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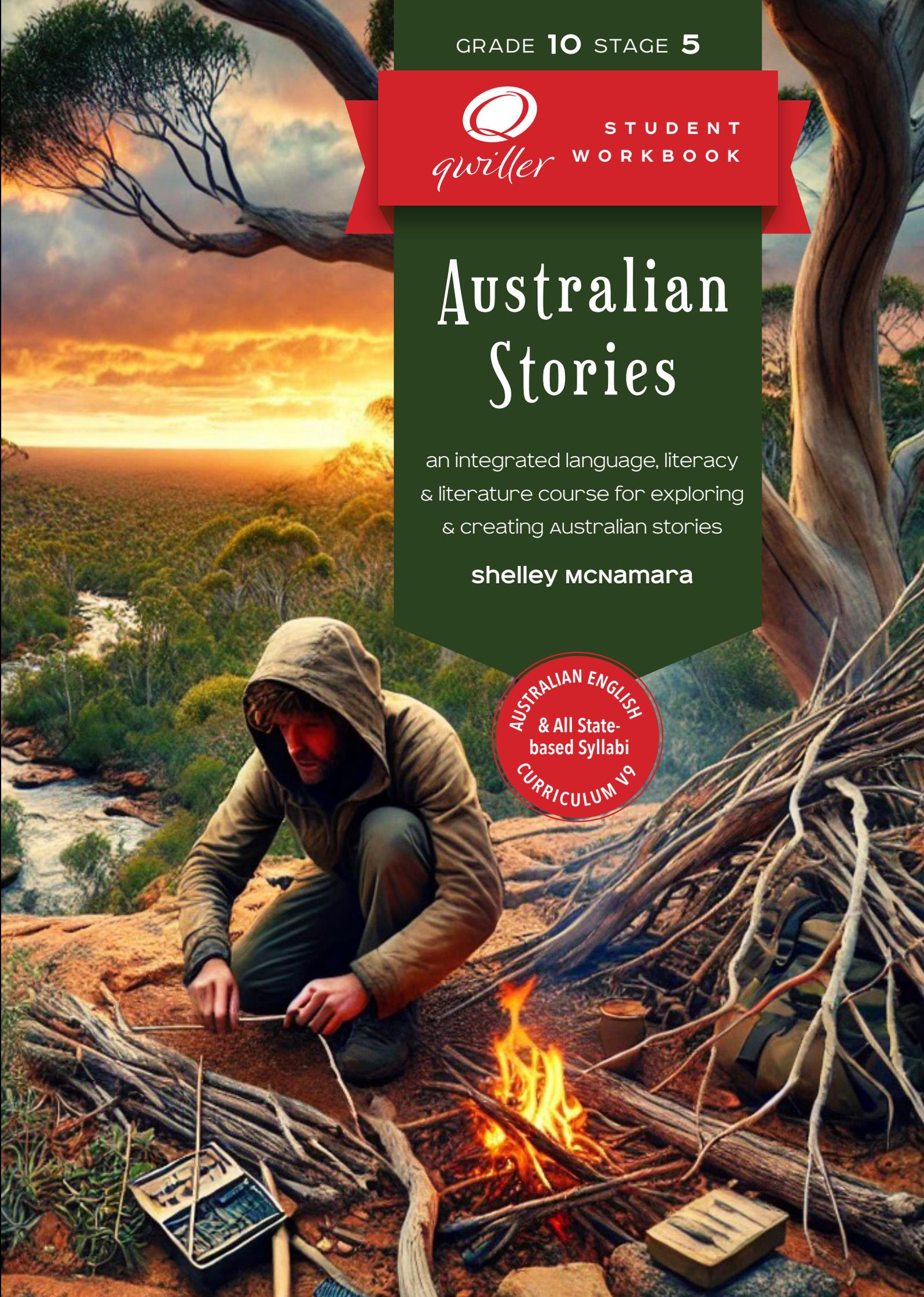
STUDENT  
WORKBOOK

# Australian Stories

an integrated language, literacy  
& literature course for exploring  
& creating Australian stories

**shelley mcnamara**

AUSTRALIAN ENGLISH  
& All State-  
based Syllabi  
CURRICULUM v9





Qwiller Student Workbook

# AUSTRALIAN STORIES

SHELLEY MCNAMARA



inspiring critical &  
imaginative thinking

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First published 2025 by **QWILLER**  
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## Cataloguing data

**Author:** Shelley McNamara

**ISBN:** 978-1-923160-68-2 (ebook)

**Title:** Qwiller Student Workbook Australian Stories

**Publisher:** Shelley McNamara

**Editor:** Shelley McNamara

**Proofreader:** Shelley McNamara

**Graphic design:** Shelley McNamara and Toby Andrews at Lilypad Graphics  
[www.lilypad.com.au](http://www.lilypad.com.au)

Typeset in 13 pt Adobe Caslon Pro & 15 pt Frutiger

**Cover design:** Shelley McNamara

Typeset in American Typewriter and Poppins

**Cover image:** Created using Chat GPT-4, DALL-E

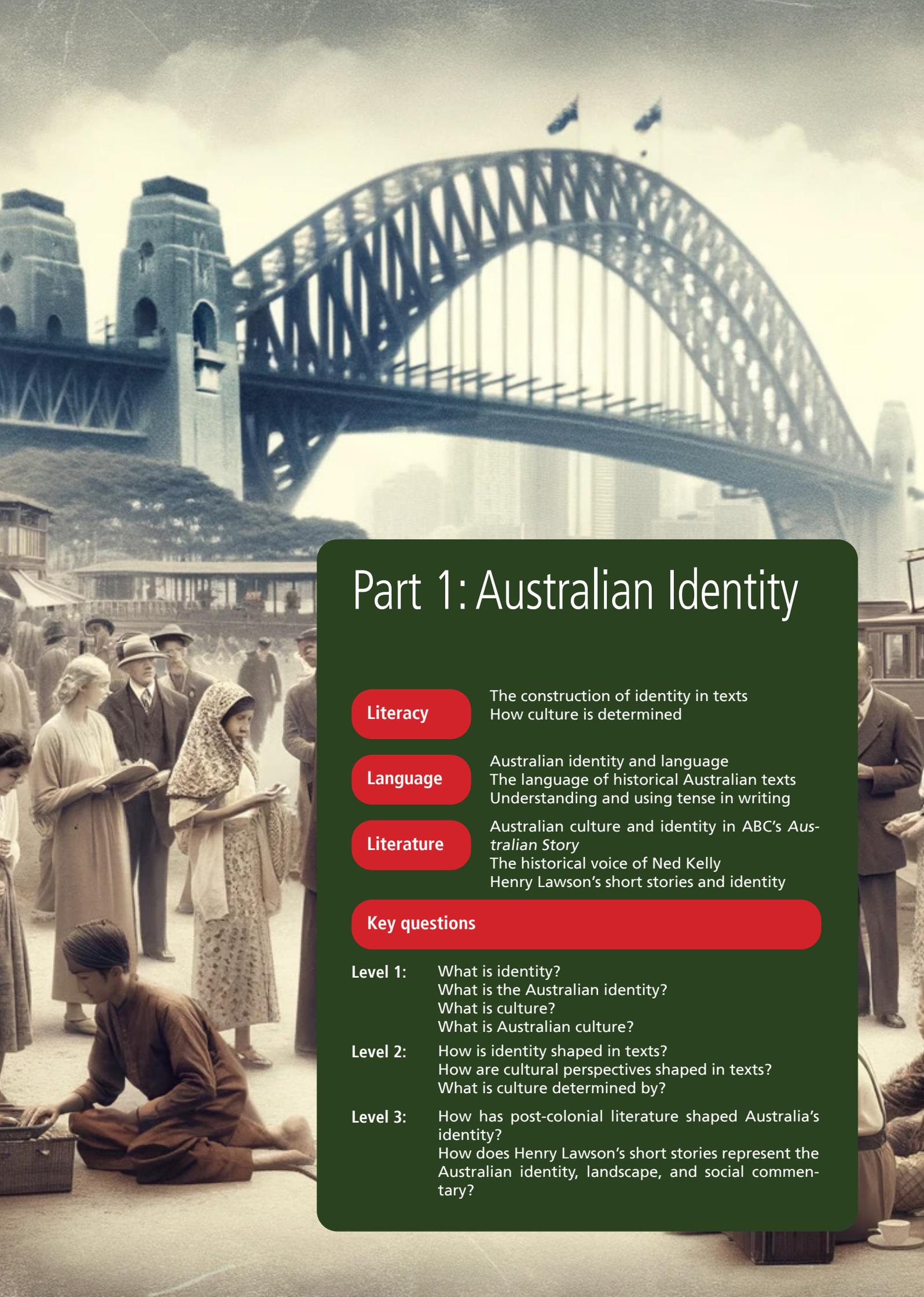
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# Part 1: Australian Identity

## Literacy

The construction of identity in texts  
How culture is determined

## Language

Australian identity and language  
The language of historical Australian texts  
Understanding and using tense in writing

## Literature

Australian culture and identity in ABC's *Australian Story*  
The historical voice of Ned Kelly  
Henry Lawson's short stories and identity

## Key questions

- Level 1:** What is identity?  
What is the Australian identity?  
What is culture?  
What is Australian culture?
- Level 2:** How is identity shaped in texts?  
How are cultural perspectives shaped in texts?  
What is culture determined by?
- Level 3:** How has post-colonial literature shaped Australia's identity?  
How does Henry Lawson's short stories represent the Australian identity, landscape, and social commentary?

# 1.1: How is identity shaped in texts?

## WHAT IS IDENTITY?



In this lesson we are going to look at how a person or character's identity is shaped. But before we do that, let's look a bit more closely at what identity actually is.

### *Dig deep*

#### Think, pair, share

1. Look at the image on the left. Write down five words to identify the identity of the person who could be connected to this room.
2. Before we dig deep into identity, see if you can come up with some ideas yourself. Brainstorm what identity means to you.
3. Do you think you have an 'identity'? What are some aspects of yourself that indicate to you and to others your identity?

You may have come up with something like the following.

- A person or character's identity refers to a set of characteristics they have that makes it easy to recognise that person or character. The identity tells you a great deal about that character's personality and how they see the world.
- Your identity or individuality is comprised of many aspects. Some identities include the underdog or rebel, wealthy or poor, son or daughter, student, boyfriend or girlfriend, artist, athlete or teenager.
- Identities can also be collective. They can represent a society, a country or a group of people with similar backgrounds or interests. For example, one component of Australia's identity is that we barrack for the underdog. Remember when talking about collective identity, not everyone in the group may relate to the common characteristics of the identity.
- You associate identity with a person but you can also associate identity with a character in a literary text.

## WHAT IS IDENTITY DETERMINED BY?

Now that you have thought about what identity is, let's see what identity is determined by. This means what are the identifying features that indicate to you a person or character's identity.

### *Dig deep*

#### Think, pair, share

1. How can identify a person or character's identity?
2. Do you think countries of place can have an identity? Discuss with a partner.

You may have come up with something like the following.

You can identify a person or character's identity through various means such as their:

- **appearance** – what they wear and how they wear it
- **interests and hobbies** – what they like to do in their spare time
- **behaviour** – what they do or how they act

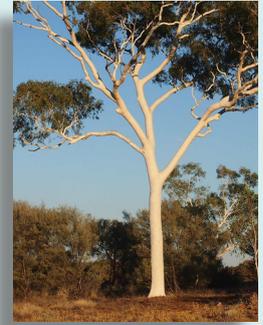
- **cultural background** – including religion and heritage
- **social conditions** – including their level of affluence
- **level of education** – including the extent of education
- **language used in different situations** – ability to adapt the register to situations.

### Good to know

#### A note on assumptions

When looking at texts, not all aspects of a character or person’s identity will be conveyed.

It is important to remember that assumptions can be easily made about identity. Assumptions are the belief that something is true or false, when this may not necessarily be the case. It’s important to look deeper into assumptions about identity to make sure you do not offend anyone.



Complete the activity below.

### Activity 1.1: Exploring how identity is shaped

#### Level 1



1. Refer to the image of the room on the left. Imagine who occupies this room. Brainstorm some ideas about their identity. You might like to draw symbols, icons or generally doodle about their identity.
2. Write a short 200-word monologue for a character who could be associated with this room. In your monologue show clearly their identity and how it is determined.

#### Level 2

3. Look at the image below that represent aspects of the Australian landscape. What information about identity can you deduce from the person/people/animals and the landscape depicted in the image? Consider the following:



- appearance
- interests and hobbies
- behaviour – what they do or how they act
- cultural background
- social conditions
- level of education
- language used in different situations.

#### Level 3

4. Are any of your ideas above assumptions about a person’s identity? Which ones? How do you know they are assumptions? What are some potential issues that could arise from making assumptions about one’s identity?