

THE 7 STAGES OF GRIEVING

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

Extending the field with other texts

1. Mural

Look at the image of the [40,000 Years mural](#) in Redfern, New South Wales.

- What does the mural say about Aboriginal cultures and experiences of colonisation?
- Does anything surprise you about the mural?
- What have you learnt from viewing this mural? It may be helpful to read the article accompanying the image.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

It is customary to begin a meeting, speech, or event with a Welcome to OR Acknowledgement of Country. Read the information available from [Reconciliation Australia](#). Consider the differences between a Welcome to and Acknowledgment of Country, and the purpose of each.

- How does an Acknowledgement of Country help Australians to understand or be reminded of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures?
- Why is it important to acknowledge the past?
- How does an Acknowledgement of Country relate to reconciliation?

3. A song

Perhaps the most well-known song by Northern Territory band Yothu Yindi is '[Treaty](#)'. At the time *The 7 Stages of Grieving* was written, the song was a prominent and passionate call for a treaty to recognise Aboriginal rights. It was originally written to commemorate the [Barunga Statement](#) of 1988, which then-Prime Minister Bob Hawke signed but never fulfilled.

- Why is a treaty necessary?
- How does a treaty relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination? You might like to read the information available from [Deadly Story](#).
- Read the [lyrics](#) of 'Treaty' and note the issues referenced therein. As you read the play, consider any connections to these lyrics.

4. A film

Discriminatory attitudes towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were reflected in early Australian films. This includes the first film to star Aboriginal actors in leading roles, *Jedda* (1955). Look at some of the [movie posters](#) and read the information from [ACMI](#) and the [NFSA](#). You can also watch some of the clips on the NFSA website.

- How are Aboriginal people portrayed in the posters and video clips?
- What does this tell you about the likely audience and their understanding of Aboriginal peoples and cultures?
- In what ways was *Jedda* a groundbreaking film? In what ways was it problematic? Make a list of the important points identified by ACMI and the NFSA.