

Task for *Lilian's Story*

Introductory activities: Who was Bea Miles?

Activity 1

The novel *Lilian's Story* is inspired by the life of infamous Sydney figure Bea (often called Bee) Miles. Before reading the novel, read ['The Life of Bee Miles'](#) and respond to the following activities.

As you read, find the following words in the text and complete the table below (some cells have been completed to show you how to complete the table):

Word	Quotation	Denotative ₁ meaning	Connotative ₂ meaning
original		independent thinker	
eccentric			
anti-social			scary and threatening behaviour
Bohemian			
intellectuals			
larrikin			
cheekily	"...Bee used to cheekily smoke cigarettes below a sign that read, 'Gentlemen will refrain from smoking'."		
lunatic			

1. Denotative meaning – what does this word mean? Generally the dictionary meaning.
2. Connotative meaning – what is implied by the word? What is the author trying to get you to think about by using that word?

Activity 2

1. Read the following information about Bea, originally published in [Time Out Sydney, 9/11/07](#)
2. Based on the information about Bee/Bea Miles that you have read in the two articles, how would you describe Bee? Write a paragraph answering the question, 'Who was Bee Miles?'

In your response, think very carefully about the words you use to describe her and think about the connotative meaning of the words that you use. Do you view Bee in a positive or negative light? Your description and choice of vocabulary should help your reader to determine whether Bee could be considered in a positive or negative light.