



QWILLER
STUDENT WORKBOOK

Australian Stories

Grade 10
Stage 5

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



qwiller
inspiring critical &
imaginative thinking

SHELLEY MCNAMARA

Qwiller Student Workbook

AUSTRALIAN STORIES

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First published 2024 by **QWILLER**
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Email: info@copyright.com.au

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

Typeset in 13 pt Adobe Caslon Pro & 15 pt Frutiger

Cover design: Shelley McNamara

Typeset in American Typewriter and Poppins

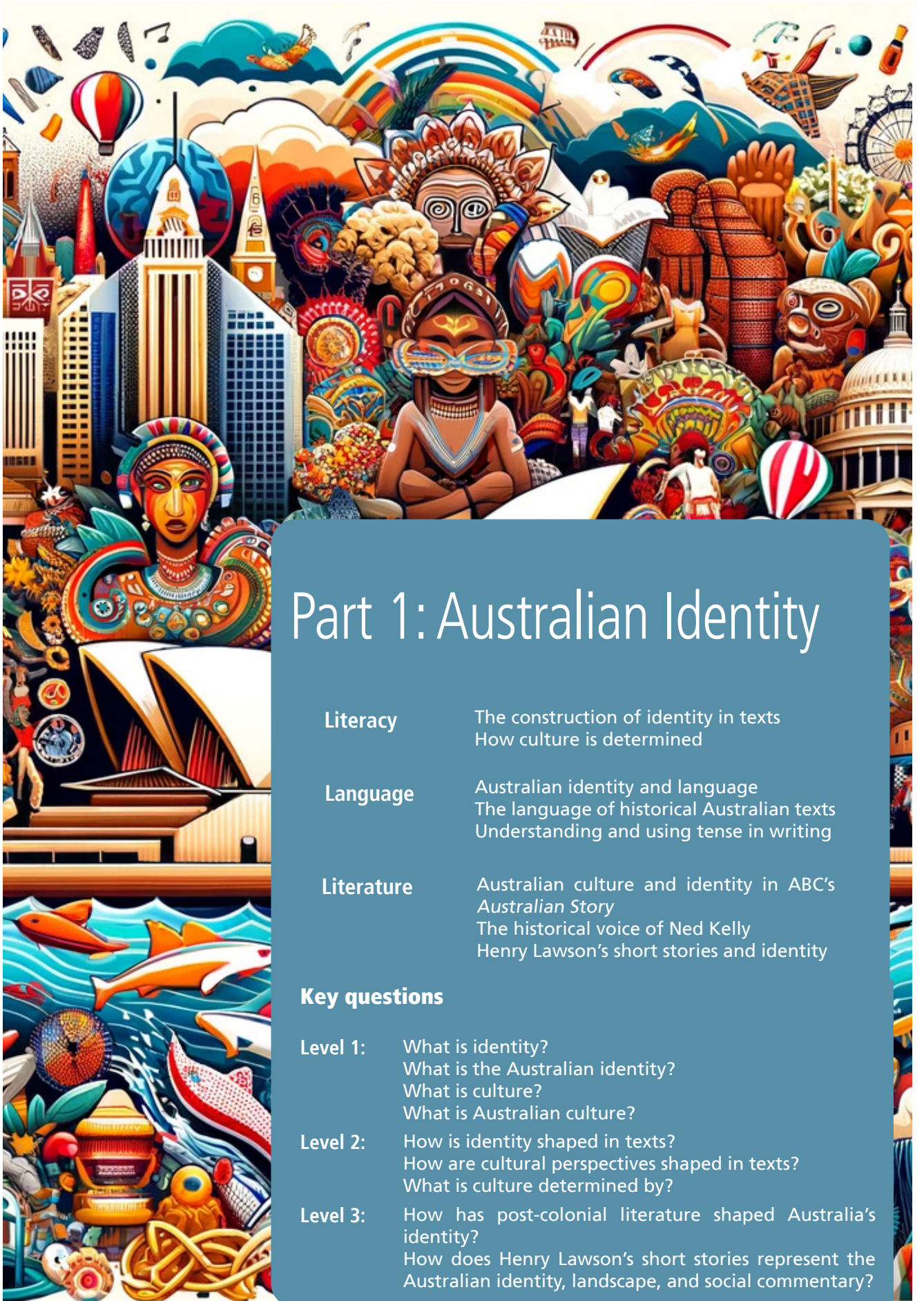
Cover image: Created using Chat GPT-4, DALL-E (Prompts: Multicultural Australia, iconic Australian monument, natural.)

Contents

Welcome	i
Using this workbook	i
The tools you could use	i
Resources	i
Pre-test: Australian stories	iii
Part 1: Australian Identity	01
1.1: How is identity shaped in texts?	02
What is identity?	02
What is identity determined by?	02
1.2: What is the Australian identity?	04
Defining Australian identity	04
Australian identity and language	04
1.3: How are cultural perspectives shaped?	08
What is culture?	08
What is culture determined by?	08
What is Australian culture?	09
1.4: Telling Australian Stories	10
Australian culture and identity in ABC's <i>Australian Story</i>	10
Australian stories of resilience	10
1.5: Australian historical voices	12
The shaping of Australian identity: Ned Kelly	12
The language of The Jerilderie Letter	12
1.6: Henry Lawson's short stories	18
Post-colonial Australian literature	18
Henry Lawson's short stories and the Australian identity	18
1.7: Grammar – Understanding tense	21
Tense in writing	21
Tense in 'In a Dry Season' by Henry Lawson	22
1.8: Australian identity: 'In the Dry Season' by Henry Lawson	25
Australian identity, landscape, and social commentary	25
Hungry for more	27
Part 2: Effectively communicating ideas	28
2.1: Vocabulary building – Australian stories	29
Key terms: Australian stories, identity & culture	29
2.2: Writing perspectives	31
Putting forward a perspective in writing	31
How perspectives are created in the media	31
2.3: Spelling—rules for adding -ing or -ed	35
The British-Australian rule for doubling consonants using -ed and -ing	35
Dropping 'e' when adding -ed or -ing rule	37
2.4: Effective listening	38
Understanding verbal texts	38
Julia Gillard's Misogyny speech	38
Considering the audience and purpose of verbal texts	40
Verbal and non-verbal language devices: How meaning is conveyed	40
2.5: Effectively speaking	43
Communicating messages	43
Speaking in practice: delivering lines effectively	44

2.6: Introducing Anecdotes	47
What are anecdotes?	47
How to write an anecdote	47
Australian youth anecdotes	48
Hungry for more	50
Part 3: Creating a unique voice	51
3.1: Voice in narratives	52
What is voice?	52
Why voice is important	52
3.2: Other elements of voice	55
Dialogue and actions	55
Dialogue and action in <i>Joel and Cat Set the Story Straight</i>	55
3.3: Creating a unique voice	58
Creating a compelling voice: <i>ABC's Australian Story</i>	58
How voice is created	58
3.4: Voice and criticism	60
A critique: 'Australia' by Ania Walwicz	60
3.5: Documenting a personal voice	63
Digital storyboards	63
Step-by-step guide to creating a digital storyboard	63
3.6: Punctuation – direct and indirect speech	66
Direct speech	66
Indirect speech	67
Hungry for more	69
Part 4: Diverse Australian voices	70
4.1: Multiculturalism in Australia	71
Multiculturalism in Australia: An historical overview	71
Using evidence to support perspectives	71
Perspectives in the media: How are they created?	72
4.2: Migrant stereotypes	76
What are stereotypes?	76
Stereotypes in <i>You Can't Ask That – African Australians</i>	76
4.3: Debunking stereotypes	78
A different perspective	78
4.4: Exploring refugee voices	80
Voice and refugee stories	80
4.5: First Nation Peoples' voices	82
Voice and K'Gari: An interactive story	82
4.6: Authentic voices	85
An authentic voice: Stephen Oliver's poem 'I'm a Black Fella'	85
4.7: Documentaries and education	87
What are documentaries?	87
Documentary case study: <i>Alone Australia</i> & connection to Country	88
4.8: Proverbs and personal message	91
What are proverbs?	91
Documentaries and proverbs in <i>Alone Australia</i>	92
Hungry for more	94

Part 5: Exploring your own voice	95
5.1: Exploring your voice through journaling	96
Developing your unique voice through journaling	96
Language and structural features of journal writing	97
5.2: Dialoguing in prose poetry	100
What is poetry prose?	100
Writing poetry prose as dialogue	101
5.3: Developing character	105
What is characterisation?	105
Writing Fragments	105
5.4: Reflecting on your childhood	108
Tapping into your memories	108
5.5: Writing what you know	110
Being inspired by your own experiences	110
Hungry for more	113
Part 6: Creating documentaries	114
6.1: Creating a YouTube clip	115
How to create a YouTube clip	115
Steps to creating your YouTube clip	115
6.2: Making documentaries	121
What makes a good documentary?	121
Creating content for your own documentary	121
Purpose and audience of documentaries	122
Researching, outlining and storyboarding	123
6.3: Structural features of documentaries	127
Defining documentary structural features	127
6.4: Language of film in documentaries	130
Documentary film devices	130
Case study cont.: <i>March of the Penguins</i>	130
6.5: Shooting your documentary	134
How to bring your documentary to the screen	134
Shooting a documentary	134
Hungry for more	137
List of texts	138



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 <i>Australian Story</i> 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 or 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

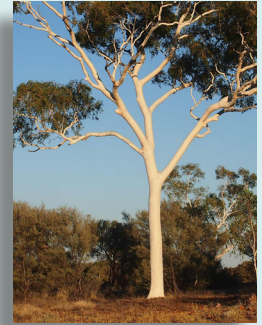
- **cultural background** – including religion and heritage
- **social conditions** – including their level of affluence
- **level of education** – including the extent of education
- **language used in different situations** – ability to adapt the register to situations.

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?