

## Task for *Reg Saunders: an Indigenous War Hero*

### Unpacking Settings

#### 1. The three leaders, p. 35, top panel

In this image three leaders (Churchill, Roosevelt and Curtin) gaze out at eye level and directly in front of the viewer. Some sort of demand is being made of the viewer. However, the setting for this image is completely de-contextualised. The background is a map of the route that the convoy carrying two divisions of Australian soldiers back to Australia will take. This is an example of an image depending for its meaning on the explanation given in the print text. Here the meaning made by the leaders' demand seems to be something like: 'Who do you think is right? What would you do in this situation?'

#### 2. The battle of the Bismarck Sea, p. 39

There is no real setting in this panel. The black-and-white image is almost abstract in its representation of the air-sea battle. The context (the battle of the Bismarck Sea) is given not by the image but by the print text at the bottom of the panel. However, the image contains a large number of vectors formed by the movement of the aircraft and the tracer bullets fired by them so that a heightened sense of wartime action is created. This is an interesting case of an image with very little depicted setting which can still carry a heightened sense of realism.

#### 3. Reg Saunders dreaming of owning his own farm, p. 51, top panel

This is probably the only image in the book where Reg Saunders is actually looking from in front of and above the eye level of the viewer. Contact is made between Reg Saunders and the viewer. A demand is being made. 'Do you think that this is really fair?' The text box explains what the 'this' is: Reg Saunders is denied a soldier settlement farm on his own traditional land while white soldiers are given ownership of it. The colours used create a warm ambience, encouraging an empathetic relationship between Reg Saunders and the viewer.

#### 4. Symbolic settings

The most obvious symbolic setting is in the panel on p. 52 showing Reg Saunders standing in front of the Australian War Memorial and the inscription on a tablet in the foreground, 'Their Name liveth for Evermore'. Reg Saunders is linked symbolically to the traditions of military sacrifice in Australia.