



NON-FICTION TEACHER NOTES
SIR EDWARD 'WEARY' DUNLOP
Hazel Edwards/Pat Reynolds

SYNOPSIS

Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop is the second book in the Aussie Heroes series.

Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop

Young Ernie Dunlop was determined to become a doctor. Born in Melbourne, he was fascinated with both medical science and the great outdoors. Whilst studying medicine he earned the nickname 'Weary' and soon gained a reputation as a dedicated doctor and sportsman.

In November 1939, after the outbreak of World War II, Weary signed up to the Australian Army. In April 1942 Weary and his men were captured and became prisoners of war. During this time Weary became known for his leadership skills and his ability to communicate with the enemy. After the war Weary remained committed to caring for injured war veterans.

THEMES

Aussie Heroes Series

The Aussie Heroes series introduces primary-aged children to heroes who have made a contribution to Australian society.

Each hero has helped others and in turn shaped history.

This series gives children an insightful look at the fascinating lives of great Australians.

Each book is written as a narrative with coloured illustrations throughout.

Science

Science as a Human Endeavour

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Weary Dunlop's influence on the development of scientific knowledge and understanding.

Weary Dunlop learned new ways to 'repair' patients without the assistance of much needed medical equipment.

History

Historical people and events.

Knowledge of the past and the impact it has had on Australian society.

Sequence of events.

Timelines. At the end of the book there is a chronological timeline representing the important events in Weary Dunlop's life. Students can go back through the text to pick out the events in the timeline.

Ethical Behaviour

Students can examine the character traits of Weary Dunlop, the Australian army and the Japanese.

English/Literacy/Critical Thinking

This is a narrative that evokes feeling. It is ideal to be read aloud. Students can participate in the multi model text discussing the maps, illustrations and timelines. In addition to the narrative quotes are used throughout the book from Weary Dunlop's war diaries and other sources.

Students can look up sources including the Australian War Memorial <http://www.awm.gov.au/>, Weary by Sue Ebury and The War Diaries of Weary Dunlop.

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WRITING STYLE

The text is simple narrative. It reads as a story rather than a textbook with coloured illustrations throughout to encourage student's interest.

AUTHOR /ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND

Hazel Edwards

Best known for 'There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake', Hazel writes across media, including YA 'FakeID', 'Antarctica's Frozen Chosen' and sequel 'Outback Ferals'. Recently she co-authored ex blog "Cycling Solo: Ireland to Istanbul" (Brolga) with her cartographer son Trevelyan Quest Edwards who was the original 3 year old mind behind the hippo concept. Her web site www.hazeledwards.com has details of her Antarctic expedition publications including animation, scripts, Auslan DVDs and picture book Antarctic Dad. Hazel runs Non Boring Writing workshops for genealogists and web-chats about stories like 'Hand Me Down Hippo crossing media with audio etc. In 2006 she was a national Literacy Champion and she's on the Australian Society of Authors' committee co-holding the portfolios for Education and Children's Books. Her 180 books have been translated into many languages and across media into theatre and TV.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop has been thoroughly researched.

Research by Gail Arkins

Consulting historian: Brendan G. O'Keefe

Australian War Memorial

As well as the text as much as possible the illustrations created have been exact, for example Weary Dunlop's uniform on the front cover was checked and approved by the

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Australian War Memorial to make sure it was correct

TEACHER ACTIVITIES/NOTES

Literacy

This book can be read aloud for maximum impact.

Discuss the use of maps, illustrations and the inclusion of quotes.

Note: all quotes have been accurately transposed (as they were written by Weary Dunlop) from The War Diaries of Weary Dunlop. There is an entry regarding Helen's birthday (p29) – How should Weary Dunlop have written his diary entry on the 7 October 1942?

History

Look at the timeline at the back of the book. Select 12 important dates from the timeline to reflect the important events in Weary's life.

Ethical Behaviour

Examine Weary and 'Blue' Butterworth's character traits.

What is their motivation for their actions?

Do you think their desire to do his duty impacted on his actions?

What is morally the right thing to do when at war?

What is the meaning of right and wrong?

When discussing the above points use the example of The Red Cross. Should guidelines laid down by the International Red Cross have been adhered to?

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How did Weary improvise in the jungles of Thailand?

Do you think the skills he developed in Thailand helped Weary (as a doctor) after the war was over?

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