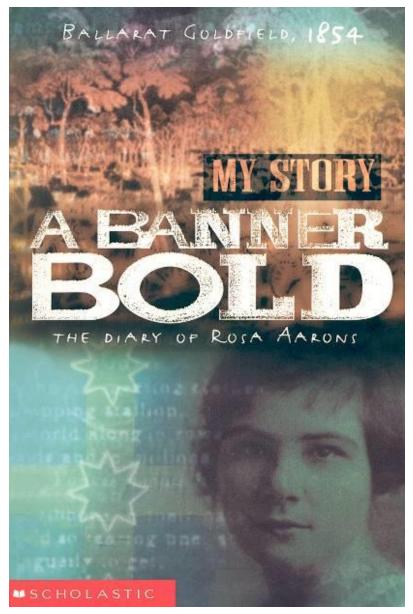


# The Diary of Rosa Aarons'



## A Blooms Taxonomy Literature Unit By T. Shaw

## About the story

Rosa Aarons and her family flee the turmoil of Europe in the year of revolution in 1848. Like so many other refugees, such as Karl Marx they fled to England where they made friends who were Chartists. Seeking a new life free from political and religious persecution the Aaron's family immigrate to the Victorian goldfields. The Californian gold rush has finished and a rich array of gold seekers from all over the world head for Australia to make their fortune. Rosa keeps a journal of her observations and feelings and adventures, which she shares with her good friend back in England. This is the story of her experiences on the Ballarat goldfields in the climactic year of 1854.



## About the Unit

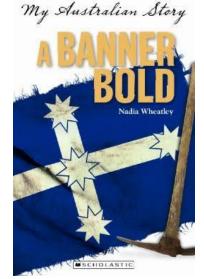
This unit could be taught in conjunction with a visit to Sovereign Hill, and a study of the Victorian gold rush.

'A Banner Bold, the Diary of Rosa Aarons' should be read as a serial (The book is still available) and children should be given access to a wide range of non-fiction books on the discovery of gold. The Blooms Taxonomy approach to curriculum delivery develops the children's thinking skills and creativity.

This unit was requested by Jeff Fyffe (Then Principal of Red Hill School at Sovereign Hill) to be added to their education site online back in 2004 and was provided to visiting

schools. Some Sovereign Hill artwork has been included as well as the authors own art work. Some images (the map) have also been used (With Scholastic's approval back in 2003) from the text in this unit.

This unit is a bit of a time capsule. It was one of the first wholly digital literature units I ever made. (I have about 300 now) Both Nadia Wheatley and I have gone on to (I hope) bigger and better things since 2003. I found it again on an old CD ROM and have given it a little tweak. We still have The Banner Bold in our school library, (Most schools should find it there, it is still in print) and I'll use it again next time we go on an excursion to Sovereign Hill. (This year's whole school visit was cancelled, as was last years due to COVID.) Updated information on Nadia can be found on her official site: <u>http://nadiawheatley.com/</u>



T. Shaw (Principal Glen Park PS 1997-21)

## About the author

## Nadia Wheatley

Nadia is recognized as one of the finest writers in Australia. Her first book, *Five Times Dizzy*, was Commended in the 1983 CBC Awards, and received the NSW Premier's Special Children's Book Award.

She has since written several novels for teenagers, including *Dancing in the Anzac Deli* and *The House That Was Eureka*, both Commended in the CBC Awards in 1985 and 1986 respectively. Whilst dealing with



timeless and universal themes, she was also one of the first children's authors to display an empathy and understanding of the multicultural experience in Australia.

*My Place* won the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award for Younger Readers in 1988.

In 1994, *Lucy in the Leap Year*, published by Omnibus Books, was Honour Book in these same awards.

In 1997, Scholastic Australia released *The Greatest Treasure of Charlemagne the King* a picture book account of King Charlemagne learning to read, with bold, rich illustrations by Deb Klein.

#### 'I suggest

students compare my imagined story of Rosa with the real stories of a number of young Australians who lived during the goldrush, which are included in my history book **Australians All.** These stories are each only one to two pages long, and they include a

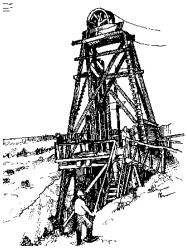


*Chinese-Australian family. The book also has a non-fictional account of the gold rush (highlighting its effect of bringing 'a wealth of people' to the continent'.* Nadia 2021

## Before the book

Before reading the book the children would benefit from a visit to the Melbourne Immigration Museum and access to background information on some of the characters and events that are mentioned in the story-

- Raffaello Carboni (<u>https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/carboni-raffaello-</u> <u>3163</u>)
- Sir Charles Hotham (<u>https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hotham-sir-charles-3803</u>)



- 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' (<u>https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43997/the-rime-of-the-ancient-mariner-text-of-1834</u>)
- 'Don Quixote' (<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzKMIzxxxfc</u>)\_
- 'Peter Simple' by Captain Marryat (<u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter\_Simple\_(novel)</u>)
- Diary writing (<u>https://penzu.com/how-to-start-and-write-a-diary</u>)
- Latin (translator: <a href="https://www.webtran.eu/latin english translator/">https://www.webtran.eu/latin english translator/</a> )
- Guy Fawkes (<u>https://www.history.com/news/guy-fawkes-day-a-brief-history</u> )
- Peter Lalor (<u>http://ergo.slv.vic.gov.au/explore-history/rebels-outlaws/law-enforcement/peter-lalor</u>)

## **During the Book**

The book should be read as a serial and in conjunction (if possible) with an excursion to Ballarat to Sovereign Hill, The Ballarat Fine Art Gallery and the Gold Museum. Activities related to the book follow the Blooms Taxonomy planning format. Page numbers refer to the 2003 paperback edition. There are other books that can support this unit such as the graphic novel format book *'Eureka One Bloody Sunday'* by Hugh Dolan and Dave Dye, Newsouth Publishing 2019 and *'Australians All'* by Nadia Wheatley, Illustrated by Ken Searle, Allen & Unwin, 2013.

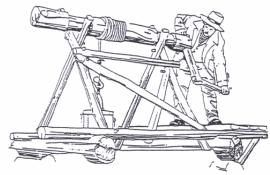
## Remembering

- Complete a crossword and wordsearch based on the story
- Read pages 131-136 and complete reading comprehension activities.
- **Reader's Theatre** After reading about being lost in the bush (page 71) Write a short play that can be read aloud (or recorded as a radio play.)
- Write a postcard
- Complete a story map based on events from the story

- **Storyteller** Write a picture storybook version of the Eureka Stockade Battle.
- Make a bookmark with title, author, illustrator and blurb.
- **Poster** Create a poster for the library advertising the book.
- Write an Acrostic Poem for 'Fools Gold'

### Understanding

- Who's who Compare and contrast two characters using a Venn diagram (such as Rosa and the Flanagan girls)
- **Guess who** Write clues about certain characters and see if students can guess the character.





- **Quotes** Match the characters up to their quotes from the story.
- Lift the Flap Create a lift the flap picture of the National School, the 'secret Valley', Rosa's tent or the immigrant ship.
- **Quiz Time** The children write three quiz questions about the story and test the class.
- **Design a set** Create a diorama of the stockade or the burning down of the Eureka Hotel.
- **Comic** Children create a comic of a dramatic event from the story.
- **Character traits** List and give examples of Rosa's character traits throughout the story.
- Sir Charles Hotham shot an albatross, which was considered bad luck. Make a list of actions or events that are considered good and bad luck (i.e. walking under a ladder or finding a four leaf clover)
- On page 14 the new Governor said 'Spare the rod and spoil the child'. Make a list of sayings and illustrate them for a class frieze.
- Ballarat is an aboriginal word meaning- 'resting place'. Make a list of other aboriginal place names and their meanings. (Refer: <u>https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/indigenous-meanings-of-australian-town-names/b359fbc0-afc6-425f-8c16-c5456b2d8fa2</u> and <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of Australian place names of Aboriginal or</u> <u>igin</u> The Wathaurong people are the traditional owners of the land around

Ballarat. Create a glossary of Wathaurong /English words. (http://www.djillong.net.au/wadawurrung-country/wadawurrung-language.html and http://www.djillong.net.au/wadawurrung-country/wadawurrunglanguage.html

## Application

- Create a travel brochure advertising the benefits of immigration to Australia. (Make the problems such as overcrowding and unsanitary travel conditions seem acceptable.)
- Write an immigrants handbook for Melbourne or Ballarat in PowerPoint format.
- Plan a traditional Jewish celebratory meal for Rosa. Rosa often refers to the monotonous diet she has on the diggings (refer page 73) Put Rosa's diet on a food pyramid. Does she have a well balanced diet?
- Be a newspaper reporter and write a story about the cave-in (page 77) or the burning down of the Eureka Hotel (page 93)
- Create a 3-D cardboard doll (or maybe use old fashioned pegs) of a Victorian lady, digger or trooper.
- Construct a model of some of the mining equipment used on the diggings and explain how it worked.
- Create a poster advertising a political rally at Bakery Hill (Refer page 97)
- Create a program for the children's 'grand performance'
- Children should keep a journal while reading the serial.



## Analysis

- Complete an A-Z Chart about the gold rush.
- Design a wanted poster for a character from the story.
- Write a letter to Nadia Wheatley about her book.
- **PMI** Complete a PMI chart on living on the gold-fields.
- Complete a six-hats problem solving activity about an episode from the story.

- Complete a 'Y Chart' on the diggings.
- Write an interview between yourself and a character from the story.
- In the story there are references to books by Captain Marryat (Johnny Simple and Children of the New Forest) and to Don Quixote and also the play Judith. Do any of these stories have any link with the turmoil on the goldfields, Rosa's plight and the eventual rebellion and its aftermath?



## Creating

- If Only..... Write a different ending to the story.
- Introduce a new character into the story. Write a biography of the character
- Diary The story is told completely from Rosa's point of view in her diary. What if other characters from the story kept a diary? Imagine another character



writes an extract in diary form. Write the extract and include weather report and sketches as Rosa did. (Template provided)

- Create a new gold mining tool. Illustrate it or create a model and write how it works.
- Create a PowerPoint presentation or poster project on some matter related to the story.
  - Whooping cough
  - o 'Fools gold'
  - o Traditional Chinese medicine
  - The Battle of the Eureka Stockade
  - Early immigration to Australia
  - o Bushrangers
  - o 'Children of the New Forest'
  - The Klondike gold rush
  - The stories of Captain Marryat.

## Evaluation

- Complete a 'for or against' chart on an issue that could be debated by the class. (i.e. Monarchy v Republic, panning v deep-lead,) On the chart have them write arguments for or against.
- Complete a 'Thumbs up and Thumbs Down chart' Create a chart that lists all the exciting and boring episodes from the story and compare them with those compiled by the rest of the class.
- Create an alternative book cover and include a review of the story on the front cover.
- Determine the positive attributes of characters and on Publisher create a merit certificate for that character.



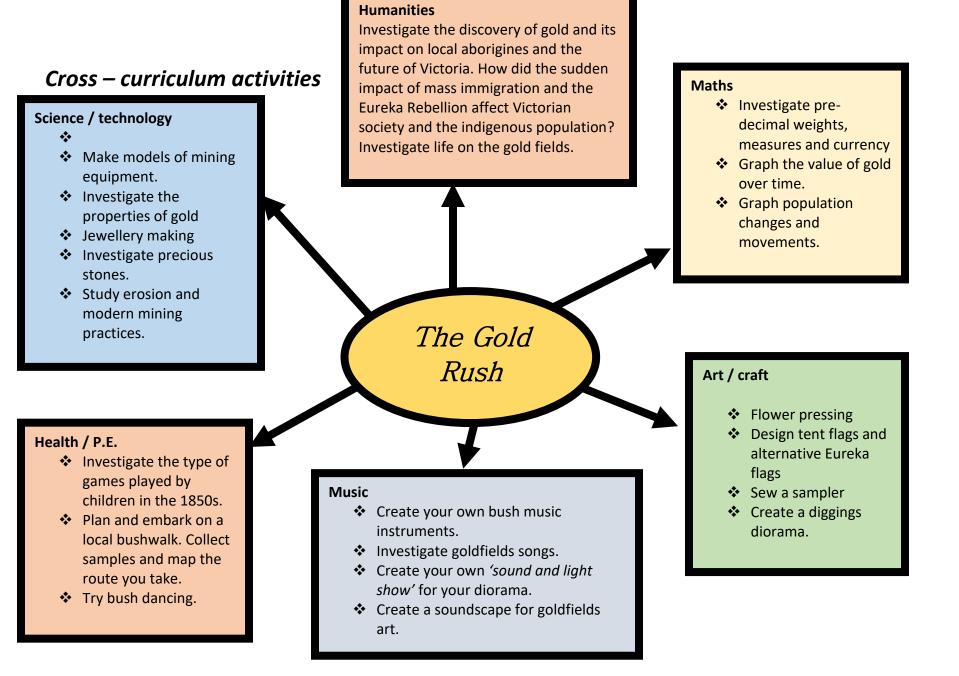
- What would it be like to be in this story? Place yourself in the story as a student in the National School. Would you be Rosa's friend?
- Create a mural of a scene from the story such as- the diggings, the secret valley, the Hotel fire or the trek from Melbourne to Ballarat.

## After reading the Book

Children may like to-

- Read other books written in the form of diaries or journals.
- Read 'Children of the New Forest' or watch the film.
- Visit an historical theme park such as Sovereign Hill, (<u>https://sovereignhill.com.au/</u>) 'Flagstaff Hill' (<u>http://www.flagstaffhill.com/</u>) or the 'Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement'. (<u>https://www.pioneersettlement.com.au/</u>)
- Find out more about modern gold mining or jewellery making.
- Learn some useful Latin phrases.
- Learn more about Judaism.

Above, Peter Lalor Statue, Sturt St. Ballarat



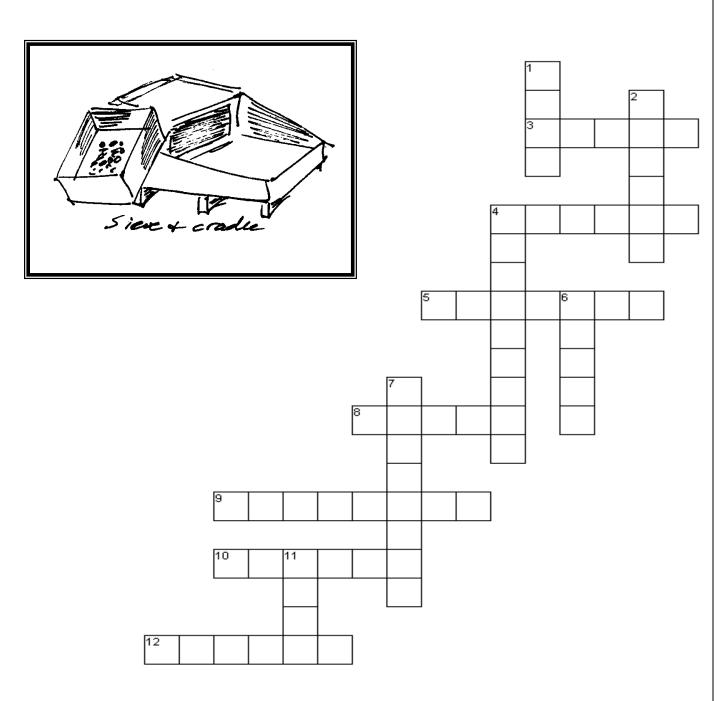
### A Banner Bold (Wordsearch)

G	0	Ľ	D	F	I	Ε	L	D	S	Т	В	R	S	0
J	Ι	K	R	N	${ m L}$	Q	Q	V	Ν	С	A	0	F	R
Q	E	J	U	D	Ι	Т	Η	Ι	Х	A	L	S	R	S
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N	Ρ	А	L	Y	E	Z	S	U	S	В	R	Ŵ	F	В
G	I	A	Т	L	С	N	K	Т	т	Q	А	Х	U	Ε
v	G	Т	D	Ρ	Ε	Η	0	W	А	Т	Т	G	U	Y
Н	A	Ε	А	С	A	С	Ε	D	Y	$\mathbb{L}$	0	R	Ε	V
В	E	Т	Ι	$\mathbf{L}$	K	С	H	Ν	R	Q	Ε	N	Ι	S
N	U	L	Ι	A	Х	Z	0	F	R	K	0	Z	т	N
Ζ	В	K	D	v	Ρ	v	Т	М	A	В	Q	F	А	Х
K	Y	Ε	$\mathbf{L}$	L	A	V	Н	L	М	F	Х	U	K	Ν
Ρ	G	Ν	F	R	0	S	А	С	H	Ζ	N	М	J	Η
A	Y	$\mathbf{\Gamma}$	D	U	Ζ	Ň	М	N	W	J	Y	Y	S	J

BALLARATBONEYEUREKAFLAGHOTHAMJENNYCHENKATIELATINMARRYATMUTTONROSAROSSTROOPERSVALLEY

CAPTAIN GOLDFIELDS JUDITH LICENSE NEEDLEPOINT STOCKADE VATI





## Across

3. Rosa helped to hide him.

4. Rosa's play was based on this character.

5. Everyone thought he had committed murder.

8. The girl with carrot colored hair

9. A fort

10. 'I have found it!'

12. The new Governor of Victoria

## Down

1. A precious metal

2. The book Rosa had to read at school.

4. Rosa wrote to her friend in England.

6. An old language that Rosa was learning.

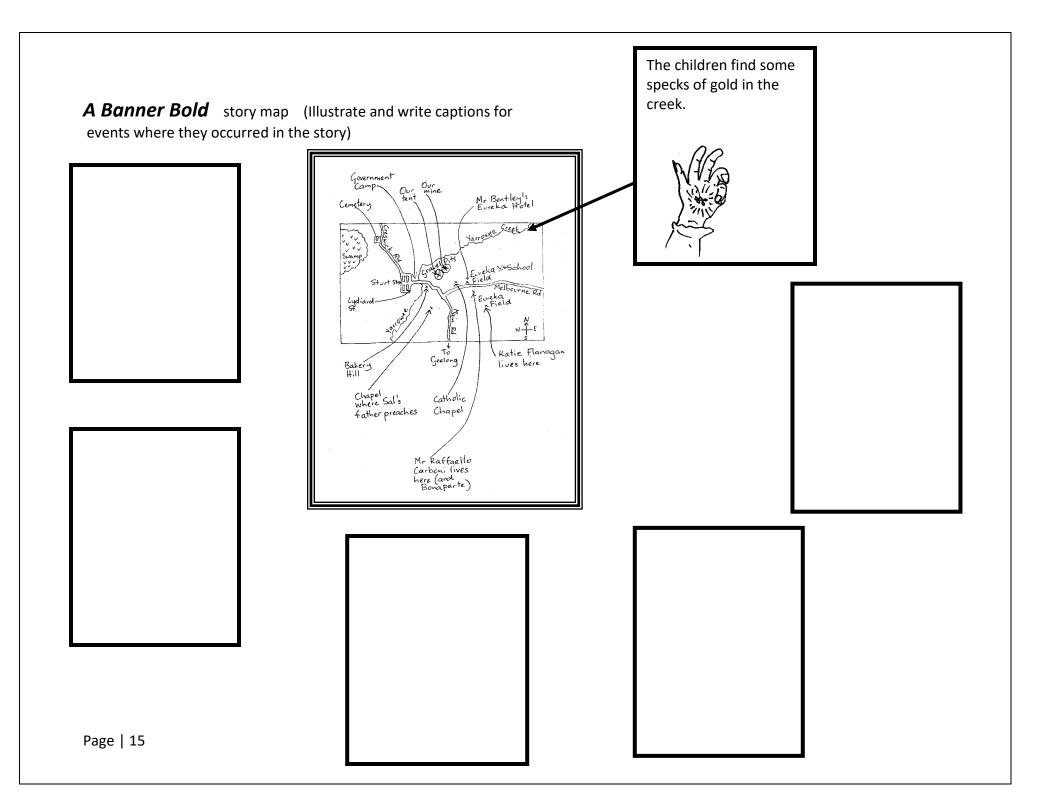
7. The site of the latest gold rush.

11. The hero of the story.

(Reading Comprehension 131-136)

- 1. Why doesn't Rosa take a lamp up to the Eureka field?
- 2. What constellation blazes above Rosa?
- 3. How does Rosa describe the Eureka fence?
- 4. Who should be on sentry duty?
- 5. What is the name of the creek?
- 6. What are the nicknames given to the soldiers and the troopers?
- 7. When the attack starts what is Rosa's main thought?
- 8. Where was Mr. Lalor wounded and what did Rosa do to help him?
- 9. What happened to Captain Ross?
- 10. How long did the battle last?
- 11. What happened after the battle to the families in their camps?
- 12. How many men were imprisoned?
- 13. What does Mama call her baby?
- 14. How many diggers died?
- 15. Read an alternative report on the battle. How do they differ?
- 16. Draw and label the battle scene





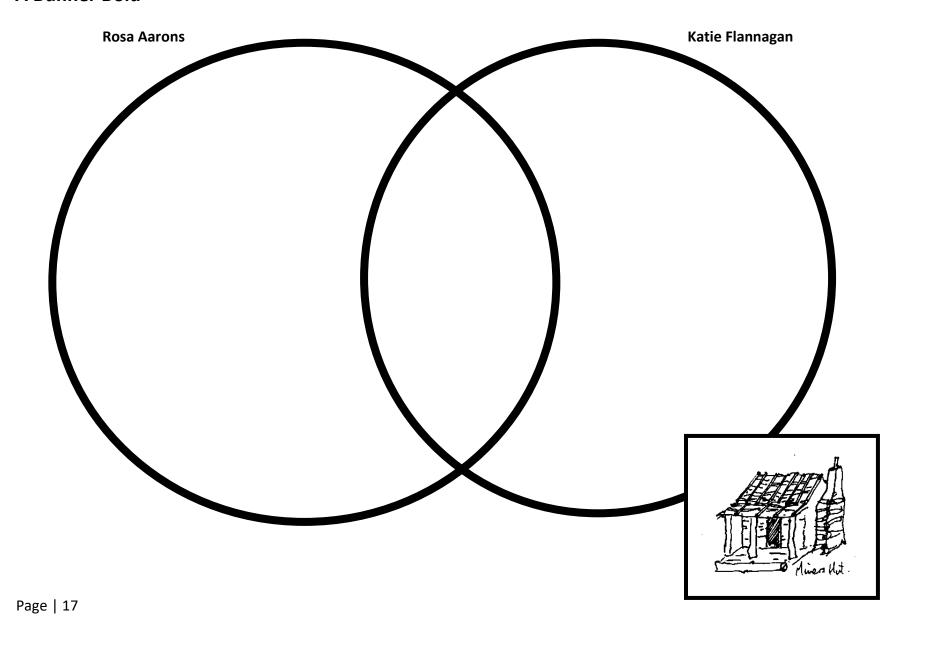
## A Banner Bold (Acrostic poem)

F O O L S G O L D



Peter Lalor statue, Ballarat

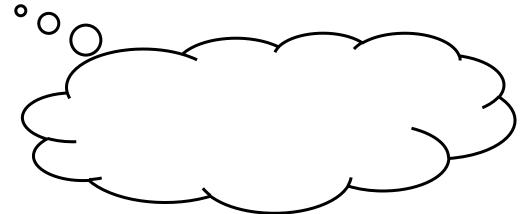
## Venn diagram **A Banner Bold**



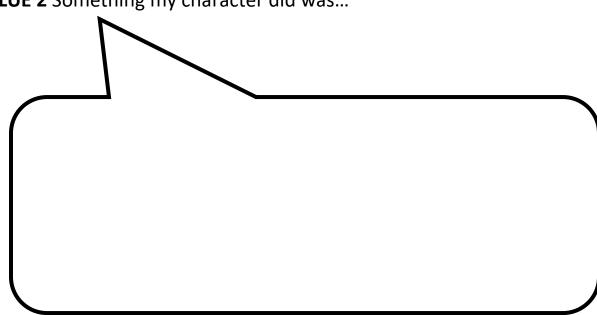
**Guess Who?** 

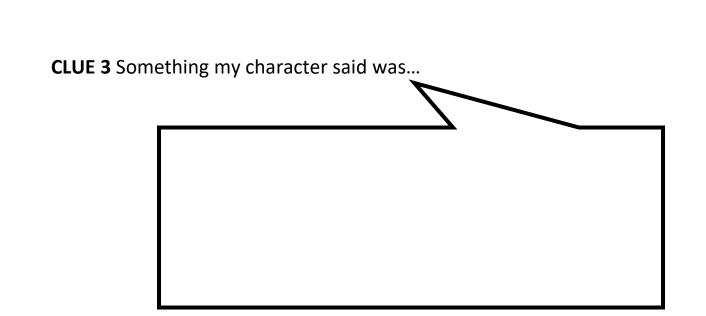
**STEP 1** Select a character from the story **STEP 2** Fill in the following sentence clues about your chosen character.

CLUE 1 If I were to tell you how my character looks, I would say that...

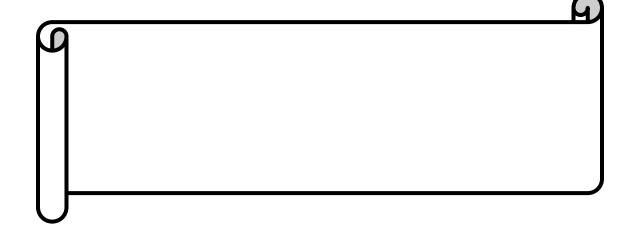


CLUE 2 Something my character did was...





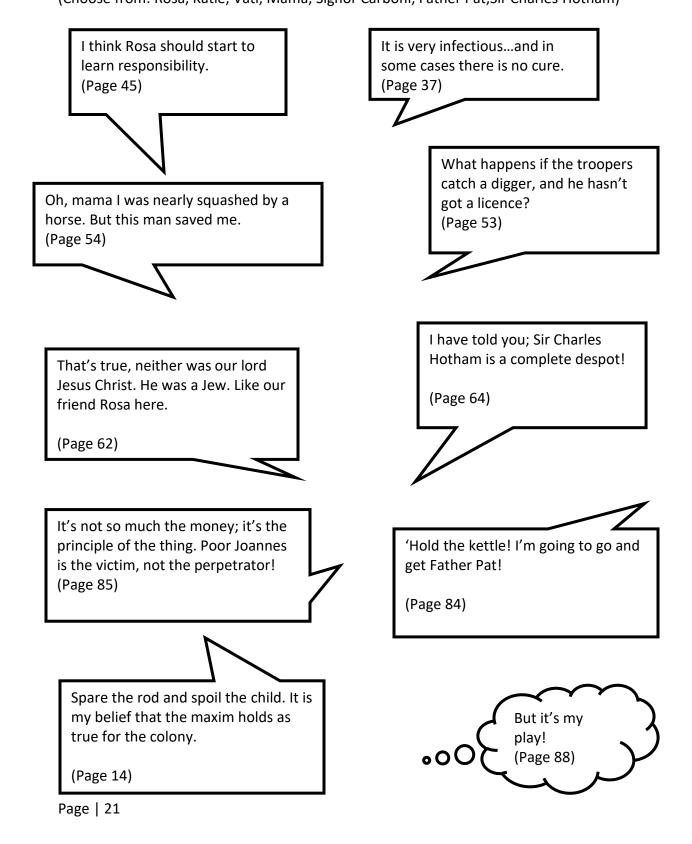
**CLUE 4** I think the story could/could not (circle one) have happened without my character because....

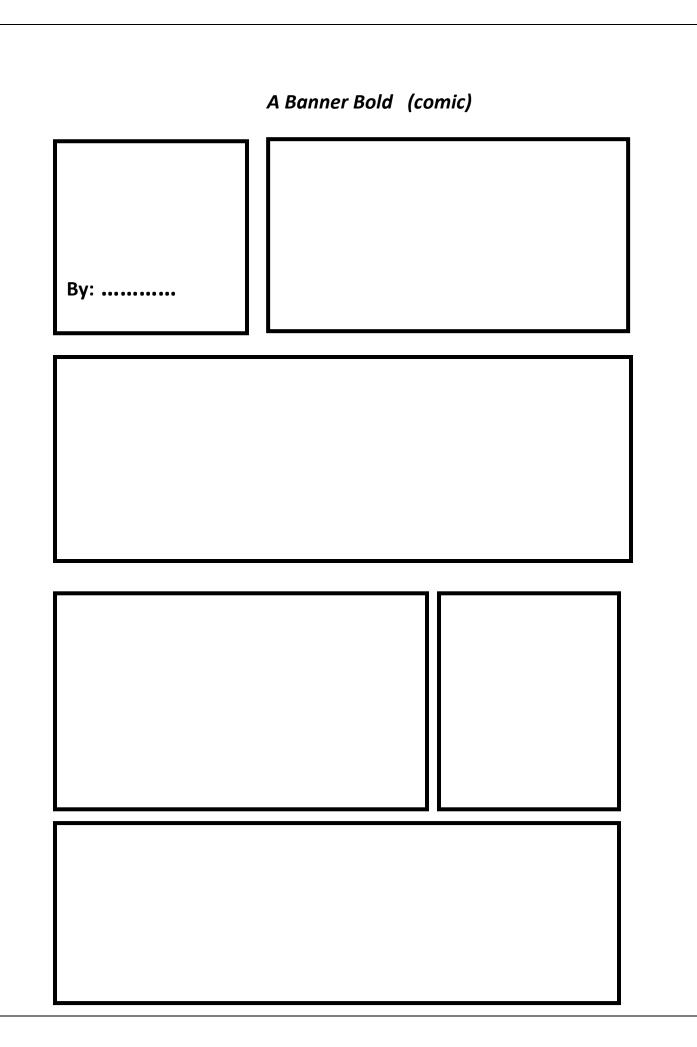


Read one clue at a time to the class. At the end of each clue, see if anyone can identify the character. If no one can after the last clue then tell the class the name of your character.

My Character is: ..... I did/ did not refer to the book

Match quotes from the story (from page 1 – 88) (Choose from: Rosa, Katie, Vati, Mama, Signor Carboni, Father Pat, Sir Charles Hotham)





Character Traits (enlarge to A3 size)

Some of the traits in the list below fit Rosa and some do not. Select 4 traits that best describe her and write them on the chart. Then for each trait, list one action in which she exhibits the trait.

Intelligent	funny	responsible	caring	determ	ined
Honest	hardworl	king	problem solver	confident	generous
Co-operative		loyal	brave		

Trait	Actions that demonstrate the trait.

**A Banner Bold** (newspaper Enlarge to A3 size)

The Goldfiel	ds Times
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September 1854	Price 1 penny

a	b	с	d	e	f
g	h	Lin in Mai	i	j	k
1		m	n	0	
p	q	r	S	t	u
V	W	X	У	Z	

Goldfields A-Z (Enlarge to A3 size)

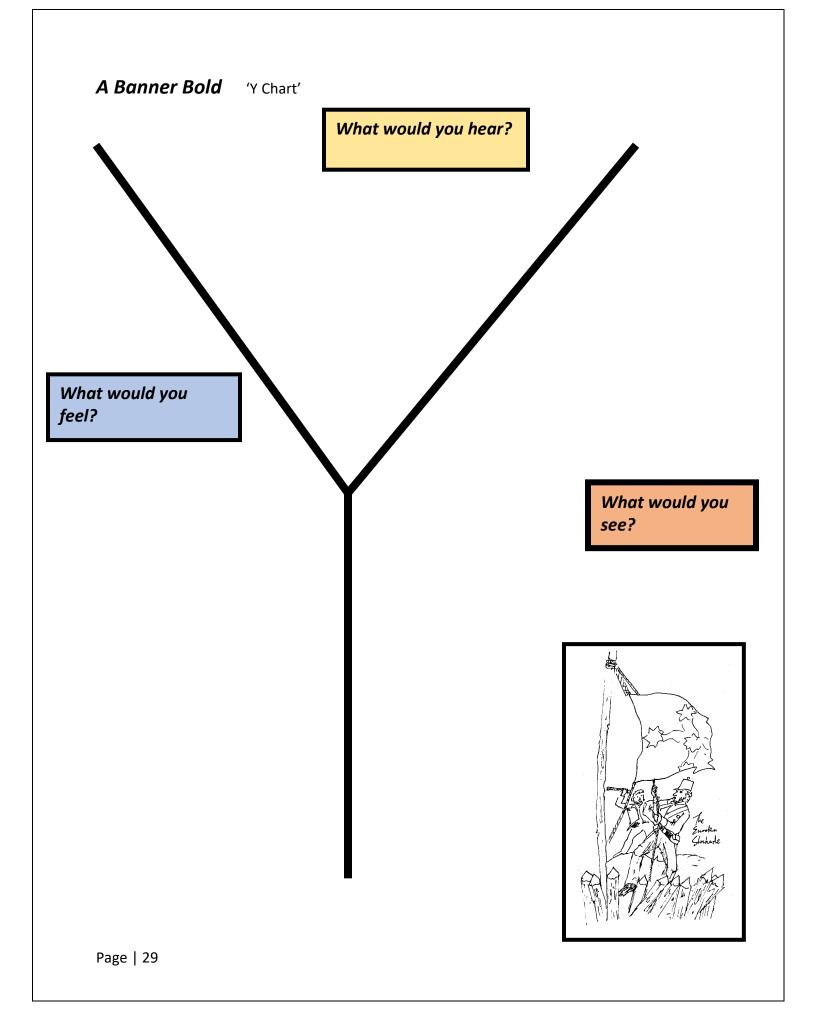
Wanted Poster

(enlarge to A3 size)

	WANTED	Τ
	FOR	
	Front Profile	
Σ	REWARD	

## A Banner Bold PMI Chart

PLUS +	MINUS -	INTERESTING?

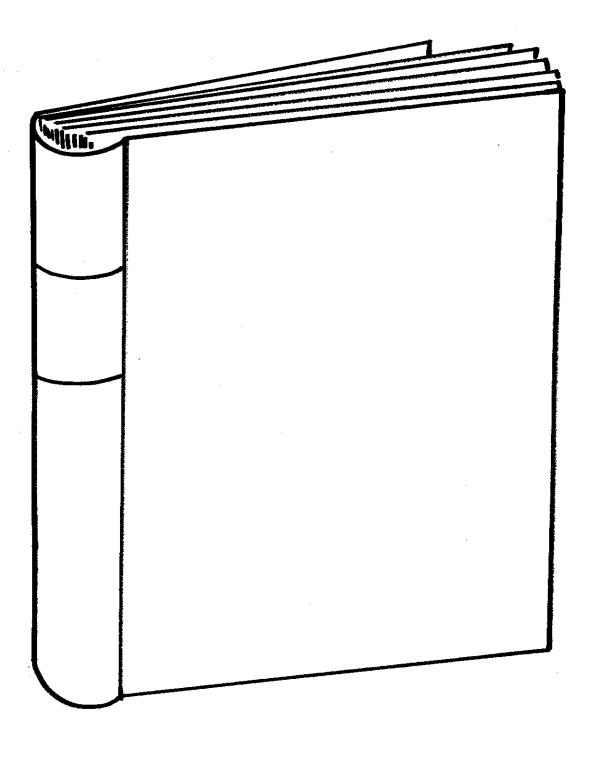


## A Banner Bold (For or against chart)

The issue:

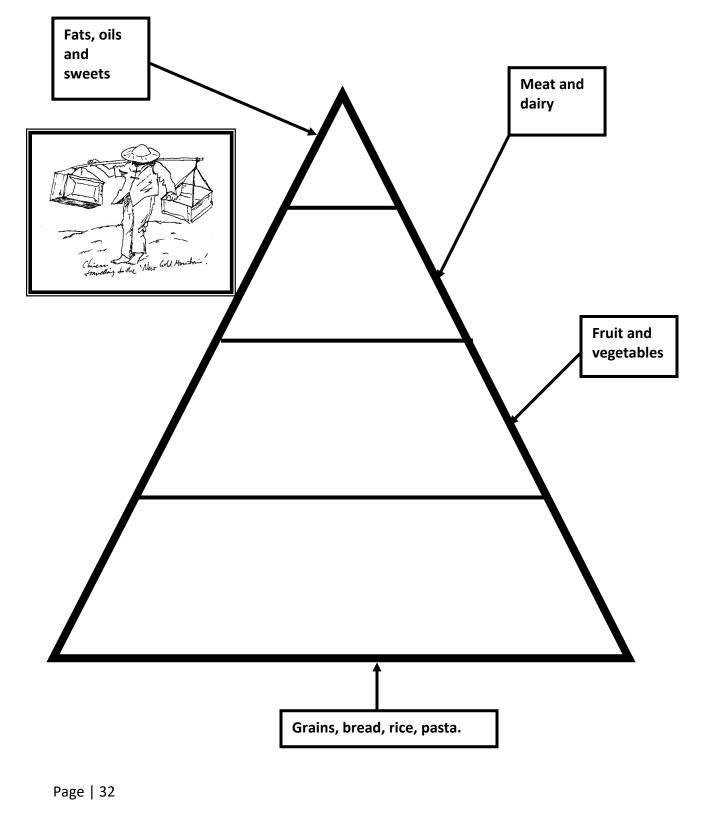
Arguments FOR	Arguments AGAINST

A Banner Bold (Alternative book cover)



#### (Food Pyramid)

List some of the food that Rosa and her family have eaten during the story. How does it compare to our modern diet? How healthy is his diet? (Enlarge to A3)



## Fish bone diagrams

The fishbone mapping organizer -

- Helps students visually organize casual relationships in complex ideas or events.
- To increase awareness of cause and effect.
- To develop skills in organizing material.

Instructions

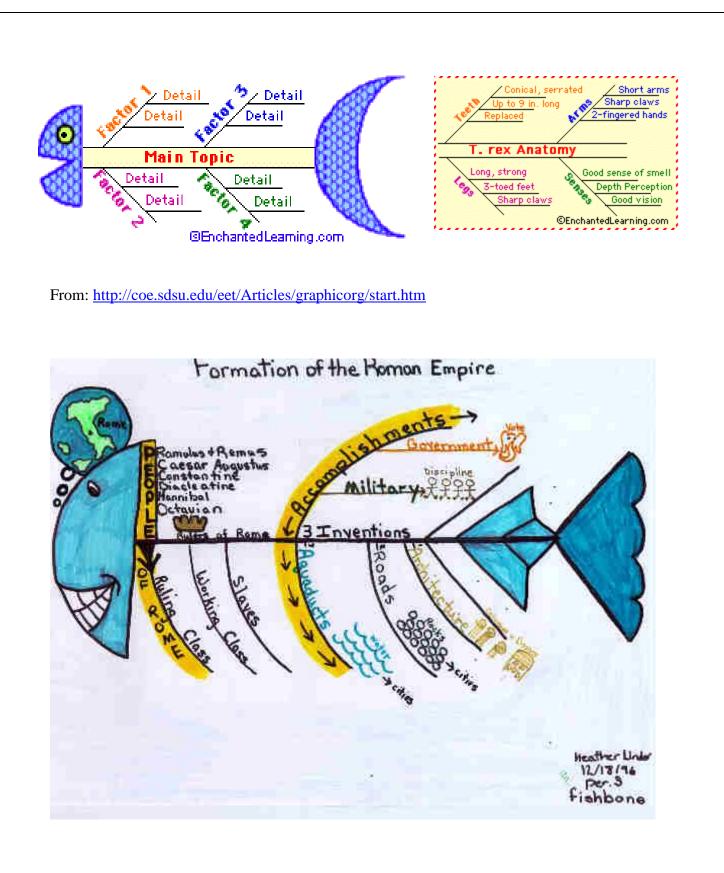
- Begin by recording the end result of the idea or event to be mapped.
- Ask students to work backwards by identifying and recording causes of the event or resulting idea or discovery.
- Students should then analyze the cause s and fill in details about each one.

#### Uses

In literature fishbone diagrams can be used to map a character's action or the causes leading up to an event in the book. (i.e. Rosa's involvement in helping Peter Lalor in the aftermath of the Eureka rebellion.)

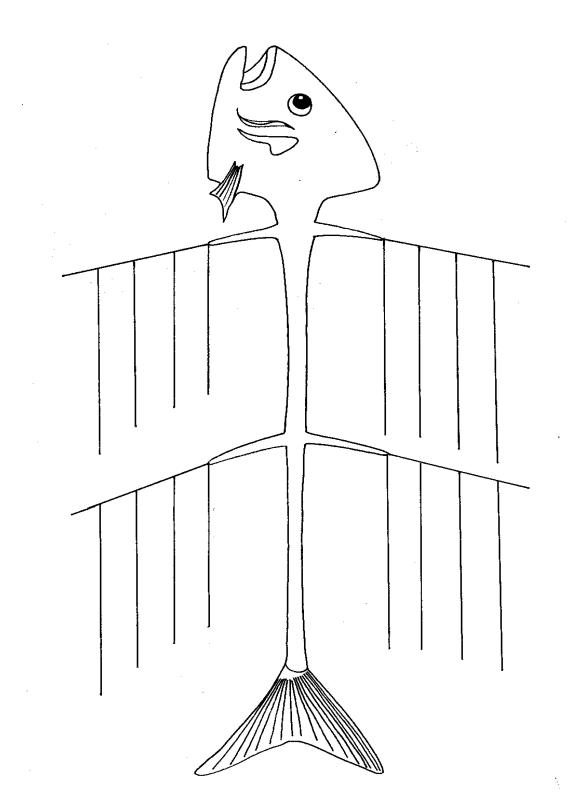
Below is an example of a fishbone map from Enchanted learning.

Who lives at the pond? Sums
· Erogs Sugar have welterd feet.
Frigs make different sounds. Swarns have long necks - Frigs have slidly tongues. Frigs ean jump far.
Frees sleep in the winter / Oldons eat water plant and
Frequences are supplied and their tension The suggests stay repar their more
(Brd (Trogs have wabbed feet, (Cugnets have gray feathers (Home)
Crawduls have pinchers. Sal use fins to swim. Crawduls use their antennas to legis use Fish, hatch from eggs.
Cranded there excite to over the new bud Fish Sleep with their eyes open
Created any the easy of the summer of Same fish act Street fich.
Visidate and prosts really fadade and and the first Story TROCTION IN ALL DEPOSE
Constant are brown and drive estime. Fish are of florent shapes, Colors, and size
Eish Coudada Eish





(Enlarge to A3 size)



(KWL Chart. Begin this task before reading the book and complete after the story is completed.)

K (Know)	W (Want to know)	L (What you've learnt)

## Women on the Australian Goldfields

In the early years of the gold rush there were few women at any of the goldfields. A few women were diggers, and some were shopkeepers at the diggings. Only a few women went at the start, but most stayed home with their children, usually with very



little money. Many women took their children and joined their husbands a few years later, when conditions improved. However, there were always more men than women at the goldfields, and it was a hard life for all.

#### Women's work

Women's work consisted of washing, ironing and cooking. They made bread, butter, jams, soap and clothes for the family. The living conditions were cramped, and there were few comforts at the diggings. Because the alluvial mining muddied the once clear creek water, clean drinkable water was hard to find. Often fresh water was carted in to the diggings and sold by the bucketful. Fresh vegetables and fruit were scarce and cost a lot.

## Childbirth

Usually when a woman had a baby, she was assisted by other women. There was little in the way of medical assistance in cases of illness or to assist the women in childbirth. Many women died while giving birth. Epidemics of illnesses such as diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, typhoid and scarlet fever swept through the goldfields, and many men, women and children died.

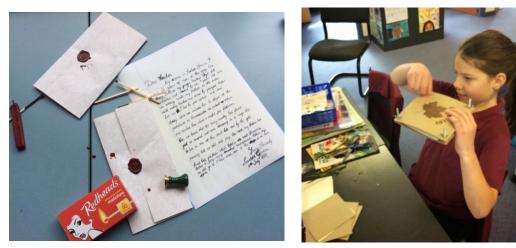
The wealthy Bendigo goldfields were found by a woman, Margaret Kennedy, who saw gold in the creek bed in September 1851. She and a friend washed the gold using a bread baking pan. Within a few months, there were about 20,000 people searching for gold in that area.

There were women among the entertainers who travelled around performing at the various goldfields. The most famous of these was Lola Montez. She was very popular, and was showered with gold nuggets by the diggers whenever she finished a performance. She was famous for her *Spider Dance*.

## A Banner Bold

# **ART/Nature activities**



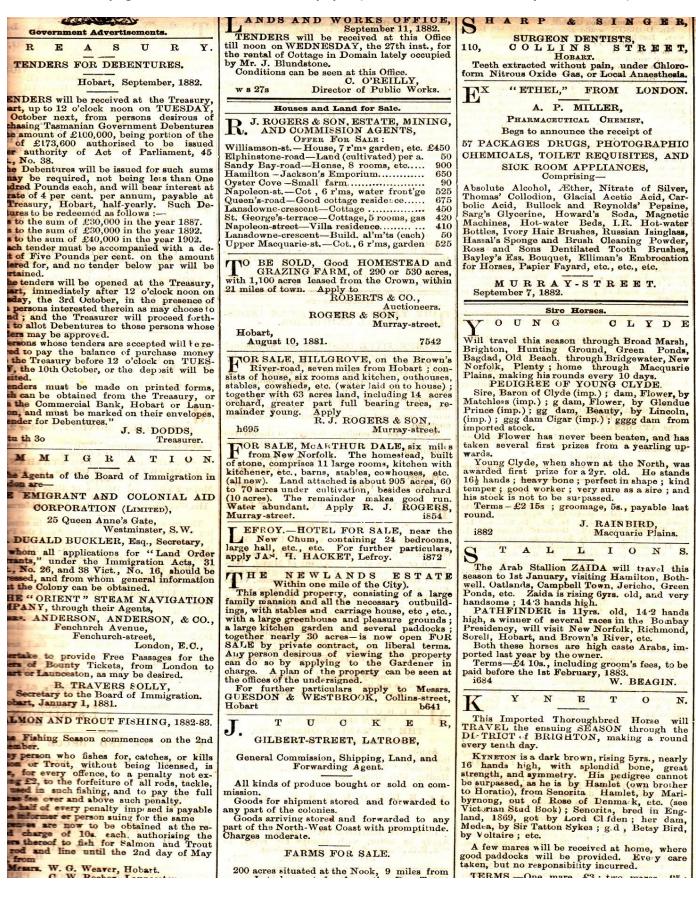


Making silhouette pictures and using pen and ink to write letters



Pressing flowers and looking for mushrooms and creating spore patterns

#### Scanned page from a Victorian era newspaper (Add an advertisement of your own to it)



# A Banner Bold

## Diary

The story is told completely from Rosa's point of view in her diary.

What if other characters from the story kept a diary?

Imagine another character writes extracts in diary form.

Write several pages of diary entries as a different character from the story (or a totally different character) include weather reports and sketches as Rosa did. I have provided a blank diary cover/page for you to print off and create. Copy as many pages as you wish and insert into the cover and staple. You might need to trim up the pages.

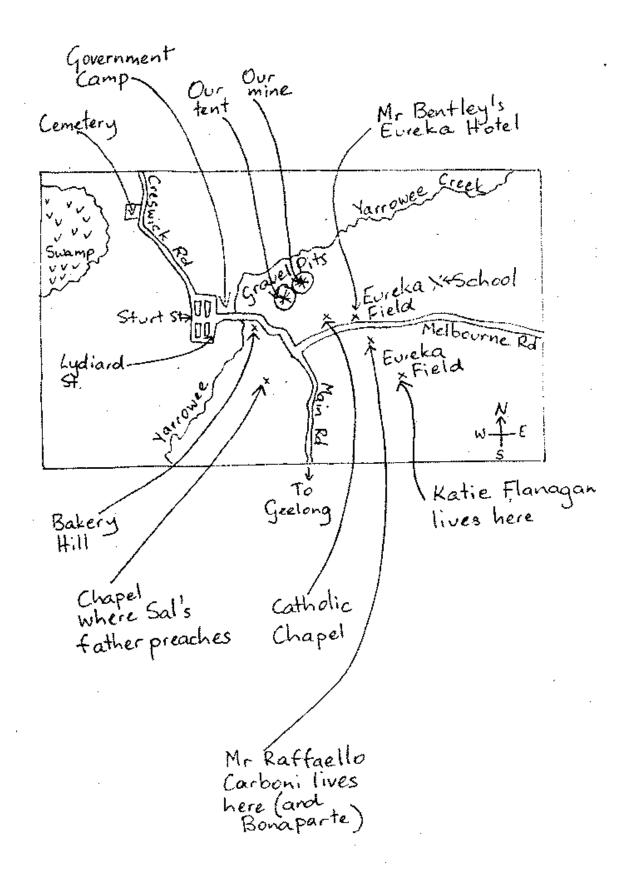
Below is a photo of my completed sample (be careful what markers you use because sometimes the ink goes through the paper.)

At my school we tried using bottled ink and nib pens. It was messy but fun. Fill in any empty spaces with images inspired by the novel.





Page | 41



Map scanned from the book

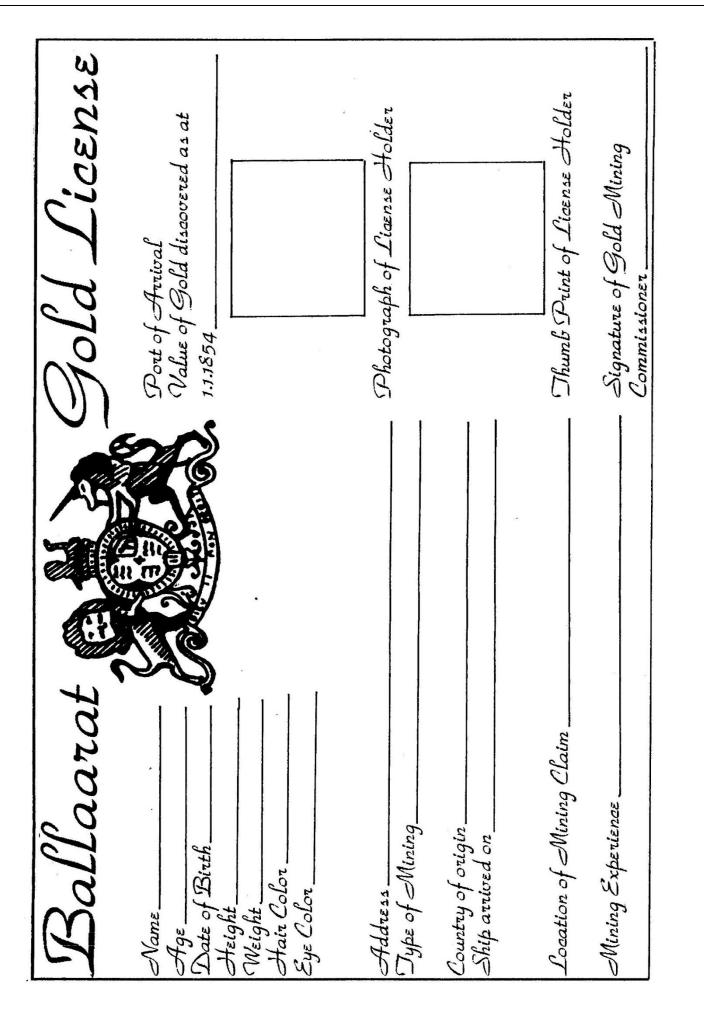
Page | 43

**ENCE** No Mining will be permitted where it would be destructive of any lin- of road which it is necessary to maintain, and which shall be 1. This License is to be carried on the person, to be produced whenever demanded by any Commissioner. Peace Officer, or other duly To a party comissing of four Miners, twenty-four feet by twenty-four, or 576 square feet : beyond which no greater area will be allowed purposes by any one hereby License him to mine or dig for Gold, or exercise and carry on any other trade or calling on such having paid the Sum of 64 Pound/Tea-Shilling, on account of the General Revenue of the Colony, I ommissioner. REGULATIONS TO BE OBSERVED BY THE PERSON DIGGING FOR GULD OR UTIMENTISE EMPLOYED AT determined by any Commissioner, nor within such distance around any store as it may be necessary to resurve for access to it. Crown Lands within the Colony of Victoria as she be assigned to him for these It is enjoined that all persons on the Gold Fields maintain a due and proper observance of Sundays. The extent of claim allowed to each Livensed Mm r is twolve first square, or 144 square feet. To a party consisting of three Miners, eighteen feet his twenty our, or 432 square feet. To a pury conditing of two Miners, twelve feet by twenty-four, or 255 square feet. THE GOLD FIELDS. the new This License to be in force ustil and authorised person, and is not transferable. duly authorised in that behalf. The Fearer GOLI and no longer. 0 No.

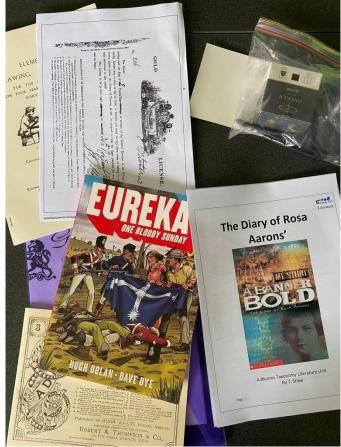
Miner's licenses (original sample and two student versions)

**GOLD MINERS LICENCE** Having paid the sum of \$10 I hereby licence ........ To mine for gold in the Crown Lands within the state of Victoria. SIGNED : The Gold Commissioner ...... This licence is in force until: DATE: ..... No.

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Page | 46



My grade 5 student at Glen Park went to the two-day costumed school program this year with other students from small rural schools. Below are some photos taken there. (November 2021)



