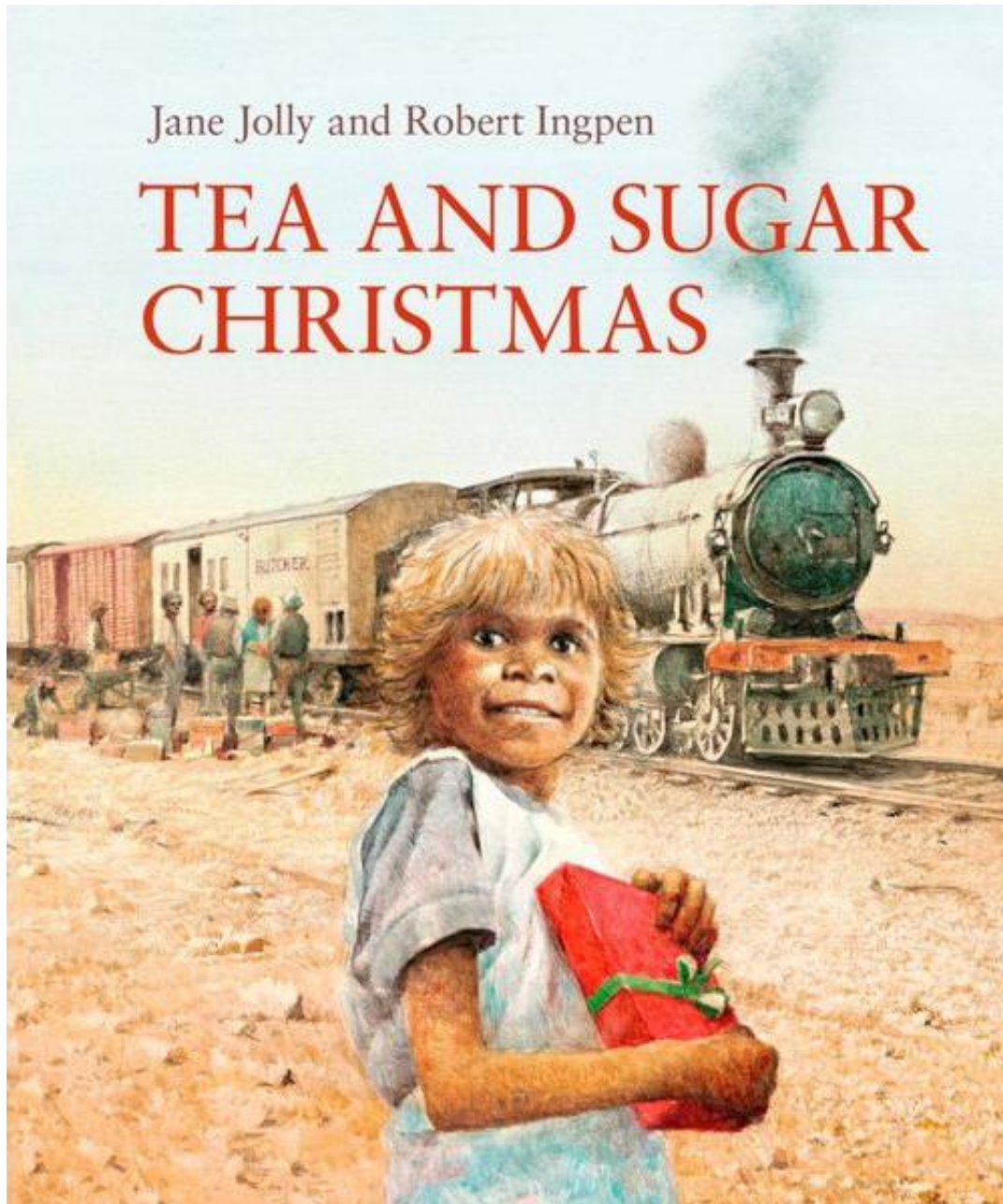


# TEA and SUGAR CHRISTMAS

By Jane Jolly and Robert Ingpen

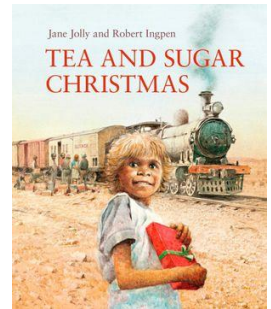


**An Indigenous themed Christmas story**

**literature unit for grade 3-6**

**T. Shaw**

## TEA and SUGAR CHRISTMAS



During last century the Tea and Sugar Train was a common sight on the long, lonely stretch of railway between Port Augusta and Kalgoorlie.

The train would make weekly trips supplying the remote settlements and work camps on the 1,692 kilometres of standard gauge track.

It operated from 1915 until its final trip on August 30th 1996.

The sole remaining carriages from that legendary train have been brought into the 21st century through the use of interactive computer technology at the National Railway Museum in Port Adelaide.

The Tea and Sugar train was basically a "store on wheels" and comprised a Pay Car, Butcher's Van, Provision Van and a Relay Brake Van.

The first port of call for railway workers was the Pay Car, where they would receive their wages.

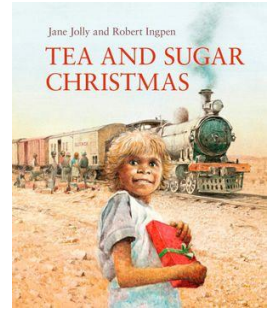
Jane Jolly's website: <https://www.janejolly.com/>

and Robert Ingpen: [Robert Ingpen](#)



*The Tea and Sugar Train Museum (Ashley Walsh)*

# TEA and SUGAR CHRISTMAS



## Teaching ideas

- Mark in towns and sidings on the map of the route of the Tea and sugar Train. Use the *Distance Measure* app to find the distance between the locations on the map. (Some cannot be found on modern apps. You can also add in the Eyre Highway. (Distances are: Port Augusta to Dimba 174 km, Dimba to Kingoonya 152 km, Kingoonya to Tarcoola 74 km, Tarcoola to Kalgoorlie 1251 km)



*Tea and Sugar Train during World War One*

- In the railway carriage template either draw a shopping scene similar to those in the book or fill the space with images of old product packages that people would have purchased from the train 100 years ago.
- Write a fact file about one of the towns on the route. Include information about its history and its peak population and how its inhabitants made a living when the train ran.
- Investigate how children get their education in remote parts of Australia (Investigate the School of the Air. How does it work? What is a typical day like for a child using the School of the Air? Is it different to the recent off-site learning experience many children have had during the COVID pandemic?) Refer to the Kalgoorlie School of the Air: <https://www.kalsota.wa.edu.au/>



- Shopping from the train was very different to 'going down to the shops'. Talk to parents about what they would buy for a week's supply of shopping for your family. Compare going to a supermarket in a town or city with shopping from the Provisions store on the train. Compare groceries from the 1950s with groceries available now from supermarkets. How are they the same? How are they different? Make a list of what your family would need in the way of supplies for one week. Remember, if you forget to get it or order it you will have to wait another whole week.



*Tea and Sugar Train 1920s*

- List the Aboriginal groups that lived around the rail line. Groups living across Australia in the area where the line ran included: *Nukunu, Andyamathana, Banggurla, Wirangu, Kakatha, Arabana, Yankuntjatjara, Ngalea, Mirning, Pitjantjatjara, Nakako, Nyanganyatjara, Mandjinja, Ngaanyatjarra, Wangkathaa, Malpa, Ngatjumay* and many others. See this map: [www.abc.net.au/indigenous/map/](http://www.abc.net.au/indigenous/map/)
- What was daily life like for the people who lived and worked along the route of the train? Investigate jobs like gangers and fettlers. What did they do? Write a 'help wanted' advertisement for people to work on the line. What sort of jobs might have been available and what would they entail?
- Make a corrugated cardboard railway house (Refer to the illustration in the first fold out) There is a photo of a sample and a temple provided.

- Try some pencil sketching, starting with simple subjects. For example, a vase, a piece of fruit, a face. Try different-coloured pencils but keep the sketch monochromatic. Try different-coloured paper. For example, use a white pencil on black paper, or a yellow pencil on red or orange paper.
- What would first contact with Europeans have been like for the indigenous people? What were their traditional lifestyles like and how did this change with the coming of Europeans? Imagine the first time Aboriginal people saw a train. Has there been anything in your life which was a huge surprise and which you could not explain? Investigate aboriginal rock art depicting the arrival of European sailing ships to Australia. Consider make a slide show of some of the images you find. Refer: <https://theconversation.com/threat-or-trading-partner-sailing-vessels-in-northwestern-arnhem-land-rock-art-reveal-different-attitudes-to-visitors-161586>
- What book might Kathleen have got from Santa? Make a short list of some of the most popular children's books in Australia in the 1950s.
- Complete the Cloze, crossword and wordsearch activities.
- Write about a modern day visit to a small community on a remote railway line at Christmas time.
- Re-write the story with a completely different setting (a snowy, icy landscape, mountains or rainforest)



*Tea and Sugar Train 1950s*

- Onomatopoeia is when a word imitates the sound that it describes. Clunk and clink, tinkle, croak and screech are all examples of onomatopoeia. Make a list of other words that imitate the sound that they describe. (Illustrate them)
- Investigate famous train journeys. Sketch a map of one and highlight interesting things to see and do along the route. Find out what amenities the train has (is it a luxury journey or very basic?) and how much it costs for a ticket and how long it takes.
- Write a ghost story (Dickens wrote a famous Christmas ghost story called *A Christmas Carol*) about the Tea and Sugar train (Some stimulus pictures have been provided) What book do you think Kathleen received from Santa? Draw a cover for that book. Write about Kathleen's life with her family in the outback.

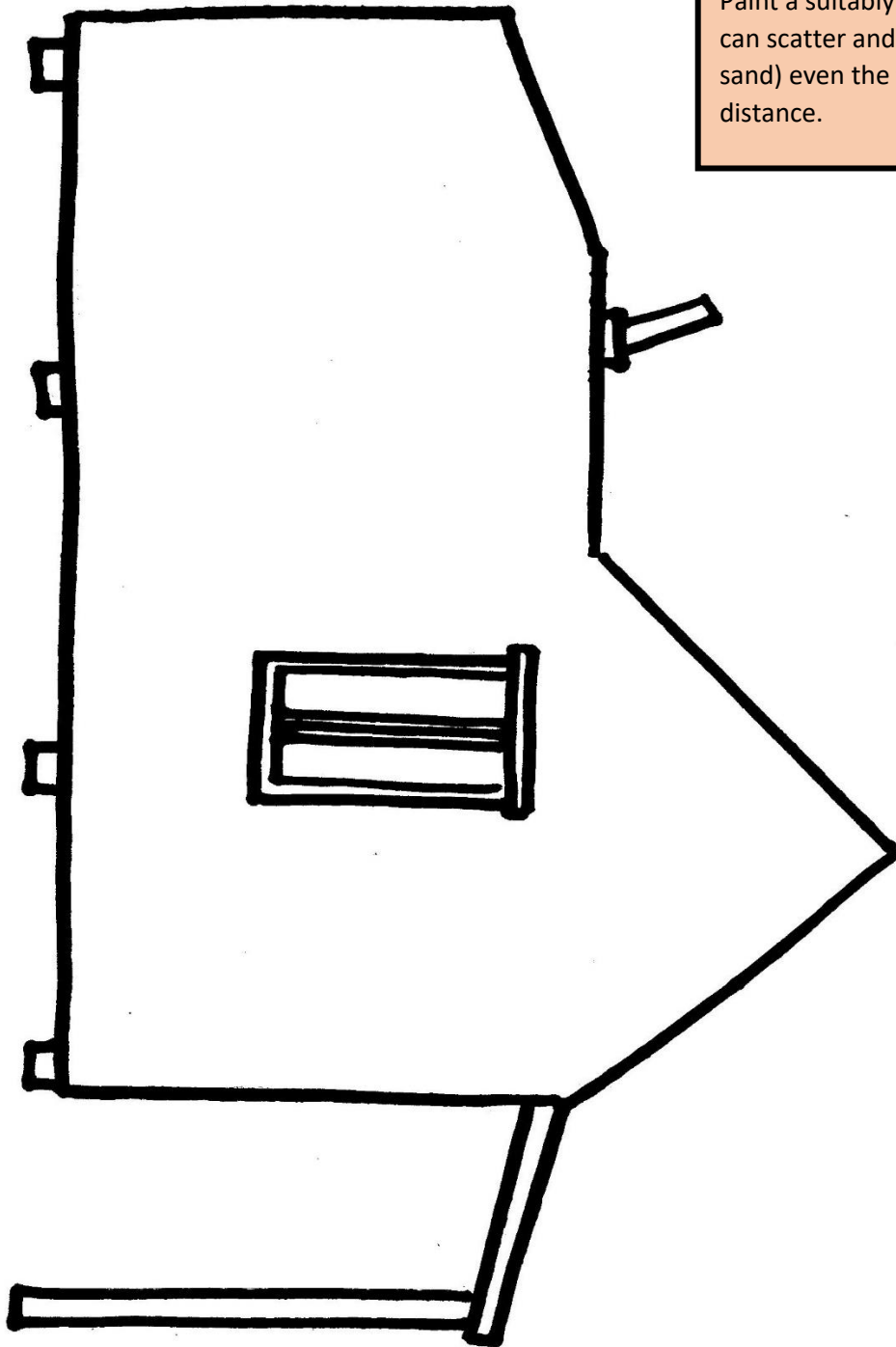
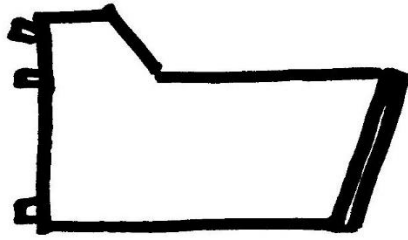
Additional ideas:

<https://www.pegiwilliams.com.au/pdfs/teachernotes/9780642278630.pdf>



### ***'Corrugated Iron Model House'***

Paint a strong cardboard base earth colours. Create a rectangular prism house model. Glue on corrugated cardboard to the sides or just make the corrugated roof with matchstick post veranda (refer image) Add bushes and trees (either make these from cotton wool and matches or you can buy them from model shops. (Use a glue gun or PVA) if you a little less ambitious then make a 2D picture using corrugated cardboard.

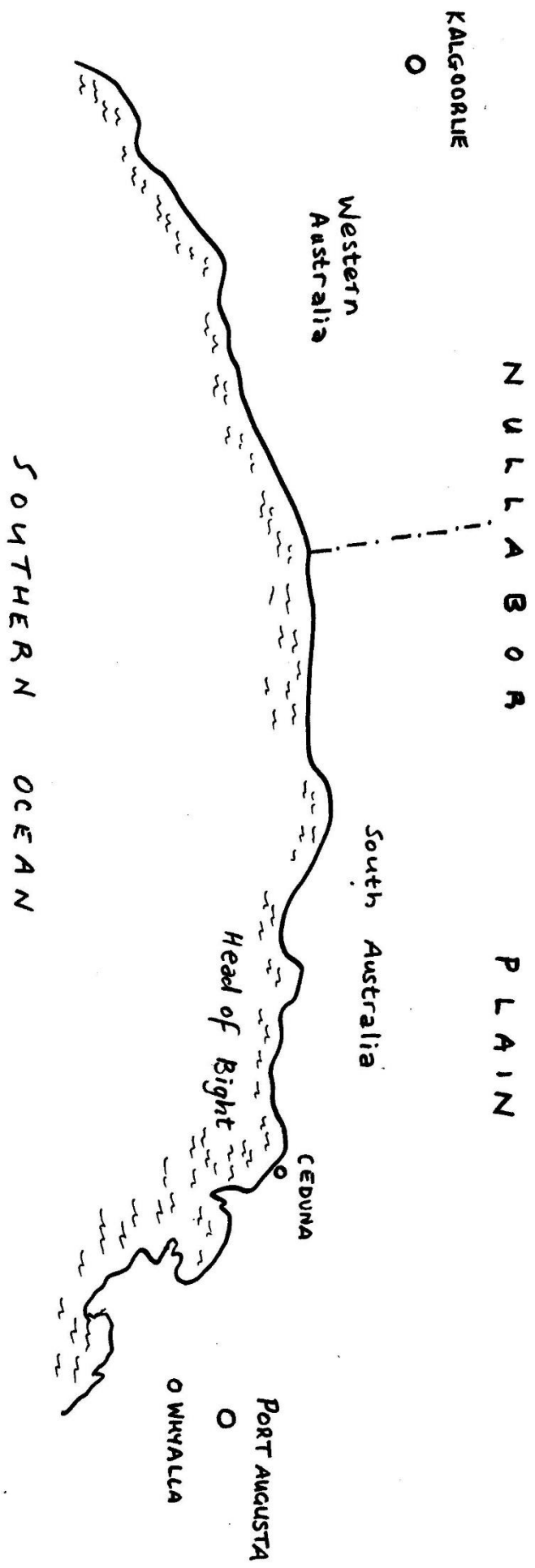
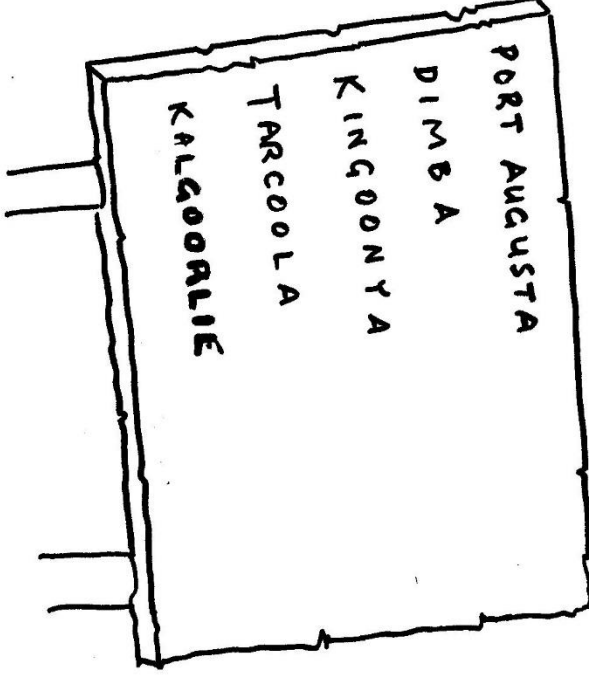


### Corrugated Iron House

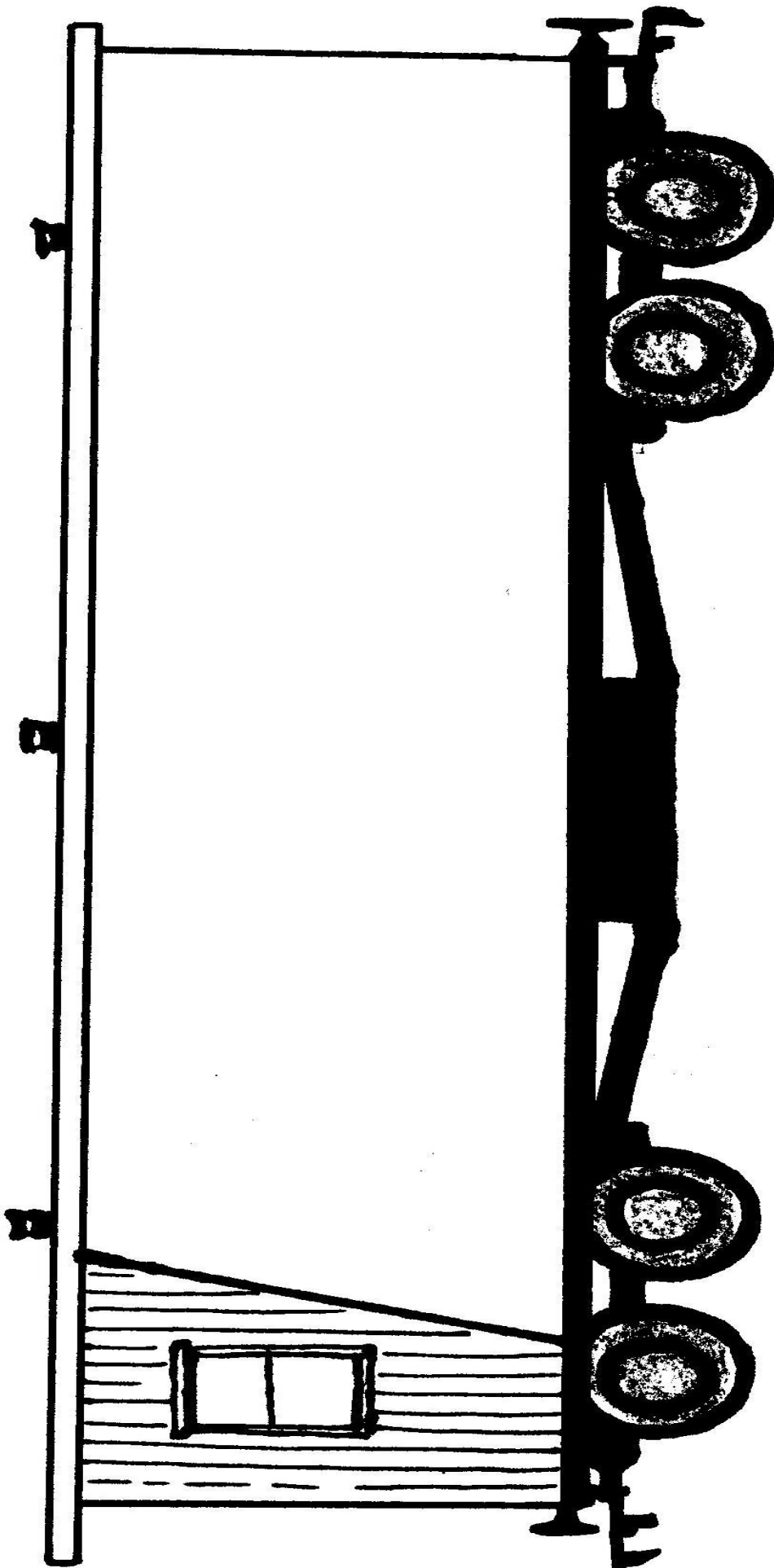
Carefully cut out the house outline. Use corrugated cardboard to cover the outside of your house. (You might like to also add the water tank. Refer to the fold-out illustration of Katherine's town in the book)

Paint a suitably dusty background (You can scatter and glue on some coloured sand) even the train arriving in the distance.

Draw in the Sugar and Tea railway route and also mark in the towns on the sign as well as some of the other towns/sidings that no longer exist. Mark in the Eyre Highway and some of the towns on that road. Use the *Distance Measure* app to find the distance between the locations on the map.





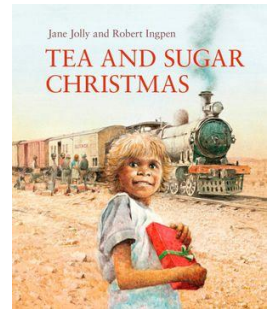


### Railway Carriage

In the railway carriage template either draw a shopping scene similar to those in the book or fill the space with images of old product packages that people would have purchased from the train 100 years ago. (Also in the book)

## TEA and SUGAR CHRISTMAS

## CLOZE



For an astonishing 81 1....., the Tea and Sugar train--no. 5205--carted mixed goods from Port Augusta to 2..... The 1050km rail link stretched across the dusty 3..... Plain, making repeated supply stops along the way, delighting and uplifting the local settlers.

This train was a true 4..... for these isolated people. It supplied regular groceries, fresh 5..... and vegetables, meat, and even banking facilities and the occasional theatre car for showing 6..... It also supplied invaluable news and information, medical and dental services, even a monthly priest to perform baptisms and weddings.

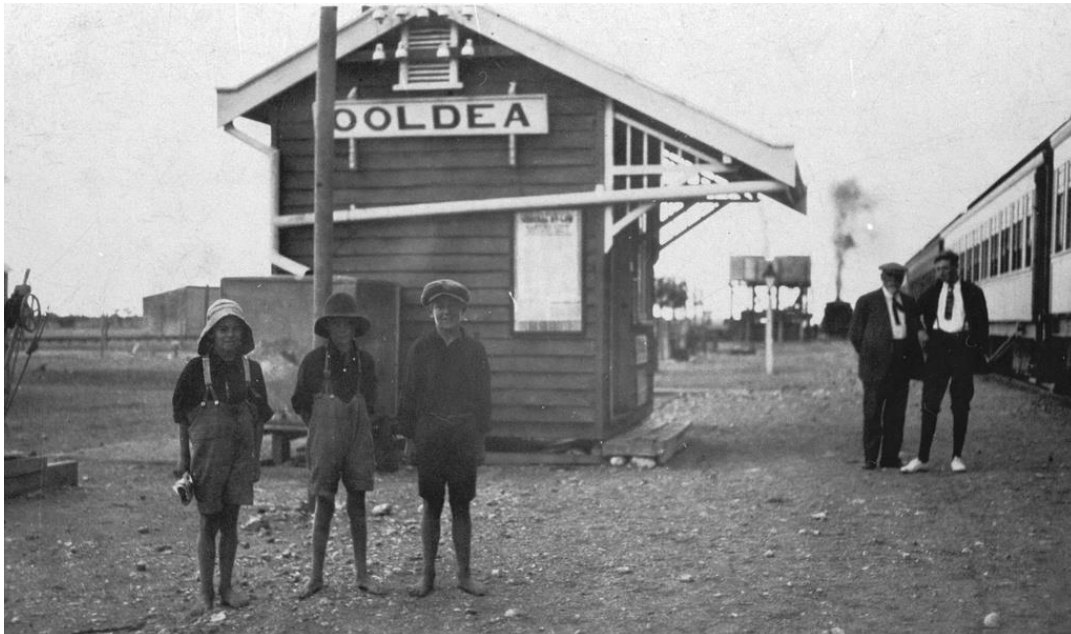
At Christmas time, however, train no. 5205 supplied something magical.

The first Thursday of December, it carried Father 7.....

In *Tea and Sugar Christmas*, young 8..... waits with enormous anticipation for the train. The family has no sugar left and the tea has run dry. The train resupplies each 9....., so Kathleen often needs to wait for sugar, but she doesn't mind because this Thursday is 10....., this Thursday is the first Thursday of December.

As she waits in the searing heat, she sees the  
11..... snaking slowly along the distant rail line.  
She grabs a wheelbarrow and barrels out to the line. As she  
runs, her neighbours 12..... her, and soon there is  
an army of happy people, dressed up , chanting and cheering  
the train's arrival.

Santa's white 13.....is blinding, his clothes so  
Christmas 14....., his gift bag is endless--and very  
soon it's Kathleen's turn to receive her gift. It was a  
15.....



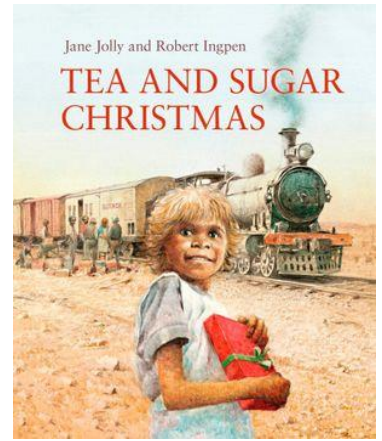
B 57193 Reproduction rights: State Library of South Australia

Choose from:

Kalgoorlie	years	fruit
special red	Nullabor	join
lifeline	movies	book beard
Thursday	Christmas	train Kathleen

# TEA and SUGAR CHRISTMAS

## Crossword



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10



**ACROSS**

- 2. What did they forget to buy from the train?
- 5. The ..... tree was decorated by the children on the line.
- 7. Kathleen got a ..... from Father Christmas.
- 8. .... and Sugar Train
- 9. the Christmas train came on ..... (day of the week)
- 10. What kind of bird croaked and flapped away?

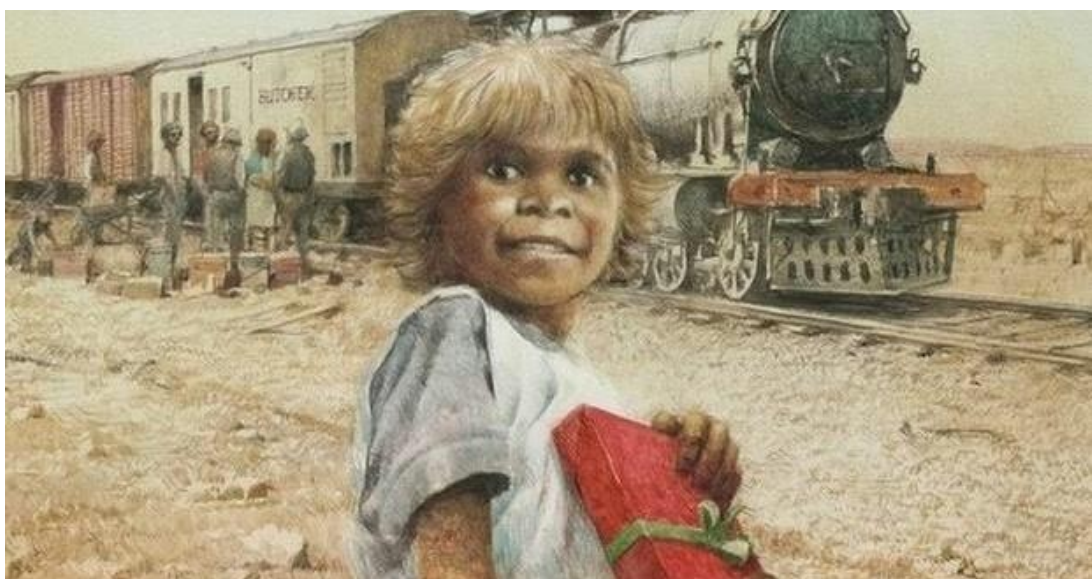
**DOWN**

- 1. name of the girl waiting for the train.
- 3. Kathleen wanted a ..... for Christmas.
- 4. Kathleen ran toward the train with the .....
- 6. the special ..... train only came once a year.
- 7. The white ..... of Father Christmas was blinding.

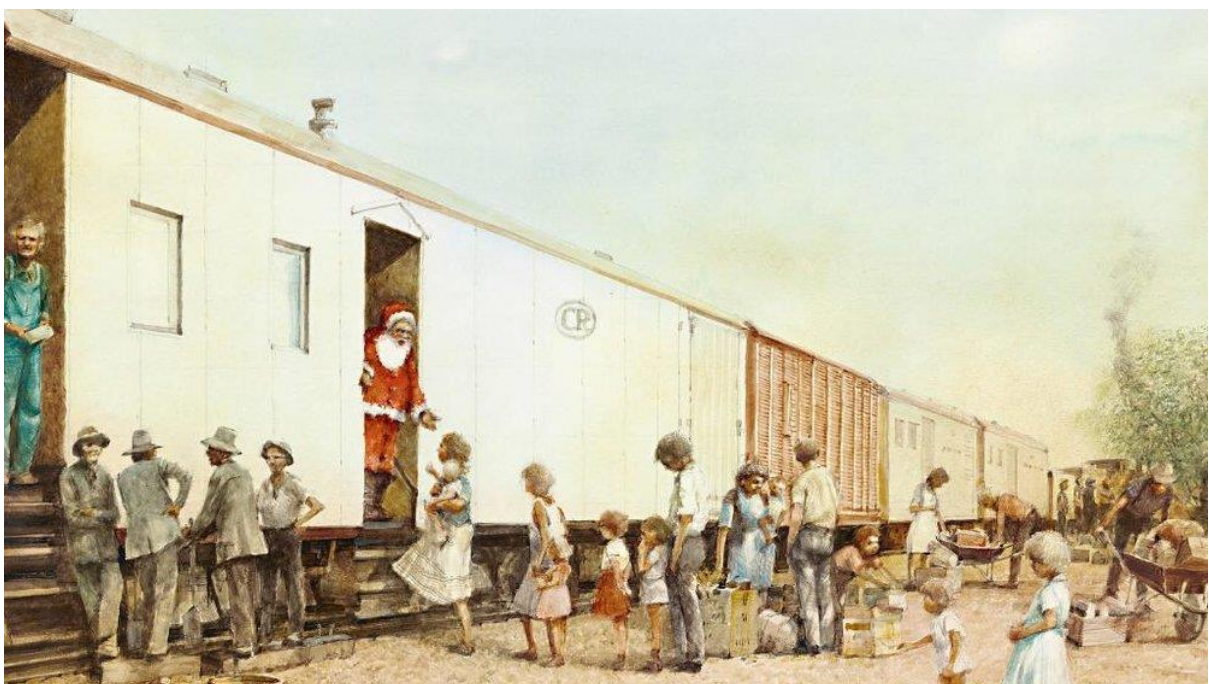
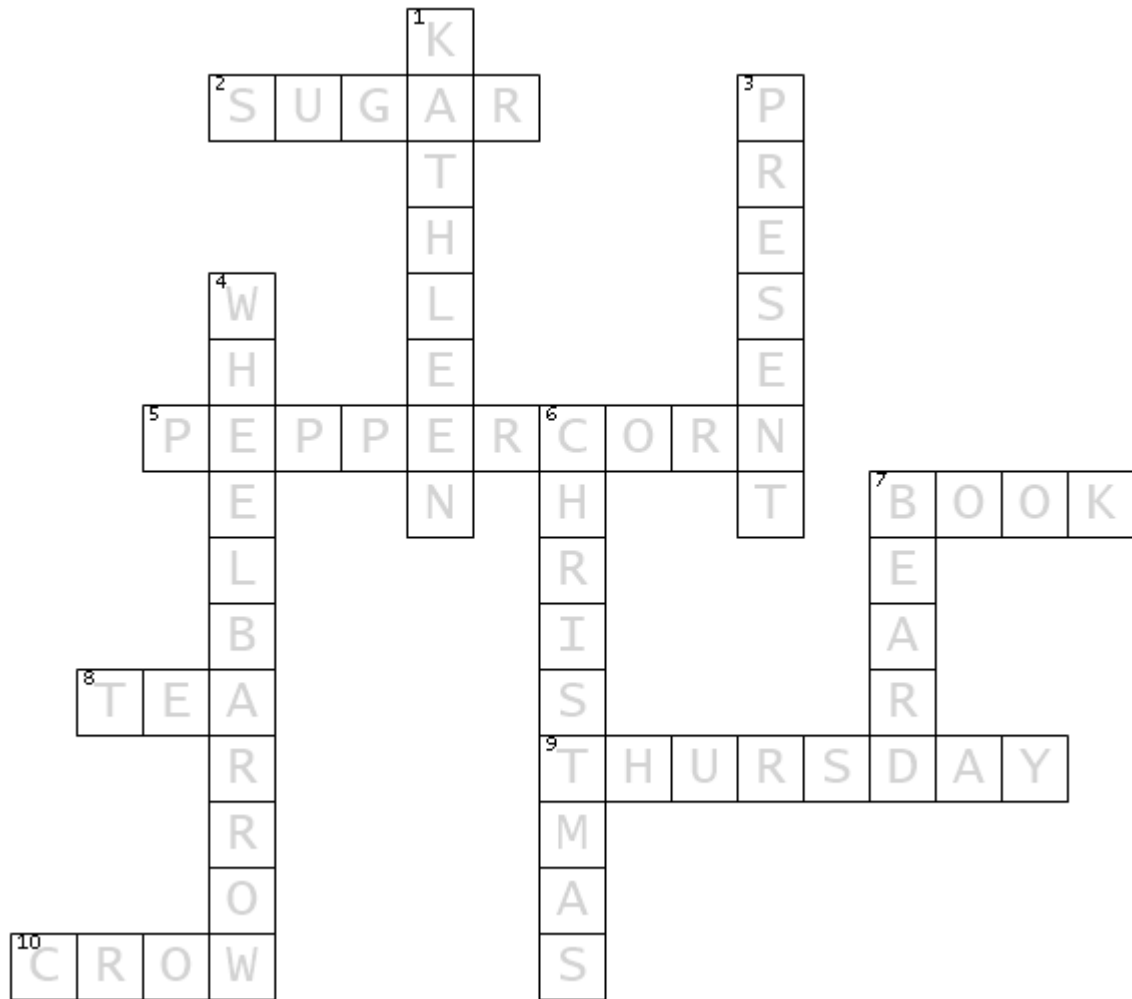
Use the clues to fill in the words above.

*Words can go across or down.*

*Letters are shared when the words intersect.*

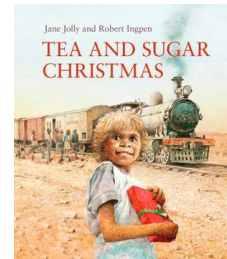


# Answers



# TEA and SUGAR CHRISTMAS

## wordsearch



D W T M S I R R E G G J  
N R O Y T P C P A G W T  
E T A R O H A E T G N V  
E C B E C Q U T J E U D  
L L U C B T R R S J R S  
H B O O K A R E S A F D  
T C V X C Y R A U D U D  
A P J K P P T G I H A F  
K S N T R E S E D N N Y  
W O R R A B L E E H W I  
P E P P E R C O R N A E  
X A F C K E M L V J E S

beard      book      crow  
desert      guard      Kathleen  
peppercorn      present      sugar  
tea      Thursday      track  
train      wheelbarrow

- Find the word in the puzzle.
- Words can go in any direction.
- Words do not share letters.





## Abandoned train station and old steam trains stimulus pictures

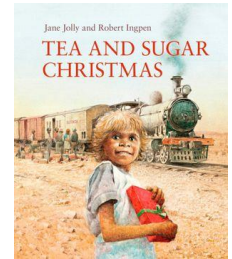
(Lal Lal Train station and old trains awaiting restoration at Ballarat East Train Depot)







# TEA and SUGAR CHRISTMAS



In the book the local children decorate a peppercorn tree. (They were the only large tree they had available.) **Make your own pine tree using the directions below.**

## The Christmas Pine

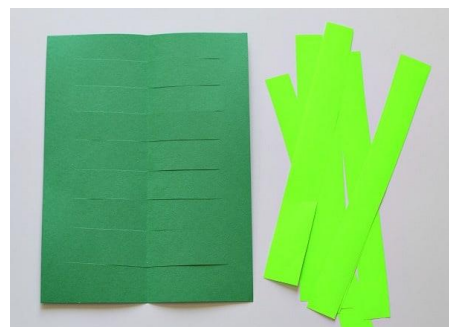
### Materials for Woven Christmas Tree Craft

- Construction paper or cardstock in contrasting green colors (This assortment of construction paper has one shade of green, as well as the brown and yellow you'll need. You could use this light green or dark green as a contrasting green.)
- Brown and yellow construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Masking tape
- Optional embellishments: sequins, dot stickers, glitter, tissue paper etc.



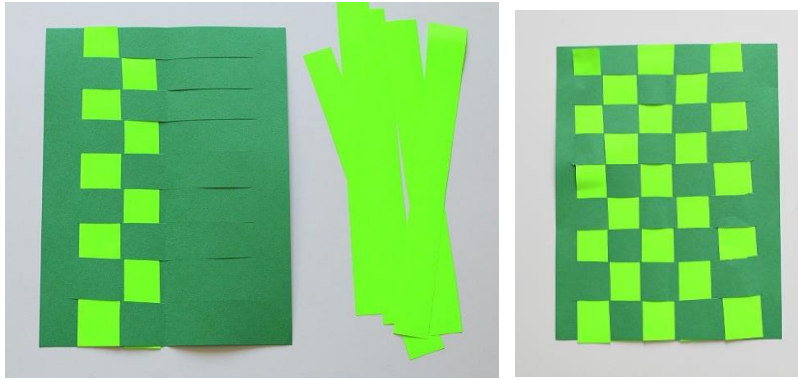
### Directions for Making Woven Christmas Tree Craft

1. Fold one sheet of green construction paper in half vertically. Cut one-inch slits down the folded centre. (Be sure not to cut all the way to the edge.)



2. Cut your contrasting green paper vertically into one-inch strips of paper so they are as tall as your vertical paper with slits.

3. Weave the strips through the slits in the paper.



4. Tear off strips of masking tape to create a triangular tree shape onto your woven paper. (This tape will hold the strips in place when cutting.)



5. Cut out your tree by cutting right along the centre of your pieces of masking tape.

6. Flip your tree over to the front. Glue down any ends that are not secure.

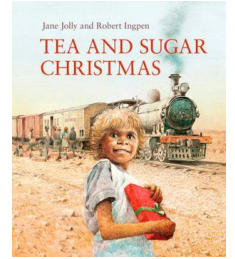
7. Cut out a star from your yellow construction paper and glue it to the top of your tree.

8. Make a trunk for your tree by cutting out a brown rectangle and gluing it to the bottom of your tree.

**From:** <https://buggyandbuddy.com/christmas-crafts-kids-woven-paper-christmas-tree/>

Also Pine cone tree art: <https://pisandpaint.com/crafts/pinecone-christmas-tree-craft/>





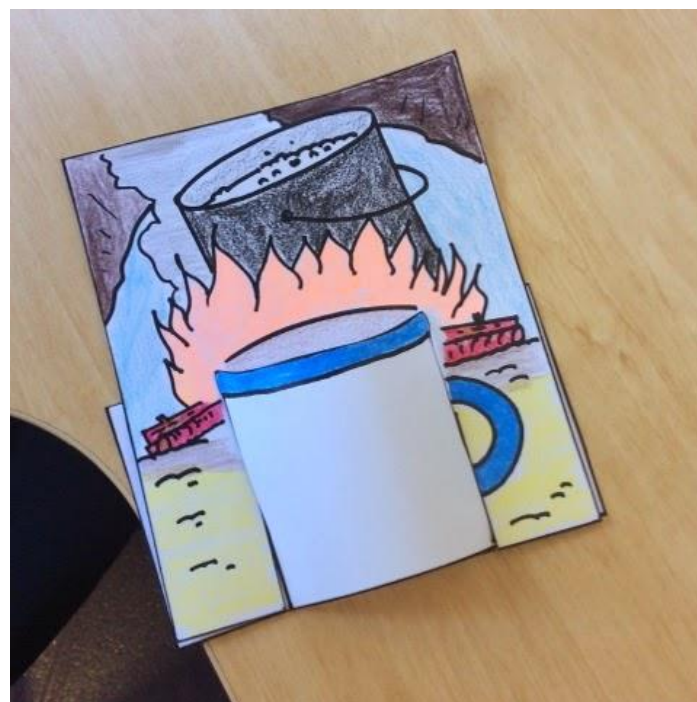
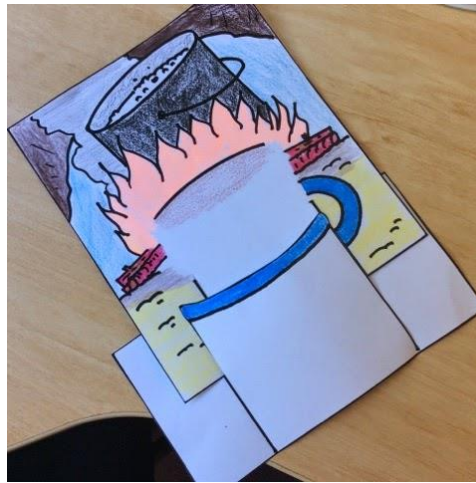
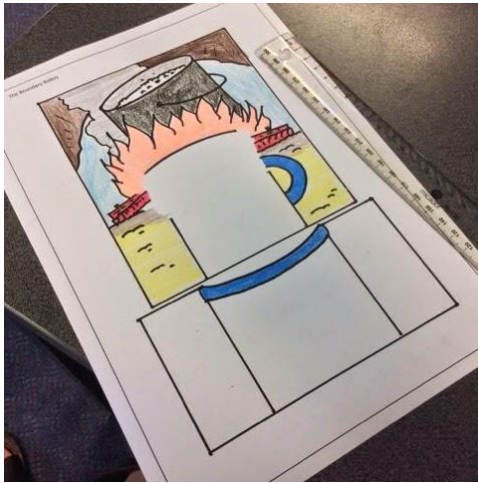
## TEA and SUGAR CHRISTMAS

### Making a hot cup of tea

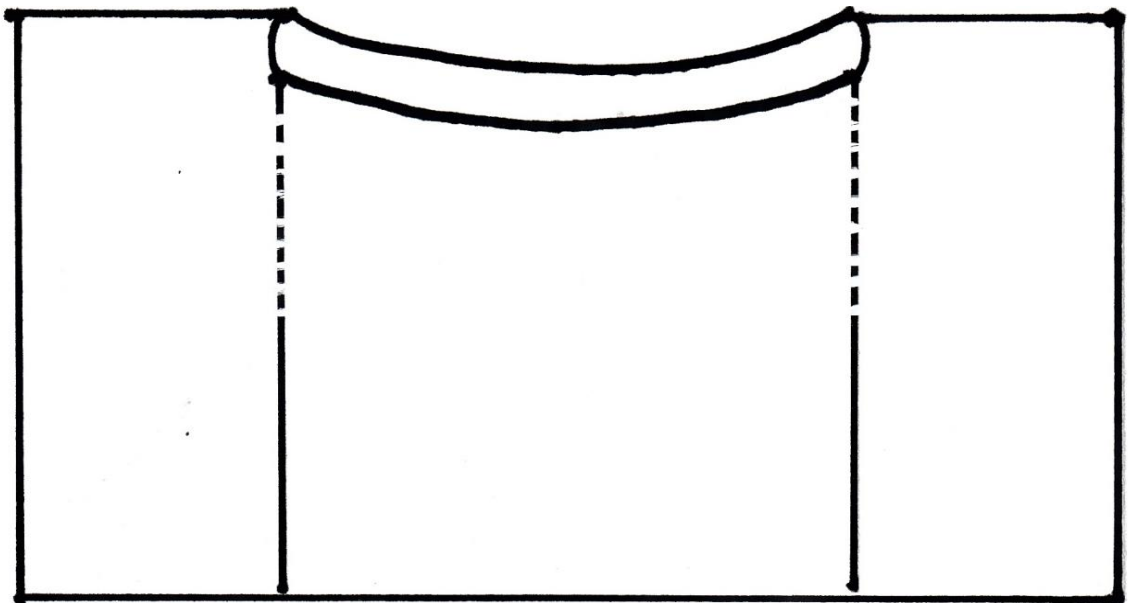
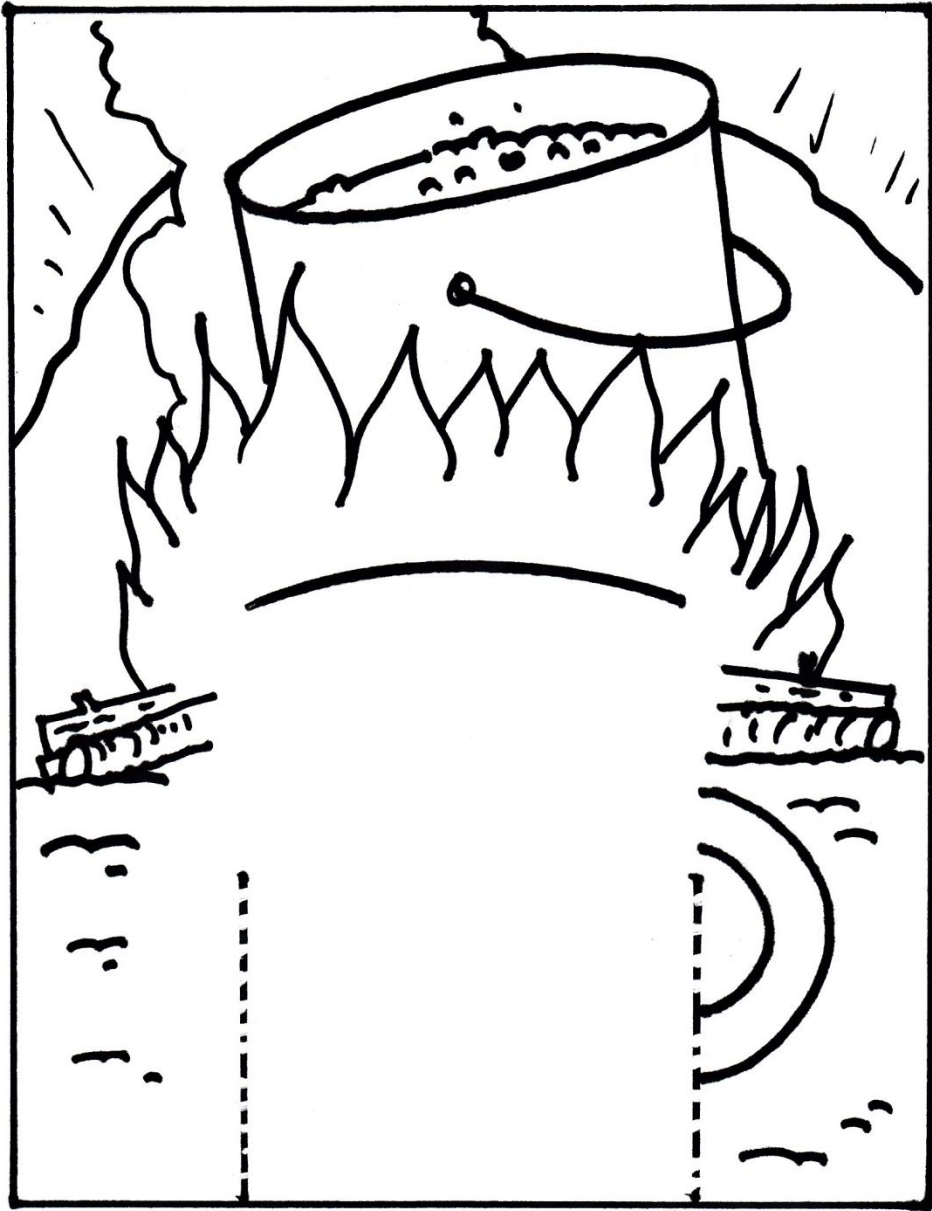
Tea is one of the staple shopping items for the people who live along the rail line. Tea would be boiled up by the railway workers in billies for 'smoko'. Create a billy tea and mug picture.

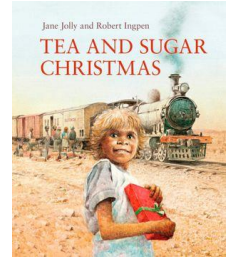
They probably drank from enamel cups which would probably have had a blue rim and handle and a white cup, but you can colour it any colour.

Colour in, cut along the dotted lines and slot together. Tape at the back and mount for display.







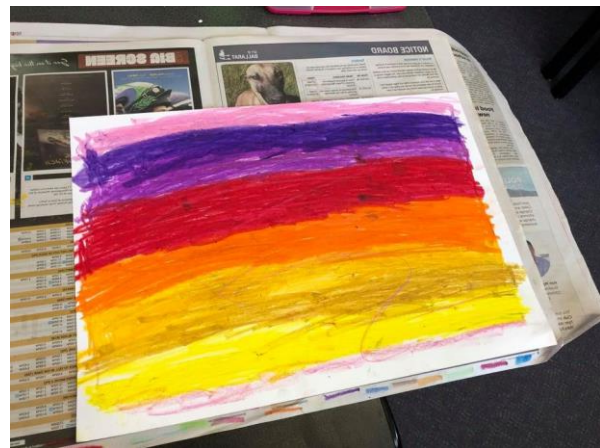


## TEA and SUGAR CHRISTMAS

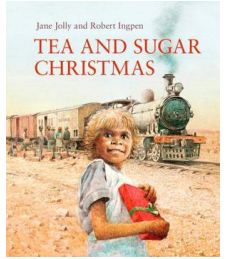
Create a silhouette picture of the outback.



Student samples and a photo taken at dusk near Glen Park Primary School.

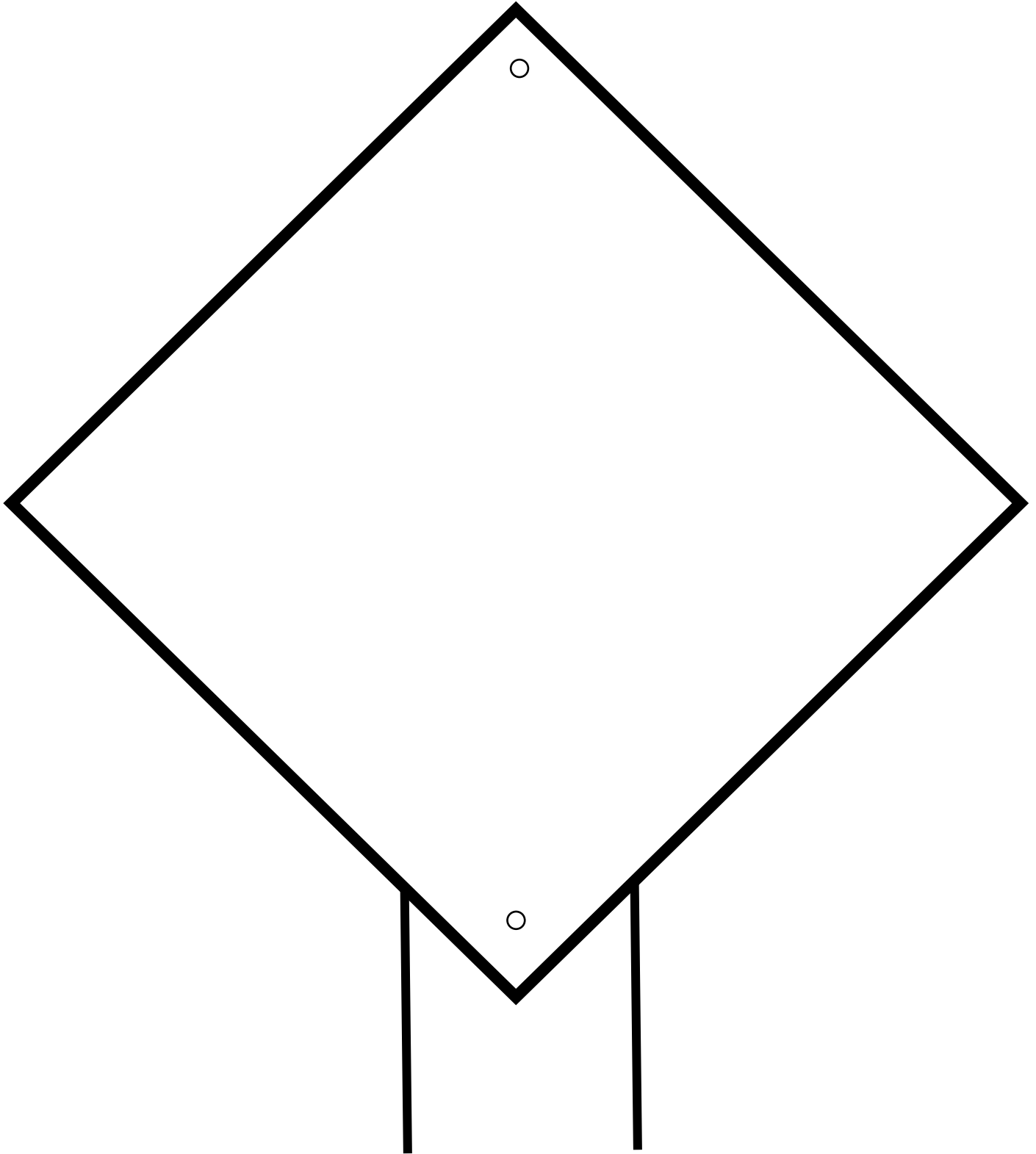


You will need black A3 cover paper and white (if your budget runs to it, A3 water colour paper) A3 card. You can use water colour paint or pastels for the bush sky.



# TEA and SUGAR CHRISTMAS

Design a road crossing sign for Tea and Sugar Train  
(Copy on card) Make it distinctive



## Emails from the author

Hi Tony,

So lovely to hear from you and that you have included Tea and Sugar Christmas on your literature list.

I would be delighted to receive the unit of work which you have made.

I hope you enjoy the last few weeks of school, especially now that Vic is moving out of lockdown. We are holding our breath here in SA to see what happens when our borders open .

Thanks for contacting me and you can use the e-mail address above.

Cheers,

Jane

On 8 Nov 2021, at 6:03 pm, Anthony Shaw wrote:

8 children in total Jane

Our address is 265 Ralstons Road Glen Park 3352 (Thank you but you don't have to send us anything)

Sent from my iPad

I don't have to but I would like to!

And I forgot to say that your unit of work on Tea and Sugar Christmas is outstanding! Thanks for sharing it with me.

Cheers

Jane

Jane Jolly

Children's Author

Website: [www.janejolly.com](http://www.janejolly.com)

E-mail: [janejolly.1@bigpond.com](mailto:janejolly.1@bigpond.com)

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Strathalbyn SA 5255



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*True to her word Jane did send us a 'care package'. Thanks Jane.*

