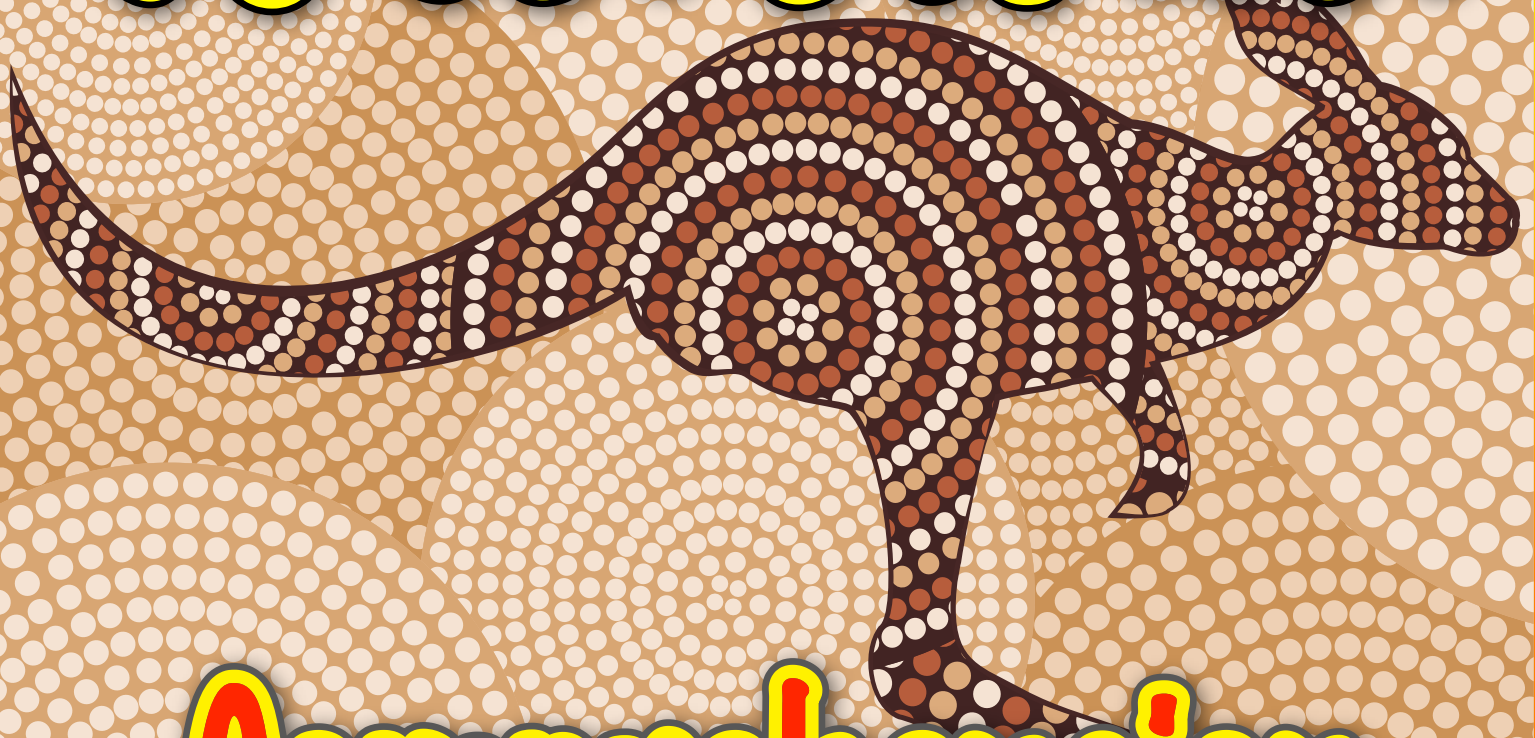


Waltzing Matilda



Comprehension

Waltzing Matilda

Once a jolly **swagman** camped by a **billabong**
Under the shade of a **coolibah** tree,
And he sang as he watched and waited till his **billy** boiled,
"You'll come a-**Waltzing Matilda**, with me".

Down came a **jumbuck** to drink at that billabong,
Up jumped the swagman and grabbed him with glee,
And he sang as he shoved that jumbuck in his **Tucker Bag**,
"You'll come a-**Waltzing Matilda**, with me".

Up rode the **squatter**, mounted on his **thoroughbred**,
Down came the **troopers**, one, two, three,
"Where's that jolly jumbuck you've got in your tucker bag?"
"You'll come a-**Waltzing Matilda**, with me".

Up jumped the swagman and sprang into the billabong,
"You'll never catch me alive", said he,
And his ghost may be heard as you pass by that billabong,
"You'll come a-**Waltzing Matilda**, with me".

This is what the words in **blue** mean:

Waltzing: travelling

Matilda: bag

swagman: a worker who travels in search of work

billabong: small lake

coolibah: eucalyptus tree

jumbuck: sheep

billy: can for boiling water

Tucker Bag: food bag

troopers: policemen

squatter: farmers who used land that was not theirs

thoroughbred: well-bred Horse

Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'sprang'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'sprang' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'sprang'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'sprang'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'sprang' means.

Try this for other words, too. 

Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

| Key word | Synonym (similar word) |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Example: glee | joy |
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| | |

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

A squatter and some troopers arrived, and asked where the jumbuck was.

The swagman leaped up and grabbed the jumbuck.

Ever since his death, the swagman's ghost can be heard singing by people passing the billabong.

A swagman near a billabong sang as he waited for his billy to boil.

In reply, the swagman jumped into the billabong, saying "You'll never catch me alive".

A jumbuck came down to drink at the billabong.

Get to the facts

- 1 What did the swagman do as he watched and waited till his billy boiled?
- 2 Which animal came down to drink at the billabong?
- 3 Where did the swagman shove the jumbuck?
- 4 Who was mounted on a thoroughbred?
- 5 What may be heard as you pass by the billabong?

Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

The swagman's ghost

Imagine you have come across the billabong where the story took place. It is a calm, hot day with no breeze. Suddenly, the surface of the water starts to ripple. Before your eyes, the ghost of the swagman rises out of the billabong... (now complete the story)

Below is a plain text version for printing:

Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'sprang'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'sprang' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'sprang'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'sprang'.
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Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – glee Synonym – joy

Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

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The swagman leaped up and grabbed the jumbuck.

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