Our Stories: Protest in Australia
by Sue Lawson
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Outline:
Through protest, Australians have united to fight for change and have influenced the outcome of many causes. From human rights to the environment, this book traces Australia’s proud history of protest.

Author/Illustrator Information:
Sue Lawson writes books for children and young adults. Her love for books began when she was a child on a farm in country Victoria where she spent her time reading, writing, listening to her father and grandfather’s stories and avoiding working with the cattle. In 2012, Pan’s Whisper was short-listed for the Prime Minister’s Literary Awards, was a Notable Book at the Children’s Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards and won the Australian Family Therapists’ Award for Children’s Literature. You Don’t Even Know was short-listed for the Western Australian Premier’s Book Awards in 2014. Sue’s latest novel for young adults is Freedom Ride. www.suelawson.com.au

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.

These notes are for:
• Primary years 5-6
• Ages 10+

Key Learning Areas:
• English
• History

Example of:
• Non-fiction

Themes/Ideas:
• Australian History
• Civil Rights
• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Rights
• Sustainability

National Curriculum Focus:* 

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*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.
**Discussion Questions And Activities:**

**English**

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, text layout and bold and coloured sections of text.

Find the following sections in *Protest in Australia* and explain their purpose: contents; glossary and index. In what kind of books might you find these sections? What is the purpose of each? How could you identify these sections in other books? Find several other books that include these sections and discuss what they have in common.

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 choose this picture? What did you learn from it? How could you find out more information about what is depicted in your chosen image?

The aim of a protest is to raise awareness of an issue and persuade people into a certain viewpoint. Find examples in the book of persuasive language or techniques used by protesters. Comment on whether you believe the persuasive technique is effective. Choose one of the protests mentioned in the book and create a placard or poster to support the issue using a variety of persuasive techniques.

Imagine you were present at one of the protests mentioned in the book. Write a diary entry sharing your thoughts about the protest. It could be from the point of view of a protester or a member of the public who witnessed the protest.

Write a newspaper report on one of the key events discussed in the book. Use informative, unbiased language in your report.

**History**

Create a timeline of key protests in Australia based on information in the book and further research. Use an online interactive timeline creator such as Time Toast (www.timetoast.com) or Tiki-Toki (www.tiki-toki.com).

As a class, have a discussion on the reliability of information found online. Are all websites reliable? Discuss how addresses ending in .gov or .edu are generally reliable, but other addresses ending in .com need to be used with caution. Why can some websites feature unreliable information?

Have a class discussion on how you would go about seeking further information on key historical protests. 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.

Choose one of the protests featured in the book. Using the information in the book and further research in your school library or online, answer the following questions:

- Who were the protesters?
- What issue were they protesting?
- What did they want to change?
- Were they successful? How? Was it an immediate success?
- How might things be different today if these protesters hadn’t spoken up about this issue?

Think of a real issue that affects your community or school, or create a fictional issue (e.g. the government wants to close your school to build a road or school hours are being extended). Have a class discussion using the following points as a guide:

- What are the positives and negatives about this issue?
- Is a protest the right method to use to fix this issue?
- What do you hope to achieve with a protest?
- At whom is the protest directed?
- How will the protest achieve its purpose?

**Other Great Titles From Black Dog Books:**

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- **Our Stories:** *Australian Federation* by Janette Brennan 9781922179944 PB Classroom ideas available
- **Our Stories:** *Life On The Goldfields* by Doug Bradby 9781742032139 PB Classroom ideas available
- **Our Stories:** *Australian Flags And Emblems* by Karen Tayleur 9781742031095 PB Classroom ideas available