

**QWILLER**  
STUDENT WORKBOOK

# Protest Poetry and Song Lyrics

Grade 9  
Stage 5

an integrated language,  
literacy & literature  
course for exploring &  
creating poetic texts



**Shelley McNamara**



Qwiller Student Workbook

# PROTEST POETRY AND SONG LYRICS

SHELLEY MCNAMARA



[www.qwiller.com.au](http://www.qwiller.com.au)

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# Part 1: Context of protest

## Literacy

Meaning of protest  
Protest and social movements  
History of protest

## Language

Language of protest

## Literature

Protest documentary

## Key questions

- Level 1:** Who is the grandfather of Australia's environmental protest movement and why?  
What does protest mean?
- Level 2:** What are some motivations for protesting?  
What is the history of protest in Australia?
- Level 3:** How do I create strong messages through poetry?

# 1.1: An icon of environmental protest

We are going to begin our exploration of protest poetry by looking back at an elder of the environmental movement in Australia.

## BOB BROWN & *THE GIANTS* DOCUMENTARY



The Tasmanian Myrtle Beech, Tarkine / Takayna. This iconic tree is largely restricted to growing in the Tarkine's cool temperate Gondwanan rainforest.

<https://www.thegiantsfilm.com>

Dr Bob Brown is known as the grandfather of Australian environmental protests. In 1983 protests by the Tasmania Wilderness Society used direct action to stop the damming of the Franklin River. Bob Brown was a leader of this campaign. In 1992 Bob Brown launched a political party, The Greens, and remained leader until he resigned in 2012.

In 2023 a documentary, *The Giants* (2023), directed by Rachel Antony & Laurence Billiet, looks back at Bob Brown's legacy. This film uses new technology to show the forests that were saved in the 1983 fight for the Franklin River. You are going to watch three clips from *The Giants* website and write a poem about the images you see of the forest.

### Dig deep

1. Visit the website promoting the documentary and get a sense of what the film is about.  
<https://www.thegiantsfilm.com/>
2. Have a look around the site for 15 minutes and make notes of images, words and technology around the film.

Make sure you:

- click on the 'Making Of' tab at the top of the home page.
- scroll down (on the home page) and watch the film trailer, 'Filming the Forest' and '3-D Forest Scans'.



Complete the activity below.

### **Activity 1.1:** Exploring the documentary

#### **Level 1**

1. The stars of this film are the giants, the trees in the forest. The footage of the trees is very evocative. Write a list of words that come to mind as you see the images of these trees.

#### **Level 2**

2. Describe the colours of the forest.
3. Describe the effect of the camera angles and the 3-D imaging of the forest. How do these affect your reaction to these trees?

#### **Level 3**

4. Using the activities that you have just completed, write a free verse poem that captures the beauty and grandeur of the giants.
5. Why do you think Dr Bob Brown is known as the grandfather of Australian environmental protests? Write a 250-word paragraph explaining your ideas.