FROM REEF TO RIGGER: This is My Place!

A CCLC Project 2013

Teachers' Resources & Activities List

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Local teachers are invited to conduct activities with their students related to the theme, From Reef to Rigger: This is My Place! in preparation for the visit of Alison Lester, inaugural Australian Children’s Laureate to the Gladstone Region from 30 July–2 August 2013. This list contains suggested book titles, activities and links.

The Challenge

Exploring the idea of ‘my place’ is about how you see your area, and also about how someone else might see it as well. We all see things differently.

A few years ago the CCLC organised a project called From Metal to Mangroves. This one is called From Reef to Rigger. How would you describe the area? Come up with a slogan/ story/image which describes the way this unique coastal environment and industry meet.

The Preparation

- Visit Alison Lester’s project This is My Place <http://thisismyplaceproject.wikispaces.com/> which contains activities about encouraging students to respond to their locale.

- Invite students to consider the unique aspects of their natural environment and the impact of industry on this locale.

- Discuss books which explore the concept of ‘This is My Place’.

- Study Alison Lester and Boori Monty Pryor’s works (as the Inaugural Australian Children’s Laureates). Visit the ACL website <http://www.childrenslaureate.org.au/> Discuss how their works explore people’s lives and the places they live in.

- Visit Alison’s personal website <http://www.alisonlester.net/>

- Invite students to create a captioned postcard on the theme, in any style or medium.

- This bank of student images will create a) a display at Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum (GRAGM) in conjunction with Alison Lester’s exhibition Are We There Yet? and b) an online gallery of images on the CCLC website.

- Students’ work may also be submitted to Alison for selection to be included in her national project This is My Place and a book she is creating. [See her project page.]
Using Relevant Books to Explore the Theme

Lester, Alison *Are We There Yet?* Camberwell, Vic.: Viking, 2004.

- In Alison Lester’s *Are We There Yet*, a family sets off on a journey around Australia and the narrator describes all the places they visit. Read the book with your students.

- Imagine if a family arrived in the Gladstone region. What would they find here? Read sections in the book as an example of how your students might tell the story. For example: ‘At Streaky Bay we stuck our heads in the mouth of a great white shark. We made letters with our shadows at Murphy’s Haystacks. The giant boulders glowed in the afternoon sun.’ Re-write this, for example, as: At Gladstone we ... At Tannum Sands we ... At Calliope we ... At 1770 we... At Bororen we... At Ubobo we... At Many Peaks we...

- After you have written a description of the place, think of images to match the sentences you have written.


- An exhibition of the original art from the book will be at the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum from 20 July–17 August 2013 so take your class to see it.


- This is a classic book about how kids over 200 years, living in the same place, see their place both differently and also in similar ways. Read it with your students.

- Watch some of the television series based on the book. See also the website created for the series *My Place for Teachers* http://www.myplace.edu.au/themes/theme_landing.html

- Write your own diary entry. Then write one by someone who may have lived in your place 20, 40, 50, 100 years ago...


- This is another excellent way to tell a story of ‘my place’. Each letter of the alphabet describes something which is significant to life in an Aboriginal community.

- Invite kids to create their own alphabet of this place, the Gladstone region. Choose a letter for a place, activity, person, who is special to the area.

- This book was written about the early memories of famous Gladstone poet Val Vallis. Read some of Val Vallis’s poetry about growing up on the Gladstone harbour front in the 1920s.
- Find Teachers’ Notes on Mark Svendsen’s website http://www.marksvendsen.com/.
- Write and illustrate a story based on some incident which has occurred in your life.


- These two books show a character looking out a window and how a place changes as the population grows. It invites students to think about the changes which have happened and ones which might happen in future.
- Invite students to look at their place and write or draw the changes which have happened, and then to predict what might happen in future, again in words or pictures.


- This book tells a simple story about playing ‘down the creek’. But it also tells us a lot about the characters and the place they live in.
- Take a simple journey through your neighbourhood on a bike, scooter or on foot. What do you see? What memories does this local journey evoke? Write your own journey.

*Other Picture Books about ‘My Place’*


Cox, David *The Road to Goonong* Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2011.


French, Jackie *Flood!* Ill. by Bruce Whatley Lindfield, NSW: Scholastic, 2011.

Malbunka, Mary *When I Was Little, Like You* Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2005.


From Reef to Rigger - Themes & Ideas

- Industry
- Environment
- Harbour, Beach and Coast
- Fishing and Watersports
- Farming
- Local History
- Friends
- Family
- School
- Pets

Text Story Starters

- The last time we...
- What is that?
- I've never seen anything like this before...
- My favourite place is...

Image Story Starters

Other Activities and Ideas

- Design a Poster using the slogan you created above
- Write and Design a Tourism Brochure
- Create a Book Title, Cover, and Blurb for a book about My Place – Gladstone
- Create a Book Trailer for this book
- Create a Map of the area marking on it the places which are important to you
- Visit Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum to see local history exhibitions

Types of Writing
Narrative, Descriptive, Expository, Persuasive

- Prose Fiction
- Memoir/ Diary/ Biography
- Reportage/Journalism/History article
- Argument/ Debate
- Poem
- Playscript
- Song Lyrics
- Caption

Types of Art
Works on paper, 3D, Digital, Multi media

- Drawing
- Watercolour or Oil Painting
- Coloured Pencil
- Collage
- Printmaking (eg linocut)
- Comic/Graphic Novel/Graffiti
- Digital
- Sculpture
Research and Discuss Local History

Invite students to find out more about these and other local history milestones and topics:

- Gooreng Gooreng people have lived in the area for thousands of years
- 1802 Matthew Flinders sited Gladstone Harbour
- 1847 Settlement of Port Curtis established by Colonel George Barney
- 1863 Gladstone became a Municipality
- 1893 Meatworks opened to provide seasonal work
- 1914 Gladstone Harbour Board established during World War One (1914-8)
- 1929+ Great Depression
- 1949 Cyclone destroyed much of Gladstone; Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race began
- 1963 Meatworks closed and Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) established
- 1973 Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) established and the Awoonga Dam opened 1985
- 1976 Gladstone Power Station first generated electricity
- Late 1970s Boyne Smelters Limited (BSL) established
- 2002 Comalco Alumina Refinery (CAR) construction commenced by Rio Tinto Alcan in Yarwun area 10kms northwest of town
- 2010+ Three LNG plants on Curtis Island with more to come...

Ideas for Activities

- Show students an object with historical significance and invite them to write a story about it.
- The annual Our Priceless Past (1998+) project has secondary students interview ‘Special Seniors’, the interviews are printed in the Gladstone Observer. Invite students to interview a grandparent and write down their story.

Gladstone Region Local History Resources

Flint, Paulette What’s In a Name?: the stories behind the street names of Gladstone, Queensland Gladstone, Q.: HistoryInc, 2009. Read about the history as it is reflected in street names.

McDonald, Lorna Gladstone, City That Waited Gladstone, Q.: Boolarong Publications for Gladstone City Council, 1988. This is the only definitive history of the area.
