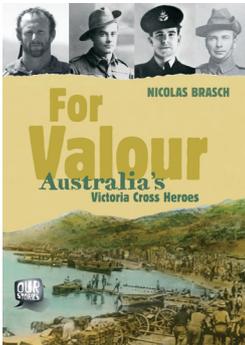


Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Our Stories: For Valour: Australia's Victoria Cross Heroes

Nicolas Brasch
ISBN: 9781742032313
ARRP: \$17.95
NZRRP: \$19.99
April 2013

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

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Outline:

Extraordinary courage and unbelievable nerve – that's what it takes to be awarded a Victoria Cross. Acts such as jumping into enemy trenches with just a bayonet for defence or catching enemy bombs midair and throwing them back. More than one and a half million Australians have fought in a war, yet only ninety-nine have been awarded the Victoria Cross, the Commonwealth's highest military honour for bravery. *For Valour: Australia's Victoria Cross Heroes* tells some of their remarkable stories.

Author Information:

Nicolas Brasch is the author of more than 350 books for children and young adults. His books have been sold in every major English-speaking market including Australia, USA, UK, Canada, South Africa, Zimbabwe and New Zealand, as well as several non-English speaking markets including South Korea, Germany and Turkey.

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 3-6
- Ages 8+

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- History

Example of:

- Non-fiction

Themes/ Ideas:

- War
- Heroism/bravery
- Australia

National Curriculum Focus:*

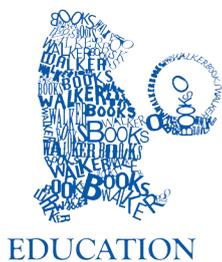
English content descriptions include:

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
ACELA1478	ACELA1489	ACELA1504	ACELA1517
ACELA1479	ACELA1490	ACELA1797	ACELT1613
ACELA1483	ACELA1492	ACELT1608	ACELT1614
ACELT1596	ACELA1494	ACELY1699	ACELY1708
ACELY1676	ACELA1496	ACELY1700	ACELY1709
ACELY1792	ACELA1498	ACELY1702	ACELY1710
ACELY1677	ACELY1686	ACELY1703	ACELY1711
ACELY1678	ACELY1689	ACELY1704	ACELY1712
ACELY1682	ACELY1690	ACELY1705	ACELY1713
ACELY1683	ACELY1694	ACELY1707	ACELY1801
ACELY1685	ACELY1695		ACELY1714
	ACELY1697		ACELY1715
			ACELY1717

History content descriptions include:

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
ACHHK063	ACHHS081	ACHHS098	ACHHS117
ACHHS065	ACHHS082	ACHHS099	ACHHS118
ACHHS066	ACHHS083	ACHHS100	ACHHS119
ACHHS067	ACHHS216	ACHHS101	ACHHS120
ACHHS069	ACHHS084	ACHHS102	ACHHS121
ACHHS070	ACHHS086	ACHHS103	ACHHS122
ACHHS071	ACHHS087	ACHHS105	ACHHS124
			ACHHS125

*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.



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Discussion Questions and Activities

English

What type of text is this book (i.e. informative/persuasive)? How can you tell? What type of text is the advertisement on page 10? What techniques do these text types use to fulfil their purpose?

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.

A glossary is a collection of words from the book that lists their definitions. Turn to page 32 to view the glossary for *For Valour*. Are there any extra words in the book that aren't in the glossary that you don't know the meaning of? List these words then research their meaning or ask the class if anyone knows.

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?

Bravery can come in many forms. Have you ever had a moment of bravery or witnessed someone performing a particularly brave act? Describe the event and compare it to the stories of the Victoria Cross recipients' bravery as described in the book.

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?

Choose one of the wars/campaigns mentioned in this book and plan, draft and publish a report focusing on the cause of the war, Australia's involvement and the Victoria Cross recipients from that period. Incorporate words you have learned from this text into your work (use the glossary to help). Make sure to re-read and edit your work for meaning, structure, grammar and punctuation. Publish your final work with a word processor complete with appropriate visuals. Present your findings to the class.

How do you think this book would be different if the intended audience were:

- Adults with some knowledge of the wars mentioned
- Anti-war campaigners
- Potential defence force recruits

Look at the quoted text on pages 13 and 30. Why is this text in quotation marks?

Compare the advertisement on page 10 to a contemporary defence force advertisement (visit www.defencejobs.gov.au). How have these ads changed over time? Which ads are more persuasive to young people today?

Is the majority of text in this book objective (unbiased) or subjective (biased)? When is it appropriate to use objective or subjective language?

What does bravery mean to you? Can bravery only be shown during war time?

Why was Reginald Inwood unhappy that the townspeople of Broken Hill were opposed to his involvement in the war but then celebrated him upon his return? (page 18)

History

Research the Victoria Cross using this book and other sources. A good place to start is the Australian War Memorial website (www.awm.gov.au). Write a report on what the Victoria Cross represents and why it is awarded.

Identify other sources of information about Australia's involvement in wars and Australia's Victoria Cross recipients. How can you tell if a source is trustworthy? Make sure to reference any sources used in research by using a bibliography or another appropriate method.

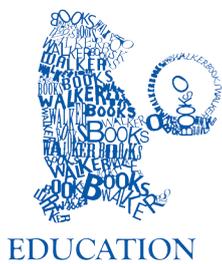
Draw a timeline of the Victoria Cross recipients who are featured in this book. Make a note of the year they received their award and the location of the act of bravery.

Choose one of the Victoria Cross recipients mentioned in this book and research them further. Write a one-page report on that person's life and in your own words explain why they were awarded a Victoria Cross. Also explain why you chose that person to write a report on.

What is the significance of ANZAC Day being observed on 25 April? Why is ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day observed each year? Investigate activities that take place on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day in your local area.

How would the meaning of ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day change for someone who doesn't directly know any one who has gone to war, as opposed to someone who has lost a loved one to war?

Write a newspaper report about one of the heroes from the book performing the act of bravery that led them to receive a Victoria Cross. Design the report to look like a newspaper from the time the story would have been written.



Walker Books Classroom Ideas

Maurice Buckley (page 17) was discharged from the army for deserting. What does deserting mean? Why would this lead to being discharged from the army?

"The Australian officials only gave permission for unmarried men to take part [in the North Russia campaign]." (page 20)
Why would the Australian officials make this rule?

"I wanted to bring Billy back because he was my cobber." (page 27)

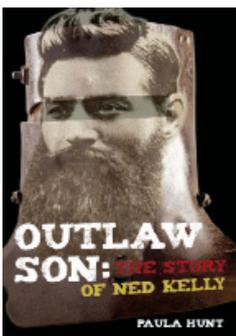
Investigate what the slang word "cobber" would have meant in the 1940s. List other slang words you can find from that era. Also list some slang words used today that wouldn't have been used back then.

What is conscription? Why did Australia introduce conscription during WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War?

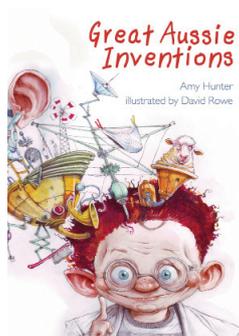
What is communism? Why did the threat of communism in Russia and Vietnam cause other countries concern?

Why do you think countries have agreements with other countries about supporting each other if under attack?

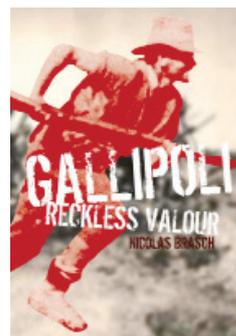
Other titles in the Our Stories series



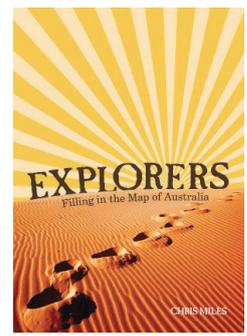
Outlaw Son: The Story of Ned Kelly
Author: Paula Hunt
ISBN: 9781742030784
ARRP: \$17.95
NZRRP: \$19.99



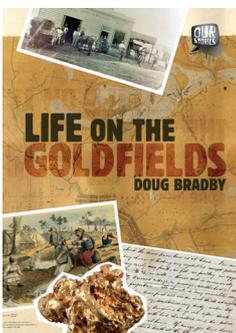
Great Aussie Inventions
Author: Amy Hunter
Illustrator: David Rowe
ISBN: 9781742030760
ARRP: \$17.95
NZRRP: \$19.99



Gallipoli: Reckless Valour
Author: Nicholas Brasch
ISBN: 9781742030258
ARRP: \$17.95
NZRRP: \$19.99



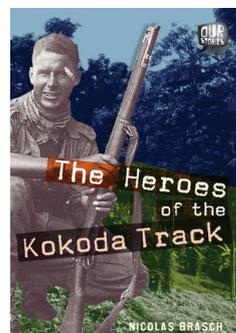
Explorers: Filling in the Map of Australia
Author: Chris Miles
ISBN: 9781742030920
ARRP: \$17.95
NZRRP: \$19.99



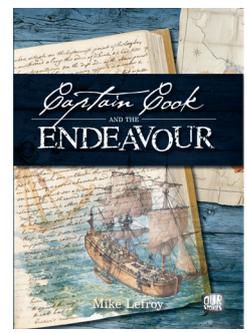
Life on the Goldfields
Author: Doug Bradby
ISBN: 9781742032139
ARRP: \$17.95
NZRRP: \$19.99



Australian Flags and Emblems
Author: Karen Tayleur
ISBN: 9781742031095
ARRP: \$17.95
NZRRP: \$19.99



Heroes of the Kokoda Track
Author: Nicholas Brasch
ISBN: 9781742031347
ARRP: \$17.95
NZRRP: \$19.99



Captain Cook and the Endeavour
Author: Mike Lefroy
ISBN: 9781742031286
ARRP: \$17.95
NZRRP: \$19.99