

Task for *Reg Saunders: an Indigenous War Hero*

Reading the front cover

Observe! What can I see?

Participants in the illustration:

- Which people are represented?
- What are they doing?
- How are they arranged in relation to each other?
- Does anything distinguish one of the people from the others?
- To which of the represented people are your eyes drawn?
- What human-made things can you see in the illustration?

Symbolic elements in the illustration:

- Which of the human-made things might have a symbolic meaning?

A sense of movement in the illustration:

- In which direction are the people moving?
- How is this sense of movement created?

Natural features:

- Where is this illustrated scene set?
- What is a likely visual connection between the appearance of the represented people and the background to the scene?

The relationship between viewers (readers) of the front cover and the represented people:

- Is the viewer/reader positioned above, below or at the same level as the represented people?
- Is the viewer/reader positioned in front of or to the side of the represented people?
- Is there any contact made between viewer/reader and the represented people?

The relationship between the represented people:

- Is a relationship established between any of the soldiers by the 'gaze' of one of the soldiers?

Layout:

- Where are the names of the author and the illustrator located?
- Where is the title located?
- Where is the illustration?
- Which element has most weight?

Use of colour:

- How has colour been used in the illustration and in the title?

Exclusions:

- Has anything been left out of the illustrations that you might have expected to see?

Interpret!

What textual and visual features have been used? What meanings do these have?

Participants in the illustration:

Symbolic elements in the illustration:

A sense of movement in the illustration:

Natural features:

The relationship between viewers (readers) of the front cover and the represented people:

The relationship between the represented people:

Layout:

Use of colour:

Exclusions:

Conclude!

What am I being asked to believe?