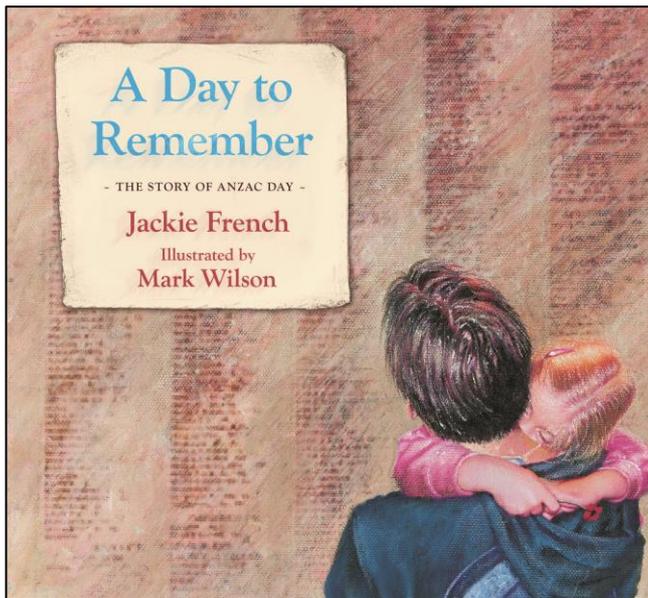


A Day To Remember

By Jackie French

Illustrated by Mark Wilson



Book Summary:

This is the story of the one day in the year when we remember. Perhaps every person who celebrates ANZAC Day remembers different things, in different way; the loss of comrades serving their countries, grandfathers and great aunts, the journeys of refugees fleeing horror in their homeland.

A Day To Remember is the history of that day, and how it has changed in the past almost a hundred years. It is also the history of how Australia and its people have changed too.

Curriculum Areas and Key Learning Outcomes:

Significant events – celebration and commemoration, Days of remembrance – Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, Connections and relationships Past and present ,Young and old ,Emotional memory

Appropriate Ages: 7+

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Notes by: Jackie French and
Mark Wilson

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AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

The activities and discussion points suggested in these notes can be modified and adapted for different year levels. They address a variety of outcomes in the following Learning Areas:

ENGLISH

Language: ACELA1787 ACELA1469 ACELA1483 ACELA1491 ACELA1496
ACELA1498

Literature: ACELT1582 ACELT1589 ACELT1594 ACELT1596 ACELT1604
ACELT1607 ACELT1608 ACELT1610 ACELT1613

Literacy: ACELY1677 ACELY1679 ACELY1689 ACELY1692 ACELY1702

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

History: ACHHK045 ACHHK063 ACHHK064 ACHHS048 ACHHS052 ACHHS065
ACHHS067 ACHHS068 ACHHS081 ACHHS082

THE ARTS

Drama: ACADRM027 ACADRM028 ACADRM031 ACADRM035

Visual Arts: ACAVAM108 ACAVAM111 ACAVAM112 ACAVAM116

PREPARED BY

Jackie French and Mark Wilson

Pre- Reading Suggestions

Before reading the book you may like to have a general discussion about the following:

- What does ANZAC stand for?
- What is ANZAC day?
- What wars have Australia taken part in?
- Are there any members of your family that have been involved in war? What have they told you about what they did and why they did it?
- What other roles have Australian troops played, other than just combat? • Have their roles changed over the years?
- Why it is important for young Australians to understand what happened during times of war? What can be learnt from this understanding?

After reading the book:

- How did this book make you feel about war? Do you feel any different about war now than you did previously?
- What is the major thing that you learnt by reading this book?
- How do the illustrations on their own convey a story? Explain.

WRITING STYLE

–An extract from *A Day to Remember*

'But still they came, and they remembered: those who had suffered as the bombs of others dropped from the sky; refugees torn from their homes, faraway; children conscripted as soldiers for wars they didn't understand. All who had suffered in war; all who had given their lives for their country leaving loved ones and children behind; all those who did their best to make things better: this was a day to remember them all. Australians had served in so many places now: in Timor, keeping peace with United Nations forces after Indonesian troops and local militias killed and pillaged after Timor's vote for independence; in Zimbabwe as it won its independence; in Namibia, in Cambodia and Somalia, trying desperately to help the war-torn countries with medical and other aid; and in Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Bougainville, and the Solomon's keeping calm after deadly riots ripped apart the country. More would go back to Timor to keep order after an attempt to assassinate

their President, and to Haiti after an earthquake shattered the land. Others served in the horror of Rwanda, as two tribes tried to exterminate each other, killing millions, leaving millions homeless and starving. Peace is too fragile to be easily made or kept. They did the best they could.'

Authors Inspiration

Jackie's Inspiration I grew up with the battered and weary of world war two around me, men still scarred in body and mind by Japanese prison camps or the Burma railway, women who had survived concentration camps. I saw boys of my own generation march away as conscripts, while I marched in anti-war demonstrations. I know young men and women who risk their lives now to aid others and serve their country. I realised how few Australians even know where our defence forces serve and have served, places like Tonga and Rwanda and Haiti.

I've seen ANZAC Day change from the solemnity of my childhood, the often grim faced men, to the years when it almost seemed as those ANZAC Day might be forgotten except for dedicated few, and the reawakening of our sense of history, of our debts and links to the past that has created us. Every ANZAC day it as though I can feel the thread that links us to each day over a hundred years. War affects or has affected probably ever Australian. I hope this book gives helps kids understand that the past is part of us; and that when we remembering the suffering and sacrifice of others we not only honour them, but bring depth and the gift of empathy to ourselves.

Editorial comments

This was a difficult book to write. How do you put 100 years of history into a picture book, the anguish and the love, the heroism and depth of duty? It took several years to turn thousands of words into a few. Mostly, though, once Mark's images were on the page, they said far more than my words could.

The Illustrations:

How Mark interpreted his task:-

When children read *A Day to Remember*, my main hope is that they feel a sense of pride in the sacrifices our forefathers made, and many of our loved ones are still making today. Many of the ANZACs who fought here and overseas in all the wars in which we have been involved, risked their lives so that we could share a life of freedom and a sense of hope for the future. They were and are ordinary men and women — sometimes just children as my grandfather was in WW1. They get caught up in extraordinary times, and simply do what has to be done. They may not all be heroes, because for every soldier fighting at the front, there are hundreds of others working to make sure they have everything they need to stay there, and stay alive. The nurses, runners, cooks and medics, to name just a few, are often in as much danger as the soldier in the battle. We celebrate ANZAC Day for all of them.

Almost all our family stories touch on war at some stage. It is a fact of human history. My father was a pilot in the RAAF when the Second World War ended. He then served in Japan, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam. My grandfather was a 'boy soldier' in the First World War. He was only 16 when he was sent to fight in France in the Battle of Bullecourt. He was wounded in that disastrous battle and went on to fight in the Second World War, and somehow survived that war as well. His brother Ernest was wounded in Palestine in the same war. But my family story is not unlike many others.

The ANZACs fight for, and with, people from many other lands. From Timor Leste to Afghanistan, from the Solomon Islands to the Middle East, where our soldiers are still a part of Operation Paladin with the UN peacekeeping forces. It is the longest ongoing operation involving our soldiers, going back to 1956. I have used over one hundred images in the illustrations. Many are quite personal, like the illustration of my father on the Vietnam pages. It was based on the only photo that exists of his service in Vietnam. He sent Mum a letter with it in 1968, saying, among other things, that he was okay, but had recurring stomach pains. We didn't know it at the time, but it was the beginning of cancer. I tell this story now, because we all have stories of the personal sacrifices that our loved ones have made. I can sit here now and write this, happy in the knowledge that my children and grandchildren are safe, and face a life of freedom and opportunity because of what they did, and are still doing today.

It was an absolute pleasure working with Jackie French on *A Day to Remember*. Jackie is one of my favourite writers, and all of her work resonates strongly with children. When I first read the manuscript, I was inspired with her ability to tell such a monumental story in simple language, so that children of all ages would understand it. I saw it as a personal challenge to match her beautiful narrative style with images that complemented them, as well as adding a visual narrative of my own. I hope I have succeeded in some small way.

All of the illustrations throughout have direct reference to actual events. I also try to bring to life the little things in a story, like the soldiers with feet wrapped in cloth to muffle their footsteps; and the Ghost rifles, set up to shoot after the soldiers had left during the Vietnam War. Many became refugees after the war and are now living in Australia. My mother served in the RAAF during WW2. Her job was typing the letters to loved ones when a soldier was killed. We don't think of the affect little things like that have on people. Each letter she typed was about a person who left behind loved ones, parents, sons, wives, husbands and daughters. In our book, we pay tribute to all of them.

Hopefully, this book will inspire students to read more widely about the ANZAC legend and the conflicts we have been involved in throughout our short history. Hopefully children will also research their own family histories and see where their own stories lead. My hope is also that people see our book for what it essentially is, a tribute to bravery, endurance, determination, and the power of human love and hope

Illustration technique

I started all the paintings in grey-lead pencil or charcoal pencil on paper, and left some of those as they were throughout the book. I simply glued them down onto canvas on some pages.

The cover is acrylic paint on primed canvas, and features my son and my granddaughter. The painting on page 22-23 of the beach at Gallipoli is also acrylic on canvas. The title page is the original sketch I did at the Frankston Anzac day Parade in 1998. Page 11 is also pencil on paper.

All the others are mixed media. I mostly start with a pencil drawing, adding a background wash in the theme colour I have chosen for each page. This is blue for pages 4-5 and 20- 21, yellow ochre for pages 6-7 and 24-25 and army

green for the Vietnam pages and pages 26-27. When the whole book is blocked in like that, I add acrylic or Derwent pencil for detail and texture (I like working in pencil for some reason). I then add more Pelican ink washes to build up the colour where needed, or coloured biro work where I need more detail or contrast. Some of the small canvas paintings or pencil drawings throughout the book are done as studies, but if they work out, I paste them onto the final art. There is no Photoshop work. It is all drawing, paint and paste (a lot of glue goes into each book).

Educational applicability

A Day to Remember is suitable for students from seven years old to adult, though each age will see and understand the text in different ways. Young children may just see a glimpse of their 'Pa' or Uncle or even their family's ties in the book. Older students will follow the themes and conflicts.

THEMES

- The change in Australians' attitude to both war and Anzac day in the past 100 years
- The history of Australian conflicts from 1915 to the present day –
- The change in Australian society from 1915. In 1914 Australians ran singing and cheering through the streets when war was declared. How has our attitude to war changed? Have we become a nation who can empathize with others, with different beliefs and values? How do we see 'enemies' today?
- The role of Australia's defence forces have changes in the past 10 years, from 'defending the British empire' to a greater emphasis on peace keeping and humanitarian roles. Students could discuss how the media portray the role of the defence forces, often focusing on an almost Hollywood ideal of warfare in the major areas of conflict while neglecting the major peacekeeping roles Australia is active in. Is this the choice of the media or the deliberate government policy? Older students might compare the way Australian media cover the work of our armed forces with the coverage in Great Britain and the USA.
- Who suffers in war? Battlefields are often where people are trying to survive. What effect does war have on the people who fight wars, and those who are caught up in them?
- What are the environmental effects of war?
- Refugees: what is the United Nations definition of a refugee? What are Australians' international obligations to refugees? How many

refugees come to Australia each year? How has our refugee intake changed in the past 100 years? Where do most refugees in the world come from, and where do they most often go?

Suggested Activities

- Almost every Australian or their families have been affected by war. Ask parents, grandparents and older friends about their experiences and stories; compare those from different countries, different ages.
- Choose a humanitarian task where Australia has played a role, and try to find out more about it.
- Choose a lesser known conflict that Australian has played a role in, and find out more about it. A good place to start is the Australian War memorial web site: www.awm.gov.au
- How do ANZAC Ceremonies vary? What are the many traditions of ANZAC Day?
- Find out where ANZAC Day is celebrated beyond Australia and learn how and why the tradition is upheld there too.
- Look up the Register of War memorials in your state or territory. What different ways are those who suffered or gave their lives in war remembered?
- How do you think war, and those who suffer in war, are best remembered?

