Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 60)

ACTIVITY 1  BEFORE READING
1 F  2 T  3 F  4 T  5 T  6 F  7 T  8 F

ACTIVITY 2  BEFORE READING
The three reasons were no money, an uncertain future, and low social rank. Encourage students to discuss these reasons and exchange their opinions.

While Reading

THE FENCE, CHAPTERS 1 AND 2  WHILE READING
1 To stop the rabbits moving west into farmlands.
2 Because they were half-castes, and the government had decided that these children should be taken away from their families and sent to school, where they would learn to be domestic servants and farm workers.
3 By car, by train, and by ship.
4 They were frightened, cold, and tired.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 3
Encourage students to speculate and to guess, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the answers are 1a, 2a, 3c.

CHAPTERS 3 AND 4  WHILE READING
1 The girls who were locked up in the ‘boob’ for running away.
2 Moodoo the black tracker.
3 Molly.
4 Two Mardu men that they met.
5 Gracie and Daisy.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 5
Encourage students to speculate and to guess, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the answers are 2 and 3.

CHAPTERS 5 AND 6  WHILE READING
Suggested answers:
1 Sometimes Molly carried the other two girls, because they had painful sores on their legs.
2 When they found the fence, they did not know that they still had more than eight hundred kilometres to walk.
3 Don Willocks gave the girls food, but later he reported the meeting to his employer, who reported it to the police.

4 The girls never walked close to the fence because they did not want to leave tracks that would be easy to find.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 7
Encourage students to speculate and to guess, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the answer is 3.

CHAPTER 7 AND SEVENTY YEARS LATER  WHILE READING
1 Gracie never returned to Jigalong.
2 Ten years later Molly was sent back to Moore River.
3 Molly’s daughter Doris was left behind at Moore River.
4 Molly and Daisy lived at Jigalong as old ladies.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1  AFTER READING
1 UNGRATEFUL ABORIGINAL GIRLS
   The government has failed to catch the half-caste girls who escaped from Moore River Settlement several weeks ago. A lot of money has been spent on these children, but if they do not want the chance to make a better life for themselves, why make them go to school? We should spend the money on more useful things, and the law about these Aboriginal children must be changed.

2 WONDERFUL ABORIGINAL GIRLS
   They were cold, hungry, and scared most of the time, but they never stopped walking. They hunted for their food, catching rabbits, lizards, and birds, and cooking them over a fire. They built shelters every night, pulled them down in the mornings, covered their fire holes, and were careful not to leave easy tracks for the police to follow. They just wanted to get home to their families, and that’s the best place for any child to be.

ACTIVITY 2  AFTER READING
If students need help with this, encourage them to look at links in the language.
3 Martha: ‘Heard the news?’
6 Polly: ‘No, what is it? Tell me!’
13 Martha: ‘Those three new girls from Jigalong. Molly, and the younger two. They’ve gone – escaped!’
10 Polly: ‘Escaped! They only arrived two days ago. When did they go?’
5 Martha: ‘This morning. They never came to school at all, but nobody realized that till this evening.’
8 Polly: ‘So that means they’ve had all day. Has Moodoo gone after them?’
1 Martha: ‘Yes, he has. But he’s not going to catch these three. I’ve got a feeling about it.’
14 Polly: ‘Why not? He’s always caught the other runaways.’
9 Martha: ‘I’ll tell you why not. Because it rained most of the afternoon, didn’t it?’
4 Polly: ‘Well, yes, but what difference does the rain make?’
11 Martha: ‘Moodoo’s a tracker, right? But he can’t follow tracks if the rain has washed them all away!’
2 Polly: ‘Oh yeah, of course! That Molly’s a clever one, for sure. Do you think they’ll get all the way home?’
7 Martha: ‘Don’t know. Jigalong’s a long, long way. But I hope they do.’
12 Polly: ‘So do I. Good luck to them, I say!’

**ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING**

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**ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING**

The sentence is from the letter on page 5:
The girls need a better chance in life than they can get out here in the bush.
1 Mr Hungerford, Superintendent, Jigalong Depot.
2 About Molly, Daisy, and Gracie.
3 He probably meant that if they went to school and had some education, they would have more choices in life.
4 Open answers.
5 Open answers.