

Superintendent is Coming!

Diane Hassall



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Acknowledgements: Shutterstock p.23 ID:1155844504 robdowner Long road landscape with mountains.

Dean Maynard illustrations: Dorm building, bottle trees, Dawson River ranges, FJ Holden, Ludwig Leichhardt, humpy, fire scene, Dawson River landscape.

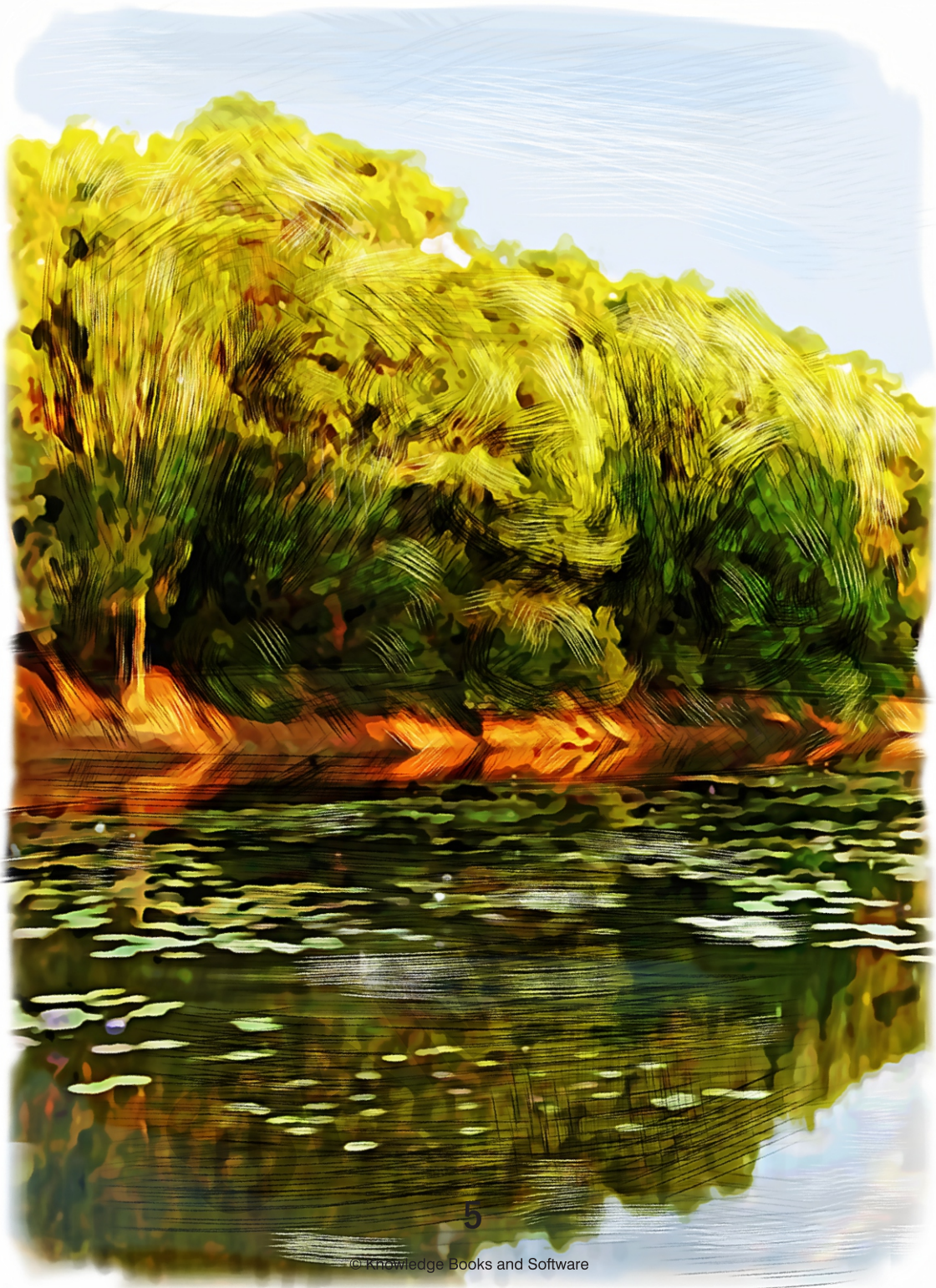
Diane Hassall: © Copyright images, p.9 Marcia Hassall, p.19 Diane Hassall.



I am a Yiman woman from Central Queensland. The Yiman are one of the First Peoples of the Taroom area in Central Queensland. Our people were great hunters and warriors who travelled South to the Bunya gatherings with many other nations. We ate bunya nuts for many weeks. The first white man to explore our nation was Ludwig Leichardt. We helped him travel through our area. He stayed with our people as he moved North. We were friendly and helped him. And then the new people arrived and it became a war with our people. This war was over our land and who could use it. It was also over who could take the food from the land and the water. It was a very bad time for my people!



My nine siblings and I were born in Rockhampton in Central Queensland. This story is about my Nana who lived near the Dawson Ranges in Central Queensland. My Nana was a Yiman woman from Taroom on the Dawson River. The Dawson River was where my Nana got food and water. It was a wonderful and special place for my Nana. My Nana was moved from Taroom and forced to walk, carrying her baby, my mother, over 210 kilometres to Woorabinda. This was called a Mission which the white superintendents had built to house our people. My Nana had to stay in this Mission!



One day, my Nana heard that the children who were called half-caste were being taken away to a dormitory to live. The children who may have had a white father were called half-caste. My Mum had brown skin because my great grandmother married a Chinaman who lived in the Taroom area. He was employed to build the roads with bricks at the time.

SAMPLE



Word bank

Yiman	charcoal	Aboriginal
Queensland	humpy	minerals
Woorabinda	Government	energy
warriors	kangaroos	
Bunya	emu	
gatherings	goannas	
Ludwig	vegetable	
Leichardt	Carnarvon Gorge	
Taroom	beautiful	
siblings	grazing	
Rockhampton	eucalypt	
superintendents	struggle	
Mission	separated	
half-caste	forbidden	
dormitory	language	
Chinaman	community	
brown-coloured	re-enacts	

Reading Recovery Level: 26

Word count: 938

Content: Personal Recount/Reflection

ACARA F-10 references:

Learning Areas: English; Science; Humanities and Social Sciences; The Arts; Languages.

General Capabilities: Literacy; Critical and Creative Thinking; Personal and Social Capability; Intercultural Understanding.

Cross Curriculum Priorities: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures; Sustainability.

Teacher Notes:

Superintendent is Coming! is an incredible true story of the lengths an Aboriginal family went to to ensure that their family stayed together during the time of *The Stolen Generations*. It explains the importance of family, their sheer resilience in the face of adversity, and their reliance on the land to ensure their survival and the maintenance of the traditional Yiman culture.

Discussion points for consideration:

1. Find examples in the story of how the Yiman community used the land to ensure their survival.
2. Talk about your favourite part of the story and why.
3. Do you think that this kind of thing would be allowed in today's society? What do you know about *The Stolen Generations*?

Difficult words to be introduced and practised before reading this book:

Yiman, Queensland, Woorabinda, warriors, Bunya, gatherings, Ludwig, Leichardt, Taroom, siblings, Rockhampton, superintendents, Mission, half-caste, dormitory, chinaman, brown-coloured, charcoal, humpy, Government, kangaroos, emu, goannas, vegetable, beautiful, grazing, eucalypt, struggle, separated, forbidden, language, community, re-enacts, Aboriginal, minerals, energy, Carnarvon Gorge.

Acknowledgement of the First Nations' People: We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Sensitivity Notice: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are **warned** that the following series does contain images - photographs and illustrations and text about deceased persons.

Superintendent is Coming!

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Author's Bio:

Hello! I am Diane Hassall. Yiman Elder among many other things. My mother Marcia Hassall, White nee Hopkins, has played a major role in forging my future. Mum lived a life of holding us together, for our family, and for the Aboriginal people of the Central Highlands, and Central Queensland, and Australia. In searching for this better way of life; I have found that knowing who Jesus is also knowing who Our Father is! We are One Big Family!



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