

Never Forget

Author:
Clare Hallifax

Illustrator:
Simon O'Carrigan

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Synopsis

Inspired by the extraordinary works of Australian artists painting the First World War as it happened around them, this evocative book commemorates and explores the sacrifice of the soldiers, nurses who served and the families at home waiting for their return. Illustrator Simon O'Carrigan has worked with war museum collections to curate, collate and recreate the original art to produce heartbreaking illustrations in this one-of-a-kind Anzac book.

Author Bio

Clare Hallifax is the publisher of Omnibus Books, an imprint of Scholastic Australia, and has been working as an editor and publisher for almost 30 years. Her career has spanned both children's and adult publishing and all genres, literary and mass market. She publishes historical fiction (including various series such as the My Australian Story series) and stand-alone historical novels for middle-grade and YA readers. She has worked with some of the esteemed names of Australian children's publishing including Mem Fox, Libby Gleeson, Sophie Masson, Emily Rodda, Kelly Gardiner and Richard Yaxley.



Illustrator Bio

Trained at the Victorian College of the Arts and Monash University School of Art, Simon's personal work has been exhibited widely and regularly since 2006, including oil and watercolour painting, hand-drawn animation, and more experimental exhibitions (such as building crystal set radios from junk; or making paintings based on magnified details of dollar-bin LPs). His personal work has won him grants from The City of Melbourne, City of Yarra, NAVA (National Association for the Visual Arts).

Since 2006, he has staged over thirty solo exhibitions, screened animated films in a number of festivals, and been invited on to the judging panel for the Melbourne International Animation Festival. His exhibitions, for many years, explored the ways we communicate (or fail to), but now that visual communication is his day job, his personal work proceeds to become more experimental to test new ways of working.

<https://www.simonocarrigan.com.au/work/never-forget>

Curriculum Links

Year 3 English:

ACELT1596 Draw connections between personal experiences and the worlds of texts, and share responses with others.

ACELT1598 Develop criteria for establishing personal preferences for literature.

ACELT1599 Discuss how language is used to describe the settings in texts, and explore how the settings shape the events and influence the mood of the narrative.

ACELT1600 Discuss the nature and effects of some language devices used to enhance meaning and shape the reader's reaction, including rhythm and onomatopoeia in poetry and prose.

Year 3 HASS:

ACHASSK064 Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, Anzac Day, and National Sorry Day) and the importance of symbols and emblems.

Year 3-4 Visual Arts

ACAVAM110 Explore ideas and artworks from different cultures and times, including artwork by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, to use as inspiration for their own representations.

ACAVAM111 Use materials, techniques and processes to explore visual conventions when making artworks.

ACAVAM112 Present artworks and describe how they have used visual conventions to represent their ideas.

Themes

Anzac Day-Australian
History-War-Art-Artists-Remembrance

Pre Reading

Look at the cover and the colours used.

Look at the spine of the book. What colour is it?

After reading the book talk about the colours used. Why would the illustrator use these colours?

Where else does the illustrator use blue in the book? Why do you think this colour is important?

After Reading

After reading the book, talk about how it was created, a fictional story told by curating and transcribing real art works made by Australian artists at the frontline of World War 1.

Have a selection of other books on War, or remembrance. What similarities are there between them?

What are the differences?

Which ones do you prefer and why?

Talk about the ways the community commemorate or celebrate special days.

Are there special symbols we use to show that we remember what, and who have come before us.

Visit the page on Simon's (the illustrator) website where he talks about the process he went through to create this book.

<https://www.simonocarrigan.com.au/work/never-forget>

After you have visited Simon's website, and learnt how he went about creating this book, discuss the concept of a war artist.

There are still war artists today. The Australian War Memorial operates the Official War Art Scheme, one of the longest running and largest commissioning programs in Australia.

https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/war_artists/artists

Discuss why we would still want artists (painters) to record the events of war, when we have photographers (also artists) that could capture war in photographs?

Visit the website for the Australian War Memorial for more resources:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/>

Project

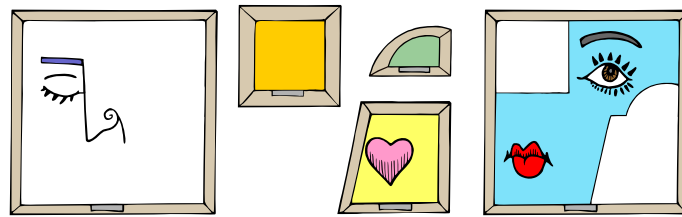
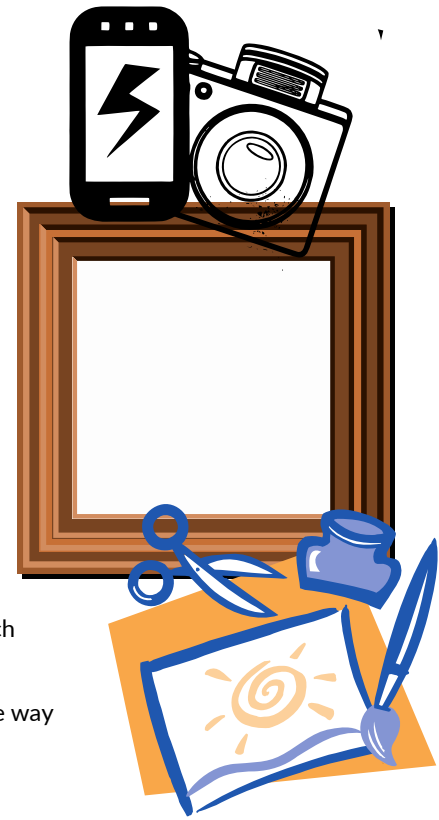
Ask students to create art works that capture their daily life.

Over the course of a week (or weeks) record significant parts of their daily lives. Any media can be used, drawing/painting/photography... and it could result in a series of artworks, or it could be one piece, such as a collage or diorama. It could be abstract or true to life. It just has to represent the daily life of the child.

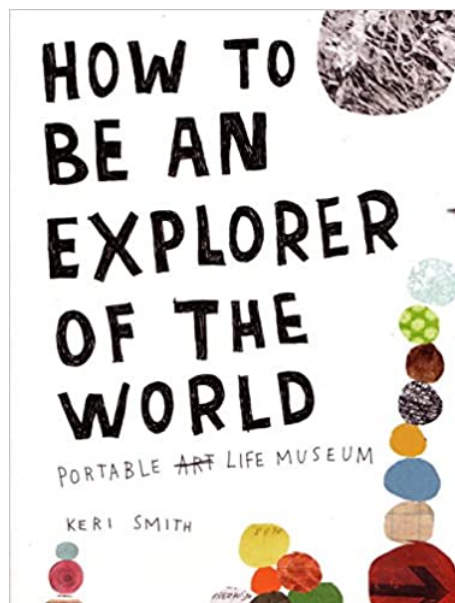
Once complete, the artworks will be displayed in the classroom, to give students time to look at appreciate each other's work.

After the art works have been on display for a length of time each student will present their finished piece/s to the class.

Explain what they have done, why they chose to present it in the way they did, and take questions from the class.



Use the book, **How to Be An Explorer of the World**, to see how this could be done, and the kind of things they might include.



Artists and scientists analyze the world around them in surprisingly similar ways, by observing, collecting, documenting, analyzing, and comparing. In this captivating guided journal, readers are encouraged to explore their world as both artists and scientists.

The mission Smith proposes? To document and observe the world around you as if you've never seen it before. Take notes. Collect things you find on your travels. Document findings. Notice patterns. Copy. Trace. Focus on one thing at a time. Record what you are drawn to.

Through this series of beautifully hand-illustrated interactive prompts, readers will enjoy exploring and discovering the world in ways they never even imagined.