Walkabout

**Book key**

1  Open answers
2  a  Aboriginals lived in Australia before Europeans arrived.
   b  On a walkabout, an Aboriginal boy has to live in the desert. He is alone and nobody helps him. He has to survive in the desert for months.
   c  There isn't much food or water there because it is desert. It is very hot.
   d  Open answers
   e  make a lot of noise: kookaburra, cockatoo
   marsupials: wombat, wallaby, koala, tiger cat
   move slowly: wombat, koala
3  a  bush, desert, hill  b  ant, insect, plant
4  a  ✓ b ✓ c ✓ d ✓ e ✓ f ✓ g ✓ h ✓
   i  ✗ j  ✗
5  a  Chocolate is the children’s only food for the first two days.
   b  When the children are sleeping, a wombat and tiger cat come near them. They can be dangerous.
   c  A kookaburra wakes Mary up. There are cockatoos in the trees and other smaller birds near the river. Perhaps the children can eat them.
   d  Peter has ants inside his jeans. They hurt his legs.
   e  In the desert, there are beautiful plants in many different colours. The children have to climb over or walk round big plants on their journey. The plants don’t have any food on them, so the children are hungry.
   f  The sun is very hot. Mary uses the sun when she wants to go south to Adelaide. The light of the evening sun makes the desert beautiful. The desert shines. Peter thinks that it is water.
6  a  Mary. After the plane crash she is afraid, but she doesn’t show Peter. She puts her arms round him and he feels better.
   b  Peter and Mary. They are afraid after the plane crash when they are lost in the desert.
   c  Mary. She gives Peter the last piece of chocolate.
   d  Peter and Mary. They are naked when they are in the river.
   e  Peter. The ants in his trousers hurt him.
   f  Mary. She knows that Adelaide is in the south. She knows the way south because of the sun.
   g  Peter. He is excited when he climbs the high ground in the evening. He thinks that he can see the sea.
   h  Mary. She knows that Peter can’t really see the sea. It is only desert.
7–9  Open answers
10 a 4  b 8  c 2  d 7  e 1  f 5  g 3  h 9  i 6
11 a  She is afraid and starts to run away. But then the bush boy smiles and Mary isn’t afraid.
   b  She isn’t happy. At home in South Carolina, black people never go near white people.
   c  Peter is unhappy with Mary. He thinks that the bush boy is going because of her. Mary is happy because she doesn’t want the bush boy’s help.
   d  She is unhappy. She is hot, tired and thirsty. She thinks that they are too far away. Then she knows that there is really water there, and she is happier.
   e  They are excited because they can hear water.
   f  He is interested in them. He thinks that they are strange. He wants to help them.
   g  She is unhappy because she feels alone. She thinks that boys don’t want to be with girls.
   h  She is unhappy. She wants him to put his clothes on.
   i  She is suddenly afraid of him because he is a young man.
   j  He is sad because she is afraid of him. He thinks that she can see his death. He feels suddenly cold, but he isn’t afraid.
12 a  He cooks food for them and takes them to water. He shows Peter food ([warwora](#)) in the desert. He teaches Peter about fires.
   b  Open answers
   c  He is on his walkabout – months alone in the desert. After his walkabout, he will be a man. All Aboriginal boys have to do this.
13–14  Open answers
15 a  knows  b  doesn’t sit  c  doesn’t sleep
   d  don’t catch  e  don’t help  f  doesn’t finish
   g  doesn’t throw  h  doesn’t tell  i  wants  j  thinks
16 Possible answers:
   a  Why does the bush boy want to take the children to the rivers-under-the mountains?
   b  What does Peter think of girls?
   c  How far does the bush boy usually walk in one day?
   d  What do they eat on their journey? / What food do they find on their journey?
   e  Does Peter help (the bush boy) with the fire?
   f  When does the bush boy sneeze?
   g  Does the bush boy eat any eggs / food?
Walkabout

h Does the bush boy talk to Mary (when she is in the river)?

i What does Mary understand / know after the bush boy’s death?

j Where does Mary sleep?

17–18 Open answers

19 a flowers  b hills  c rivers  d trees  e koala
f dress  g smoke  h fire  i dog  j map

20 a Mary is talking to Peter about the dead bush boy in heaven.

b Peter is excited about the food and water in the green country below the last hill.

c Mary is angry with Peter because he takes the baby koala from its mother.

d Mary is talking to Peter about the three people near the river.

e Mary is watching the Aboriginals’ hands when they talk. She is trying to understand the meaning.

f Peter is talking about the beautiful place near the river before they leave it.

21 Possible answers:

a Mary knows that white people and black people aren’t different. She also feels happier without her clothes in the desert.

b Peter is younger but he is in charge. In many ways he is stronger than Mary, and Mary understands this.

c–d Open answers

22–30 Open answers

Discussion activities key

1 a Suggested answer: There is a boy and a kangaroo on the cover. The boy looks young, maybe sixteen years old. I think the story takes place in the outback in Australia.

b Open answers

2 Open answers

3 a A man-child is somebody that is neither a man nor a boy. When a child is sixteen his tribe sends him out into the Australian bush. Open answers

b Open answers

4–10 Open answers

11 Peter and Mary  In the Australian desert

They are lost. Because their airplane crashed.

12–28 Open answers

29 Mary goes on a walkabout. Peter may be on a walkabout too.

30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Now</th>
<th>Then</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Feels good without clothes.</td>
<td>Feels good with clothes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>Peter is difficult.</td>
<td>Peter was never difficult.</td>
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</tbody>
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Activity worksheets key

1 a Peter  b Mary  c Peter  d Mary  e Peter
f Mary  g Mary  h Peter  i Peter  j Mary

2 a leg  b Where  c home  d time  e climb
f swim  g hungry  h chocolate

3 Possible answers:

a ’It’ll be better in the morning.’

b ‘We will know tomorrow.’

c ‘We’ll go home soon.’

d ‘We’ll eat soon.’

e ‘Let’s.’

f ‘Swim near the rocks.’

g ‘I’ll find food.’

h ‘Yes, that’s all.’

4 a kookaburra  b wombat  c wombat
d kookaburra  e marsupial tiger cat
f ants  g marsupial tiger cat

5 Possible answers: When we were eating red fruit, an Aboriginal boy was watching us. The boy was black and naked. Mary wanted to run away but the bush boy was young and friendly and wasn’t dangerous. He carried a dead wallaby. First, he felt our faces, hair and clothes. Then he kicked the ground, turned red and made a strange noise. When I sneezed, he laughed.

6 a white > black; black > white

b happy > angry
c wanted > didn’t want
d hungry > thirsty
e little > big
f yellow > green

7 a 5  b 2  c 4  d 3  e 1

8 First, you are born, and then you walk with your tribe. After that, you walk alone, on your walkabout. In the walkabout you have to live in the desert alone for six months. You have to find food and water. Every day is dangerous for you. After the walkabout, you become man. When you are a man, you live with a woman. And after that, you die.
Walkabout

9  a  eyes  b  dark  c  strange  d  afraid  e  death  
   f  brother  g  too  h  desert

10 a  Find a rock and throw it into the water as hard as 
you can.  
   b  Watch the top of the water for fish.  
   c  Take the dead fish out of the water and throw them 
on to dry rocks.  
   d  Hit the fish on the head with a rock.

11 Open answers

12 Possible answers: Peter and Mary: I want to go home.  
The bush boy: I am going to die.

13 a  ✗ Mary and Peter made a bed on the ground for the 
dead boy.  
   b  ✗ When a person died in South Carolina, 
everybody went to church.  
   c  ✓  
   d  ✗ ‘When we die, there’s only one place for all of us,’ 
Mary said.  
   e  ✓
   f  ✗ The family of Aboriginals knew they were lost 
and told them where to find white people.  
   g  ✗ The black man made a map on the ground and 
showed them where to find food, water and a place 
for the night.

14 a  Mary  b  Mary  c  Peter  d  Peter  
   e  the bush boy  f  Peter  g  Mary  
   h  Peter and the bush boy  i  the bush boy  
   j  Mary and the bush boy  k  Peter and the bush boy  
   l  Mary  m  Mary  n  Mary  o  Mary

Progress test key

1 a  2  b  2  c  1

2 a  ✓  
   b  ✗ In South Carolina, no black person came near 
white people.  
   c  ✗ The bush boy teaches Peter words in his language.  
   d  ✓
   e  ✓

3 a  1  b  3

4 a  P  b  P  c  P and B  d  M  e  B  f  P

5 a  2  b  9  c  3  d  8  e  4  f  1  g  6  h  5  i  7

6 a  ✗ The bush boy was right: at the bottom of the hill, 
everything was green.  
   b  ✓
   c  ✗ The baby koala pulled Mary’s dress.  
   d  ✗ When the children were swimming in the water, 
they forgot Adelaide, Uncle Keith and their old life 
in South Carolina.

7 a  crashed  b  survived  c  ran  d  had  e  was  
   f  had  g  walked  h  went  i  found  j  helped  
   k  liked  l  was  m  was  n  taught  o  got  
   p  died  q  started  r  saw  s  showed