



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## A is for Australia

Frané Lessac  
ISBN: 9781922179760  
ARRP: \$24.95  
NZRRP: \$27.99  
January 2015

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

Walker Books Australia Ph +61 2 9517 9577  
Locked Bag 22 Fax +61 2 9517 9997  
Newtown, N.S.W., 2042

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

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## Outline:

What is the Fremantle Doctor? Where is Qui Qui? And why are some islands named after days of the week? You'll uncover these exciting facts when you explore the A to Z of Australia – from Bondi to Kakadu and all the way to Taronga Zoo. Discover why Australia is one of the most amazing countries in the world!

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Frané Lessac is an author and illustrator of international renown, having over forty children's books published throughout the world. She was born in the USA and lived on the Caribbean island of Montserrat and London before moving to Australia. Frané has contributed her distinctive paintings to many critically acclaimed children's picture books, including *My Little Island*, a Reading Rainbow feature book. Also, *On the Same Day in March* was named a Top Ten Science Books by ALA Booklist. Frané's contribution to Amnesty International's *We Are All Born Free*, celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, has been translated into more than 30 languages and was a USBBY Outstanding International Book. Her latest books include *The Mayflower*, written by Mark Greenwood and published by Holiday House, *Midnight*, published by Walker Books Australia in 2014 and *A is for Australia*, published by Walker Books Australia in early 2015.

## 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 F-2  
• Ages 5+

**Key Learning Areas:**  
• English  
• Art  
• Geography  
• Science

**Example of:**  
• Non-fiction  
• Picture Book

**Themes/ Ideas:**  
• Australia  
• Travel

### National Curriculum Focus:\*

#### English

Foundation	Year 1	Year 2
ACELA1430	ACELA1447	ACELA1462
ACELA1786	ACELT1581	ACELA1463
ACELA1440	ACELT1582	ACELT1587
ACELT1575	ACELT1583	ACELT1589
ACELT1577	ACELT1586	ACELT1590
ACELT1578	ACELY1655	ACELT1591
ACELY1645	ACELY1657	ACELY1665
ACELY1646	ACELY1658	ACELY1667
ACELY1647	ACELY1661	ACELY1668
ACELY1648		ACELY1671
ACELY1651		

#### Geography

Foundation	Year 2
ACHGK001	ACHGK010
ACHGK002	ACHGK011
ACHGK003	ACHGK013
ACHGK004	ACHGS013
ACHGS001	ACHGS014
ACHGS003	ACHGS017
Year 1	
ACHGK005	
ACHGK007	
ACHGS007	
ACHGS008	
ACHGS009	
ACHGS011	

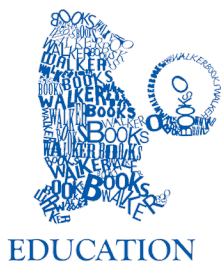
#### Science

Foundation	Year 2
ACSSU004	ACSSU030
ACSSIS233	ACSSU032
	ACSHE034
Year 1	ACSHE035
ACSSU017	ACSSU037
ACSSU211	ACSIS041
ACSSU019	
ACSHE021	
ACSHE022	
ACSIS024	

#### Visual Arts

F-2
ACAVAM106
ACAVAM107
ACAVAM108
ACAVAR109

\*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

#### Preliminary Questions

- Before reading *A is for Australia*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
  - » Title
  - » Author/illustrator
  - » Publisher
  - » Blurb
- Based on the cover, what do you think this book is about? Do you think it is fiction (imaginative) or non-fiction (informative)? What clues are there to support what you think?

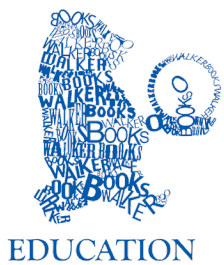
#### Discussion Questions

- Is *A is for Australia* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? Is it a combination of more than one of these types of texts? How can you tell? Who do you think the book was created for?
- Imagine you went on a holiday to one of the locations in the book. Write a journal about the time you spent there. Design and write a postcard to a classmate about your time in that location.
- Ask students who have visited any of the locations mentioned in the book to stand up and share their impressions with the class. What other facts or landmarks might they have included on the page based on their experience?
- Write a poem about any of the locations mentioned in the book. You could write a haiku, acrostic or free verse poem using the words and illustrations in the book for inspiration. Illustrate your poems and bind them together to create a unique book of Australian poetry.
- *A is for Australia* is a non-fiction picture book. Write an imaginative fiction story about yourself or a character who visits or lives in one of the locations featured in the book. Use the interesting facts about that location as a story starter.
- Write a letter to Frané Lessac giving your thoughts on the book. What did you like about it? What did it teach you? Edit your letter then send it to Walker Books Australia (Locked Bag 22, Newtown NSW 2042) to pass on to Frané!
- Research the author/illustrator. What other books has she written/illustrated? Which of these books can you find in your school library? Choose your favourite and present it to the class using persuasive language to encourage others to read it. Read more about Frané Lessac at [www.franelessac.com](http://www.franelessac.com).

- Discuss the layout and design of the book. Why are some locations on a single page while others are on a double-page spread?
- What colours are particularly emphasised on each page? Why do you think Frané Lessac chose to make that colour prominent?
- Design a tourism poster or flyer that uses persuasive techniques to encourage people from overseas to visit Australia. Use facts and locations from the book to help you come up with some persuasive elements to include in your poster or flyer.
- In small groups, find other books about Australia in your school library. Compare these books with *A is for Australia* and discuss what is similar and what is different about the books. Give a short presentation to the class on how the authors/illustrators deal with the subject of Australia differently.
- Write a book review on *A is for Australia*. Write what you liked about the book and if you think the author/illustrator did a good job of conveying information in an interesting way. Mention any books that are similar to *A is for Australia* and make a recommendation as to who you think will like this book.
- There are several spreads featuring people swimming at the beach. Have a class discussion about the rules for keeping safe when at the beach, including:
  - » Sun safety
  - » Where to swim when in the water
  - » Wildlife to look out for

### Geography

- The Great Barrier Reef faces a number of environmental and man-made threats to its ongoing existence. Why do you think the Great Barrier Reef is important to Australians? Why is it important to preserve the reef? What are some steps you could take to help look after the reef?
- Each of the locations featured in this book have distinctive features and possible activities/events that make them a unique and special part of Australia. Choose three of the locations and make a list of their distinctive features.



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

- Choose a location mentioned in the book and compile a list of questions that you could ask to find out more about that location. Where do you think you could find this information? Use this list of questions to research the location and present your findings in a PowerPoint presentation or a poster. Show where you can find this location on a map of Australia and include images and text that give the reader more information than they can find in the book.
- What do you think someone who has never visited Australia would think it looks like? Interview any students, staff members or family member who were not born in Australia. What do you think they would find surprising in this book? Why?
- Create a spread in similar style to the book about your school or an Australian location of your choice. Illustrate the page to show the most interesting features of the location. Include lots of interesting facts about your location around the spread. Display it in your classroom.
- Several spreads mention the traditional owners of the land. Research the other locations to find their traditional owners. Who are the traditional owners of the area your school is in?

## Science

- Make a list of animals featured in the book. Make a note of their location and if they can be found in other locations in Australia and the rest of the world.
- Choose several of the animals in the book and discuss why you think they live in that location. How does that location provide food and shelter for that animal? Could they survive in a different location? For example, would the Lake Eyre Dragon survive in Fremantle?
- Choose two locations from the book and compare their landscapes. How are they similar and how are they different? Why do you think they are different?

## The Arts

- Many of the locations in the book have similar features such as water, though Frané Lessac has used different colours to represent water in many of the illustrations. Why do you think that is? Also take note of the colours she has used in the sky. Keep a journal for a week where you take note of the colours you can see in the sky several times a day. Do your findings surprise you? Why?
- The artist's images are created in gouache. Discuss the artist's choice of mediums with students and encourage them to create a picture in the same style and an illustration using a different medium.

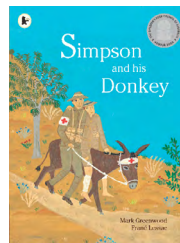
## Other books by Frané Lessac



### Midnight

Author: Mark Greenwood  
Illustrator: Frané Lessac  
HB 9781921977718  
AU\$27.95/NZ\$29.99

Classroom ideas available

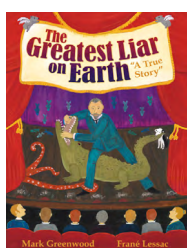


### Simpson and His Donkey

Author: Mark Greenwood  
Illustrator: Frané Lessac  
HB 9781921150180  
AU\$29.95/NZ\$31.99

PB 9781921529542  
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99

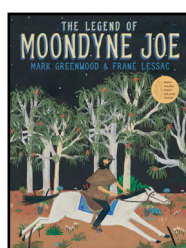
Classroom ideas available



### The Greatest Liar on Earth

Author: Mark Greenwood  
Illustrator: Frané Lessac  
HB 9781921529856  
AU\$29.95/NZ\$32.99

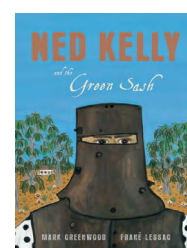
Classroom ideas available



### The Legend of Moondyne Joe

Author: Mark Greenwood  
Illustrator: Frané Lessac  
PB 9781921720123  
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99

Classroom ideas available



### Ned Kelly and the Green Sash

Author: Mark Greenwood  
Illustrator: Frané Lessac  
HB 9781921150876  
AU\$29.95/NZ\$31.99

PB 9781922244598  
AU\$16.95/NZ\$18.99

Classroom ideas available