Task for *Reg Saunders: an Indigenous War Hero*

**Three-level guide**

**The south-west’s bloody past**

Read the newspaper article ‘*The south-west’s bloody past*’ by Peter Collins which appeared in *the Standard* on 13 May, 2011, and then complete this exercise to improve your reading comprehension and to engage with the ideas expressed in this article.

**Level 1: These are the facts**

Put a T for True against those statements which can be found in the extract, although the words may not be the same. Be ready to explain your choices. Otherwise put an F for False.

( ) 1. The settlers denied the Aboriginal people access to fresh water and occupied their fishing and hunting areas.

( ) 2. Jan Critchett says that whites and Aborigines had rather similar cultures.

( ) 3. Many respected families in the Western District of Victoria have ancestors who took part in massacres.

( ) 4. The *Portland Mercury* (a newspaper) said that by 1842 the settlers had had enough.

( ) 5. The conflicts between whites and Aborigines were all just local skirmishes.

**Level 2: Drawing conclusions**

Put a T for True against those statements which are implied by the author. Be prepared to justify your choice. Otherwise put an F for False against the statement.

( ) 1. Conflict comes about from a lack of shared understanding.

( ) 2. The settlers thought that they had a legitimate right to defend themselves and their property.

( ) 3. The Aborigines could just have left the area and become nomads.

( ) 4. The violence between whites and Aborigines escalated over about 30 years.

( ) 5. Sins from the past don’t have anything to do with the current generation.
Level 3: Into the world beyond the text

Put a T for True against those statements that you agree with. Otherwise put an F for False. Be prepared to justify your choice.

( ) 1. The Aboriginal guerrilla fighters who fought against the white settlers should be acknowledged as the original Indigenous war heroes.

( ) 2. You really can’t blame the settlers for protecting their livestock.

( ) 3. All Australians today should just get on with their lives and try to forget the bad things that happened in the past.

( ) 4. It would be a really good thing if non-Indigenous Australians today had a better understanding of Indigenous culture, history and values.