

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

T	H	G	E	G	I	L	R	F	L	T	S	N	E
A	B	O	R	I	G	I	N	E	E	R	D	F	A
B	E	V	T	R	T	Z	E	N	R	A	C	O	H
A	N	E	C	A	E	A	I	C	N	C	R	O	L
I	F	R	E	B	T	R	H	E	A	K	U	T	N
T	H	N	E	B	Y	D	C	A	N	G	N	P	E
T	O	M	U	I	T	L	A	N	D	M	A	R	K
S	H	E	L	T	E	R	H	E	R	E	W	I	I
K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O	N	T	H	A	N	E
B	U	T	S	P	A	D	L	O	C	K	Y	T	H

PEOPLE	ANIMALS	THINGS
Aborigine	kangaroo	landmark
government	rabbit	shelter
runaway	lizard	padlock
		fence
		track
		footprint

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.

- Mr Hungerford, Superintendent, Jigalong Depot.
- About Molly, Daisy, and Gracie.
- He probably meant that if they went to school and had some education, they would have more choices in life.
- Open answers.
- Open answers.

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING

Open answers.

ACTIVITY 6 AFTER READING

Open answers.

ACTIVITY 7 AFTER READING

Open answers. Encourage students to think about the difference between 'must' and 'should'.