



## Bookshelf

### **Letters about Anzac Day**

#### **We live in Australia Series**

Elementary Series

**SHEILA DUKE**

Macquarie University 2005

### **Letters about Anzac Day**

Photocopiable Worksheets

#### **We live in Australia Series**

Elementary Series

**PORNSAWAN BRAWN**

Macquarie University 2005

**REVIEWED BY RACHEL LAWSON**

The last time I learnt about the ANZACS, and in particular Gallipoli, was before the days of photocopying. I had to run off the teacher's work sheet on an old style stencil copier – the old Gestetner. I remember getting really excited that the teacher had picked me to blister my fingers turning that stencil machine handle around 50 times while sniffing the over primed barrel, only to print out a purple colored worksheet with a hand-drawn piece of rosemary and a suspect map of Turkey.

Thankfully now there is a new way to teach school children or elementary ESL students about Gallipoli and the meaning of ANZAC. It comes from the personal accounts of two men through the medium of their letters. One is from Joe to his son Jack, and the other is Joe's great grandson John, writing Joe a letter after finding his grandfather's old war medals.

The Macquarie University reader is part of the *We Live In Australia Series*. Accompanying the reader are photocopiable worksheets and an audio CD.

The 75 page reader is broken up into three sections, each graduating from elementary to post elementary English levels. This reader is ideal for primary school children, ESL students and possibly native speaking adults who have problems with the written word.

Each section comprises the same photographs and subject matter yet Joe and John's letters become more complex in grammar and subject matter from one level to the next. An example of this is the opening line of Joe's letter:

In the low elementary level Joe starts his letter using present simple tense and simple vocabulary:

*Dear Jack,  
How are you? How's your mother? I'm in hospital but I'm ok.*

At the higher elementary level he uses the present continuous tense and more challenging vocabulary, changing words such as hurt to injured:

*I am writing from Wardsworth hospital in England I got injured but I am much better now.*

The post elementary level has a lot more of Joe talking to Jack directly and expressing his feelings about his time in Gallipoli.

John's letters come from his experiences commemorating ANZAC day as an Australian school student.

Complementing the reader are the photocopiable worksheets in an A4 spiral bound folder. Each level has corresponding worksheets which incorporate vocabulary lists, glossaries, maps and word games. Each section also has an explanation of relevant grammatical features. For example, low elementary uses the past simple tense while high elementary explores wh- questions and post elementary covers some time and place markers.

The photocopiable worksheets follow the same layout as the reader and together with the Audio CD allow the student to work through the reader and the workbook either progressively or separately.

What is also of particular note are the stimulus pictures both in the reader and the workbook. The pictures range from simple and clear maps, newspaper articles with original photos incorporating the ANZAC life both at home and at the front.

The teachers' notes section of the photocopiable worksheets would be invaluable for new teachers or trainees. These notes suggest everything from cutting up vocabulary lists and making games, to using realia such as rosemary.

Primary school teachers and teachers of ESL will find this a useful book. The photocopiable resources are overflowing with great classroom activities and grammar exercises. The reader certainly achieves the aim of helping students who live in Australia learn more about their history without weighing them down with too many dates or facts.

The overall theme of what Gallipoli was about for an ANZAC soldier and consequently what ANZAC day is about for present day Australians is achieved through a well balanced and accessible resource. This reader provides a sense of learning about the Great War while 'sitting on your Grandpa's knee'. The photocopiable worksheets are a great resource saving teachers' time and educating students in an entertaining way.

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