

## 'Down and dirty with Grammar' Presented by Lindsay Williams

### Text 1 (written by a year 3 child)

#### FROGS

Frogs jump and croke a lot. Ther skin is slippery and wet. They hide sometimes and ther big eyes blink. I no some poepel who are scerd of them. I am not scerd of them. I think they are vere cute. Thats what I think.

How would you assist this child improve this piece of writing?

### Text 2: Monsters Of The Deep Terrify Swimmers

Gold Coast beaches were invaded yesterday by one of nature's most vicious predators. A mob of sharks kept terrified swimmers out of the water all day. The sharks were hunting large schools of small fish. Their ferocious attack on the small fish could be seen from the beach. One local scientist described it as a 'feeding frenzy'. "They are killing machines," the expert said. "They tear into the small fish and massacre them by the thousands."

One surfboard rider was out near the sharks when they were first seen. Bill Green told reporters, "One of the monsters swam right past my board. I could see its evil black eye looking at me and I paddled for my life".

Lifesavers hope the unwelcome invaders will be gone by tomorrow.

### Text 3: Gentle Giants Visit Coast

Lucky tourists on the Gold Coast were treated to a visit yesterday from a magnificent school of blue whales. The gentle giants played all day just a few hundred metres from the beaches that were packed with delighted tourists.

The graceful creatures seemed to be giving a performance as they rose out of the water and blew water from their water spouts. The whales seemed to be in family groups with several small whales swimming lovingly alongside their mothers.

Several surfboard riders paddled out close to the playful creatures, but not too close, in case they scared the visitors away. One board rider, John Smith, said, "It was a magical experience. One whale came over and looked at me as though he wanted to communicate."

The tourist board hopes the whales will stay around for a while yet.

It is an interesting activity to give these two texts to children and ask them to identify differences in the way the two incidents have been described. They will identify many of the grammatical items discussed in these workshops.

**Text 4: from 'Angelica' by Lindsay Williams**

The plane was plummeting towards the ground. Smoke streamed from the engine. The cabin filled with sound: the roaring of the plane as it dropped out of the sky and people screaming. She could see that some people were praying. The plane was only metres from the ground. It would be over in seconds. She knew they were all going to die.

Claire opened her eyes. She was breathing heavily; her hands were sweating.'

**Text 5: from 'Angelica' by Lindsay Williams**

the day before / there / had been / two plane crashes / one / was / the plane that Claire had been on / she / was shocked to read / that she had been the only survivor

*The four extracts (Texts 5, 6, 7 and 8) below come from 'factual' texts describing the 'discovery' of Australia by James Cook. Take note of how both the British and Aborigines are represented.*

**Text 5: from 'Captain James Cook *Discovering the East Coast* in A and S Sampson (1979) *Explorers of Australia*, Lloyd O'Neill Pty Ltd: Australia, p15, ISBN 0 85550 824 8**

Several attempts made by Cook to contact the aborigines camped on the bay proved unsuccessful. Fortunately the natives were not warlike and it was possible for Cook to make several excursions inland. He comments that 'the Natives do not appear to be numerous neither do they seem to live in large bodies, but dispersed in small parties along the water side; those I saw were about as tall as Europeans, of a very dark brown colour, but not black...nor had they woolly frizzled hair, but black and lank much like ours, no sort of clothing or ornaments were ever seen by any of us upon any one of them – some we saw that had their faces and bodies painted with a sort of white paint. The shellfish is their chief support, yet they catch other sorts of fish, some of which we found roasting on the fire the first time we landed.'

A week passed before Cook decided to move on. Within a few hours he had noted Port Jackson as 'a safe anchorage' but he did not stop to explore it. As he sailed north, mapping and naming points, bays and rivers, he noted Moreton Bay, the future site of the city of Brisbane. Not long after, Cook entered the passage which he names Endeavour Passage.

**Text 6: from 'A convict settlement' in C. Crisswell and T. Deoki (1982) *Junior Secondary History for Queensland*, Longman and Cheshire: Brisbane, p147, ISBN 0 582 66330 X**

*Note: The account of Cook's arrival in Australia re-produced below is the complete and unabridged version presented in this particular school history textbook.*

Captain Cook had sailed up the east coast of Australia in 1770. Joseph Banks was a botanist who sailed with Cook. He made careful study of the coast and he suggested a settlement could be made in New South Wales. The bay where they landed was called Botany Bay because Banks found many new plants there.

**Text 7:** from 'White man say we have no history' in Ros Bowden and Bill Bunbury (1990) *Being Aboriginal: comments, observations and stories from Aboriginal Australians*, ABC Enterprises: Australia, p28, ISBN 0 7333 0023 5

'We've still got our culture, we've still got our old ways of living. We might live in a white man's home but we still live our life. My tribe is Morowori, my father's tribe, and I take after my father, because my father's name is Muri Goodegebah and that means a flower or a tree. This is my land. We own this land, us Aboriginals. We were first here, before Captain Cook came. This is me land, here, where I look. We own all this, every little bush, every little tree, every log, every stick, every little bit of flower. You see those big flowers? Emus are getting fat now and they're ready to lay. We tell by the flowers because they're getting near springtime. This is our land. This is not your land.'

Jimmy Barker

**Text 8:** from 'Cook, J' in Dr David Horton (ed.) (1994) *The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia*, Aboriginal Studies Press: Australia, Volume 1, p224

James Cook (1728-79) reaches eastern Australia from New Zealand aboard the Endeavour on 19 April 1770, first sighting land at Point Hicks in present-day Vic. The first Aborigines the ship's company saw were probably five Yuin people, viewed distantly through a telescope on the beach near present-day Batemans Bay on 22 April. The first face-to-face contact occurred at Botany Bay on 29 April, during which two men painted with broad white bands across the face, chest and thighs made 'threatening and menacing' gestures with 'pikes' and 'scimitars'. Cook eventually fired a musket to frighten them, peppering with light shot the legs of one man, who then picked up a shield to defend himself. 'All they seemed to want was for us to be gone', he wrote.

On 11 June the Endeavour struck a coral reef at present-day Cooktown, leading to the sailors' most prolonged contact with Aboriginal people. To make repairs Cook beached the ship in the first safe harbour and fresh water he could find. On 10 July four men approached them in a small canoe fitted with outriggers. Their bodies were painted with red and white stripes and, Cook observed, 'their features were far from being disagreeable, the voices were soft and tunable and they could easily repeat many words after us, but neither us nor Tupia could understand one word they said'.

**British**

<b>Text</b>	<b>Doing</b>	<b>Being</b>	<b>Thinking/Perceiving</b>	<b>Saying</b>
<b>5: Captain Cook</b>	made to contact to make found landed noted sailed made could be made entered names	(Proved)	Saw Were seen Saw Decided	Comments suggested
<b>6: Convict</b>	Had sailed Sailed Landed found	was		
<b>7: White man</b>	came			
<b>8: Encyclopaedia</b>	Reaches Fired Peppering Wrote Beached Could find	To be	Sighting Saw Viewed Could (not) understand	observed

**Indigenous Australians**

<b>Text</b>	<b>Doing</b>	<b>Being</b>	<b>Thinking/Perceiving</b>	<b>Saying</b>
<b>5: Captain Cook</b>	Camped Dispersed catch	were not were nor had	do not appear do they seem to live	
<b>6: Convict</b>				
<b>7: White man</b>	Live Live Take Own Own	Have got Have got Is is were is is is	Look Tell (i.e. discern)	
<b>8: Encyclopaedia</b>	Made (gestures etc) Picked (up) To defend approached	Was were	Seemed to want Could (not) understand said	Could repeat