

These notes are for:

- 12+yrs
- Secondary

Key Learning Areas:

- English
 - recount
 - first/third person narrative

Example of:

- Young Adult Fiction
- Historical Fiction
- Australian setting

Experience of:

- Reflecting on text
- Reading & Writing
- Speaking & Listening
- Research

Values addressed:

- Care & Compassion
- Understanding & Tolerance
- Fairness & Appreciation

Themes:

- History
- Explorers
- Maritime history
- Australian environment
- Aboriginal peoples

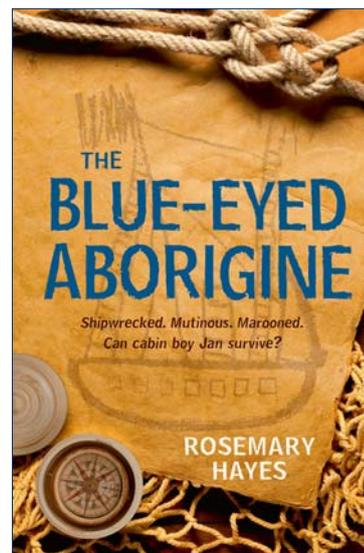
*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

Walker Books Australia Ph +61 2 9517 9577
 Locked Bag 22 Fax +61 2 9517 9997
 Newtown, N.S.W., 2042

For enquiries please contact Melissa Hamilton:
 mhamilton@walkerbooks.com.au

Notes © 2010 Walker Books Australia Pty. Ltd.
 All Rights Reserved.

The Blue-Eyed Aborigine



The Blue-Eyed Aborigine

By Rosemary Hayes
 ISBN: 9781847800787
 ARRP: \$16.95
 NZRRP: \$18.99
 No. of Pages: 192
 Sept 2010

Outline:

An intriguing, hard-hitting story.

It is 1629, and there is mutiny in the air aboard the Dutch ship *Batavia* as she plies her way towards Java with her precious cargo. Jan, a cabin boy, and Wouter, a young soldier, find themselves caught up in the tragic wrecking and bloody revolt that follow. But worse is to come... Based on the diaries of the ship's Commander, Rosemary Hayes recaptures some of maritime history's most dramatic moments, linking the fates of of Jan and Wouter with discoveries that intrigue Australians to this day.

The Blue-Eyed Aborigine not only describes factual events but also imagines the unknown – the lives, relationships and discoveries of the two young Dutchmen as they attempt to settle in a country so different from their native Holland.

An excellent novel for class study. Will encourage students to delve into the history of early explorers of Australia.

Author Information:

Rosemary Hayes lives and works in Cambridgeshire. She has written numerous books for children including historical and contemporary fiction and fantasy. Rosemary lived in Australia for six years, and her first children's novel *Race Against Time*, set in Australia, was runner-up for the 1987 Kathleen Fidler Award. Rosemary's first Frances Lincoln book, *Mixing It*, about the relationship between a Muslim girl and a non-Muslim boy against a background of terrorism, was short-listed for the South Lanarkshire Book Award. She is also the author of *Payback*, based on the actual experiences of a young Muslim woman who was brave enough to defy her family and reject the husband chosen for her.

How to use these notes:

These notes are to be used in conjunction with the text *The Blue-Eyed Aborigine*. Multiple copies of the text are recommended for shared reading. This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.



Classroom Ideas for *The Blue-Eyed Aborigine*:

BEFORE READING *THE BLUE-EYED ABORIGINE*:

- From the front and back cover, what information can you learn about the book? Ask students: What do you think this book is about?; How do you think the book will begin/end?; What type of book is this and where would you expect to find it in your library? In your library look at other covers of historical fiction. Do covers often portray the period the book is set in?
- What is the purpose of a blurb? What information does the blurb of this book provide/not provide? Ask students to select a book from the library that they have not read before. Then have students present this book to the class only using information from the front and back cover.

ACTIVITIES & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read *The Blue-Eyed Aborigine* and conduct further online research to answer these questions.

- Which parts of the book *The Blue-Eyed Aborigine* are based on fact and which parts are imagined? List these as you read the story.
- Select an event from the book and create an historical document about it.
- Research the historical setting of this book. What was life like in these times? Look at clothing, food, transport and housing.
- When and where did the *Batavia* sail? Chart its voyage on a map of the world.
- How many people were on board the *Batavia*?
- What cargo was the *Batavia* carrying?
- When and where did the *Batavia* run aground?
- Who were involved in the planning of the mutiny?
- Who were Jan Pelgrom and Wooter Looes and what were their crimes?
- When was the shipwreck of the *Batavia* discovered? What other archaeological materials have been found that relate to the shipwreck?
- What different attitudes to the natural environment are identified in this story? What are the different attitudes of the European and Aboriginal people?
- How is reading historical fiction different to reading a biography, autobiography or textbook? How do you prefer to learn about historical events? Brainstorm in class the different ways you can study and learn about history.
- From whose different perspectives is this story told? How do these change throughout the story? Discuss in class how history is written and how historical facts are collated. Why is it important to understand the historical source as well as the information? How might *The Blue-Eyed Aborigine* have been a different story if told from the perspective of the Aboriginal people?
- Write a newspaper article about the book *The Blue-Eyed Aborigine*. Include the following with your article:
 - A review of the book
 - Information about the author
 - A picture of the cover
 - Information about the history behind the story
- Research the author of this book, Rosemary Hayes. What other books has she written? Visit her website, www.rosemaryhayes.co.uk, and collect interesting facts about her. Create a PowerPoint presentation on Rosemary Hayes and her books.

Other books by Rosemary Hayes

Mixing It

ISBN: 9781845074951
ARRP: \$16.95 NZRRP: \$19.99
192pp, Feb 2007

Payback

ISBN: 9781845079352
ARRP: \$16.95 NZRRP: \$17.99
128pp, May 2009

