



Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Amazing Australians in Their Flying Machines

By Prue and Kerry Mason
Illustrated by Tom Jellett
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*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:

Imagine what it was like to travel to far-off places before there were aeroplanes. For early 20th-century Australians, it could take days, weeks, or months just to get where they were going. *Amazing Australians in Their Flying Machines* tells the stories of ten brave Australians, including the youngest licensed woman pilot Nancy Bird, who took to the skies and changed the face of aviation forever.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Prue Mason grew up on a farm in South Australia. She is a licensed pilot and has travelled the world working in various jobs, including teaching English as a foreign language and working for a children's magazine in Dubai. Besides writing, Prue does workshops and gives presentations at schools and writing festivals. In 2005, her first book *Camel Rider* won the Queensland Premier's Literary Award and was a Notable Book at the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards. Prue has received several grants towards research for her books, including a May Gibbs fellowship for *Amazing Australians in Their Flying Machines*.

Tom Jellett has illustrated numerous books for children. He's also been an editorial illustrator for various newspapers throughout Australia. He lives in Sydney.

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.

<p>These notes are for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 9+ • Primary years 3-6 	<p>Key Learning Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • History 	<p>Example of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-fiction • Picture Book 	<p>Themes/Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration • Australian History • Aviation • Inventions • Transportation
<p>National Curriculum Focus:*</p>			
<p>ENGLISH</p> <p>Year 3</p> <p>ACELA1478 ACELA1466 ACELA1483 ACELT1594 ACELT1596 ACELY1678</p> <p>Year 4</p> <p>ACELA1489 ACELA1490 ACELA1496 ACELT1602 ACELT1604 ACELT1605 ACELY1690</p>	<p>Year 5</p> <p>ACELA1504 ACELA1797 ACELT1608 ACELT1795 ACELY1698 ACELY1699</p> <p>Year 6</p> <p>ACELA1518 ACELA1524 ACELT1613 ACELT1615 ACELY1708 ACELY1709</p>	<p>HASS</p> <p>Year 3</p> <p>ACHASSI052 ACHASSI053 ACHASSI054 ACHASSI055 ACHASSI056 ACHASSI059 ACHASSK063</p> <p>Year 4</p> <p>ACHASSI073 ACHASSI074 ACHASSI076 ACHASSI077 ACHASSI080</p>	<p>Year 5</p> <p>ACHASSI094 ACHASSI095 ACHASSI097 ACHASSK108 ACHASSK110</p> <p>Year 6</p> <p>ACHASSI122 ACHASSI123 ACHASSI125 ACHASSI126 ACHASSK137</p>
<p>*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.</p>			



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Discussion Questions and Activities:

English

What information can you learn about the book from the front and back cover? 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? Could it be found in more than one place?

There are two dates under the name/heading for each amazing Australian. There is also a date above the name/heading in a circle. What do these dates signify? Why are they included in the book?

Find the following sections in *Amazing Australians in Their Flying Machines* and explain their purpose: contents; authors' note; bibliography 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?

Each section features a passage written in the first person from the perspective of the amazing Australian. This is called narrative non-fiction, written by the authors of the book. Why do you think the authors included these sections?

Certain words in the narrative non-fiction sections are in bold. How does this affect the reader?

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 dates in Australian aviation based on information from this book and further research in your school library or online. Use an online interactive timeline creator such as Time Toast (www.timetoast.com) or Tiki-Toki (www.tiki-toki.com).

The contents page of *Amazing Australians in Their Flying Machines* also acts as a timeline. What does a timeline traditionally look like? What are some other interesting and innovative ways of displaying information on a timeline?

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 Australian aviation. 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 amazing Australians featured in the book. Using the information in the book and further research in your school library or online, answer the following questions:

- How did this person contribute to Australian aviation?
- What motivated them?
- Were they successful? How? Was it an immediate success?
- How might things be different today if they hadn't achieved what they did?
- Are there any landmarks, streets, public buildings, etc. named in honour of this amazing Australian?

Exploring the Text

How does the design of this book affect your reading experience? Consider the large illustrations and photos, text layout and bold and coloured sections of text.

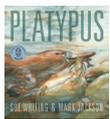
Each spread contains a "3 Amazing Facts" section. Write 3 amazing facts about yourself, design them as a poster and display them around the classroom.

Some of the amazing Australians failed at some or all of their attempts at flight. Can a failure also be a success? Have a class discussion on the meaning of progress and the variety of ways progress can be made.

Nancy Bird gave up flying at 23 as she "believed there was no future for women in aviation in Australia at that time." Why was that the case? How is it different now? Do you think a person should not be allowed to do a particular job or activity based on their gender? Why?

What is your favourite photograph or illustration 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?

More great non-fiction from Walker Books:



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Sue Whiting
Mark Jackson
PB 9781925381139

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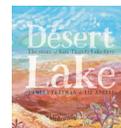


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