragraph about why you think it was important at this time and a paragraph on if you think it is still as important today as it was in the mid-1800s.

Mary had a clear vision of what she wanted to do with her life and strove to make it a reality. Ask your parents, grandparents or anyone older than you who is working if they knew what they wanted to do with their lives when they were younger. How did they go about achieving that goal? What do you want to do when you are older? Come up with a plan of how you can achieve your goal.

Research the Sisters of St Joseph and write a few paragraphs about what do they do today and how Mary MacKillop laid the foundations for the organisation over a hundred years ago.

What is the significance of Mary travelling to Rome to ask for the Pope's decision on whether she should retain control of the organisation she set up?

What aspects of modern day Australia did Mary MacKillop influence? How did Mary's influence affect these aspects? Create a mind map with the title "How Mary MacKillop helped shape Australia".

## Other great titles in the Our Stories series



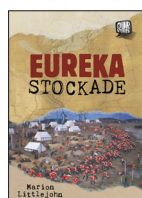
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Net Brennan  
9781742032238  
AU\$17.95/NZ\$19.99

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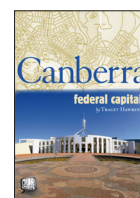
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