

# Reading & Thinking Book 2 - Contents

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# How The Sun Came To Be

**All tribes have their own stories of how the sun first came to be. This tale comes from Central Victoria.**

Early in the Dreamtime, before the sun had begun to shine, there was a young woman who decided to leave her tribe because the elders would not allow her to marry the man of her choice.

She went a long way from the tribe and hid in a dry, rocky area. There was very little food and water, and no safe place to sleep. The young woman was hungry, thirsty and tired but she would not give up and return to her people. Later she saw that a group of men from her tribe were coming to take her back by force. She ran even further into the driest part of the land.

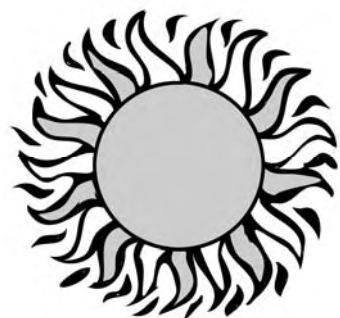
Soon she was exhausted and bruised by branches and rocks. She was near to death, but somehow she managed to keep going. Eventually her ancestor spirits became so concerned for the young woman, they lifted her gently away into the sky world, where she slept peacefully for a long time.

When she awoke she found plenty of food and water and lit a campfire. She was all alone but not afraid, and grateful that she was at last warm and safe. She was determined to live alone forever rather than return to her tribe, but as she looked down on them she saw that most of the men and women were sad that she had gone, and her heart began to soften. After a few days, she found she was feeling very homesick but now she belonged to the sky world and was unable to return home.

As she watched her people, she saw that they were cold. Being occupied with the chores of daily life, they could not sit by their campfires and keep warm as she now could.

The young woman decided to build up her campfire and make it so big that it would warm all the people down below as they went about their day. So all day long she built up her fire to give warmth to her people, and as night came she let her fire die down as they were then able to sit by their own campfires.

When she saw how happy this made her people, she made up her mind to light her campfire afresh each day. Soon her people began to look each morning for her sky-world fire. They were very grateful for the warmth it gave them, and they called it 'The Sun'.



**Remember**

1 Where does this tale come from?

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2 Why did the woman leave the tribe?

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3 Why couldn't the people sit by the campfires during the day?

---

**Understand**

4 What is the main idea of the dreamtime legend?

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5 Who saved the young woman?

---

6 What is the difference between a spirit ancestor and a human?

---

**Apply**

7 What question would you ask of the young woman?

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8 Describe in your own words the emotions the young woman felt towards the tribe.

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**Analyse**

9 Why do you think Aborigines told Dreamtime stories?

**Evaluate**

10 Do you think Dreamtime legends are helpful for explaining how things came to be in nature?

**Create**

11 Write your own Dreamtime legend, explaining how the moon or stars came to be.

**Hands on**

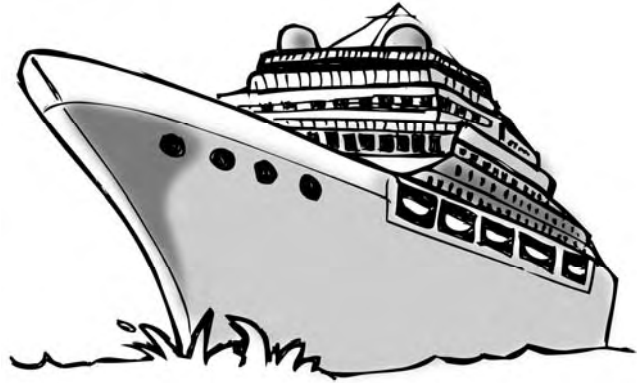
Paint a scene from this Dreamtime legend.

# It Floats!

We don't usually stop to wonder why a big cruise ship can float as well as a feather. This activity helps to explain why.

## What you'll need

- 1 solid wooden building block
- 1 plastic cap from a bottle
- 2 pieces of aluminium foil (heavy duty if you have it)
- 1 chunk of clay or plasticine
- 1 pair of pliers
- 1 bathtub (or sink) filled with water



## What to do

- 1 Hold the wooden block in one hand and the plastic cap in the other hand. Which one feels heavier? Do you think the wooden block will float, or will it sink? Will the plastic cap float or sink?
- 2 Put both of them on the water to test your predictions. What happens? Put both of them under the water. What happens now?
- 3 Take a piece of aluminium foil and squeeze it into a solid ball with the pliers. Drop it in the water. Does it float or sink?
- 4 Get another piece the same size and shape it into a little boat. Place it on top of the water. Does it float now?
- 5 Try the same experiment with clay. Make a ball and drop it in the water. What happens?
- 6 Shape the clay into a boat and put it on the water. Does it float now?

The clay and foil balls sink because they are squeezed into small shapes, and only a small amount of water is trying to hold up the weight. When you spread out the clay or foil it floats because the weight is supported by a lot more water.

**Remember**

1 What does this activity help to explain?

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2 How do you test your predictions in step 2?

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3 Why do the clay and foil float when spread out?

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**Understand**

4 Why do you need two pieces of aluminium foil?

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5 Why would you need pliers to make the aluminium foil ball?

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6 What is the main idea of floating? Explain

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**Apply**

7 Would this information be useful if you were designing a new type of watercraft? Explain.

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8 Name two other very heavy objects that can float.

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**Analyse**

9 What is a possible problem with these experiments?

**Evaluate**

10 Do you believe science experiments are a good or bad thing? Explain.

**Create**

11 Design a new watercraft for a specific purpose. Label the features that make it unique. Describe the materials the watercraft will be made from.

**Hands on**

Use the library or internet to research the *Titanic*. What claims were made about the boat? Was it the shape, construction or another factor that led to its end?

# Sumo Hopes to Hit it Big in Australia

Two dozen Sumo wrestlers hoping to hit it big in Australia stopped traffic on Thursday as they stomped across the Sydney Harbour Bridge displaying more than 3630 kilograms of jiggly flesh on their way to the Entertainment Centre.

The wrestlers, representing nine countries, weighed in for Saturday's 'Battle of the Giants', an event that organisers plan as the kick-off to an Australian tour starting next spring.

'It is the perfect sport for me,' said 2.01-metre Torsten Scheibler of Germany, who tipped the scale at 199 kilograms.

Scheibler, who won the gold medal in a tournament last week in Osaka, Japan, took up Japan's national sport after studying judo. 'Fans are most interested in seeing big guys,' he said, describing his technique as being 'like rhinos colliding'.

The heaviest sumo was 1.85-metre Hungarian Deszo Libor, at 209 kilograms. He finished second in Osaka.

The others that topped the 200-kg mark were Mitshuhiko Fukao of Japan, and Hawaiian Oni pa'a Imua Pa'a'aina, who said he missed the usual breakfast he makes for himself back home.

'I usually have a dozen eggs, five cups of rice and a pack of bacon,' he said.

First prize in the tournament is \$10 000.



**Remember**

1 How many sumo wrestlers stopped traffic on Thursday?

---

2 How did Scheibler describe his technique?

---

3 How heavy is the heaviest sumo mentioned in the recount?

---

**Understand**

4 What does Scheibler mean when he describes his technique?

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5 Why would Scheibler say the sport is perfect for him?

---

6 Can sumo wrestling be a profitable sport? Explain.

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**Apply**

7 Would this sport be suitable for a person of normal size? Explain.

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8 What question would you ask Scheibler?

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**Analyse**

9 What might be some of the problems of being a sumo wrestler?

**Evaluate**

10 Do you believe Sumo wrestling could become popular in Australia? Explain.

**Create**

11 Design a poster to advertise sumo wrestling in your town.

**Hands on**

Research other sports that are popular in other countries but rarely seen in Australia. Why aren't these sports popular in Australia? Why might they be popular in other countries?

# Advance Australia Fair

The original words and music were written and composed by Peter Dodds McCormick in about 1878. In 1983, a new version of the song was chosen by the Australian government as the national anthem.

Australians all let us rejoice,  
 For we are young and free,  
 We've golden soils and wealth for toil;  
 Our home is girt by sea;  
 Our land abounds in nature's gifts  
 Of beauty rich and rare;  
 In history's page, let every stage  
 Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross,  
 We'll toil with hearts and hands;  
 To make this Commonwealth of ours  
 Renowned of all the lands;  
 For those who've come across the seas  
 We've boundless plains to share;  
 With courage let us all combine  
 To Advance Australia Fair.

In joyful strains then let us sing,  
 Advance Australia Fair.

## GLOSSARY

**abounds:** has many

**boundless:** limitless, never-ending

**girt:** surrounded

**radiant:** shining

**rejoice:** celebrate

**renowned:** outstanding

**strains:** music

**toil:** work



**Remember**

1 Why should all Australians rejoice or celebrate?

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2 When was a new version of this song chosen by the Australian government?

---

3 What does 'girt' mean?

---

**Understand**

4 What is the main idea of the song? Explain.

---



---

5 In your own words explain 'Our land abounds in nature's gifts of beauty rich and rare'.

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---

6 In your own words explain 'With courage let us all combine to Advance Australia Fair'.

---



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**Apply**

7 What are some examples of animals or plants that live only in Australia?

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---

8 What question would you ask the government about why this song was chosen as the national anthem?

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**Analyse**

9 What is a possible problem with the government choosing a national anthem for the country?

**Evaluate**

10 Do you believe 'Advance Australia Fair' is the best song to represent Australians throughout the world? Explain.

**Create**

11 Rewrite or change the national anthem so that is easily understood by everyone.

**Hands on**

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Survey a wide range of Australians (age, various countries of origin, etc) about the national anthem. Do people believe this is the best song to represent Australia as a country? Ask for reasons. Use a graph of your choice to present your information.

# Tigers

Tigers are the largest of the big cats, with huge heads. The average male tiger's body grows to over 2 metres long, plus a 1-metre-long tail.

Tigers live in the forests of Asia, Sumatra and Java, but as hunters kill them for their skin and farmers clear the forest for land, they are becoming very rare. They now live on special reserves.

Tigers prey on large animals such as deer, buffalo, antelopes and wild pigs. They hunt silently at night, stalking their prey, and then making a sudden bound.

A tiger is fast and strong but tires quickly. The tiger will give up if it fails to catch its prey the first time.

Adult tigers usually live alone, and males try to keep other males out of their territory. When two tigers meet, they rub one another's heads in greeting. A male tiger's territory often includes that of two or three females. However, they only meet to mate. Tigers mark out their territory by scratching trees and urinating on them.

Usually, two to four cubs are born at a time. The cubs are playful and boisterous, and are totally dependent on their mother for 2 to 3 years.

A tiger's stripes make it instantly recognisable, but they make good camouflage in long grass under trees. Each tiger has its own unique pattern of stripes.

White tigers are rare. They have blue eyes, and their stripes are brown and white, not black and gold.



**Remember**

1 Where do tigers live?

---

2 How do tigers mark out their territory?

---

3 How many cubs are usually born at a time?

---

**Understand**

4 How long is an average male tiger in total?

---

5 Is the tiger a perseverant animal? Explain.

---

6 Are male tigers very social animals?

---

**Apply**

7 How are a tiger's stripes like a human's fingerprints? Explain.

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8 Explain in your own words what 'territorial' means in relation to tigers.

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**Analyse**

9 Why are white tigers more in danger than other tigers?

**Evaluate**

10 Do you believe tigers should be a protected species? Explain.

**Create**

11 Write an acrostic poem about tigers.

**Hands on**

Hold a class debate on the topic 'Tigers should be a protected species'. Challenge yourself to debate both sides of the argument.

## ***EYE OF THE HURRICANE***



Hurricanes are powerful, whirling tropical storms. They are also called willy-willies, cyclones or typhoons.

Hurricanes develop in late summer, as clusters of thunderstorms build up over warm seas (at least 27°C). As hurricanes grow, they tighten into a spiral with a calm ring of low pressure called 'the eye' in the centre.

Hurricanes move westwards at about 20 km/h. They strike east coasts, bringing torrential rain and wind gusts up to 360 km/h. Officially, a hurricane is a storm with winds exceeding 119 km/h.

Hurricanes last, on average, 3–14 days. They die out as they move into cooler air towards the poles.

Each hurricane is given a name in alphabetical order each year from a list issued by the World Meteorological Organization. The first storm of the year might be, for instance, Hurricane Andrew.

The most fatal cyclone ever was the one that struck Bangladesh in 1970. It killed 266 000 people with the flood from the storm surge — the rapid rise in sea level created as winds drive the ocean waters onto land.

A hurricane generates the same energy every second as a small hydrogen bomb.

Hurricane Hunters fly close to the eye of a hurricane. These are special weather planes that fly into the storm to take measurements. It is a dangerous job for the pilots, but the information they gather helps to predict the hurricane's path — and save lives.

**Remember**

1 When do hurricanes develop?

---

2 How long do hurricanes last on average?

---

3 How are hurricanes given a name?

---



---

**Understand**

4 Why are hurricane's dangerous? Explain.

---



---

5 What could a hurricane be named at the beginning of the year?

---

6 Why is a Hurricane Hunter's job dangerous? Explain.

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**Apply**

7 Write in your own words how Hurricane Hunters can save people's lives.

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8 What question would you ask a Hurricane Hunter?

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**Analyse**

9 What are some of the problems when trying to protect people from a hurricane?

**Evaluate**

10 Do you believe keeping records of major weather events like hurricanes is useful to scientists? Explain.

**Create**

11 Design a home that would be hurricane proof but still pleasant to live in.

**Hands on**

Use the library or internet to research hurricanes over the past 12 months. Mark the hurricane locations on a world map. Are some areas more likely to have hurricanes? Why?