

Task for *The ABC Book of Australian Poetry*

Table of poems (in page order)

The following list is not prescriptive and only provides suggestions for year groups, themes and devices. The way the poems are used and when they are used will depend on your context.

Title and author	Themes	Key devices	Year level	Page
Part 1: Beginnings				
'I Am' Mary Duroux	Nature, identity, family, time	Repetition, metaphor	5-6	20
from 'A Song of Rain' C.J. Dennis	Nature, place	Assonance, alliteration	7-8	21
'The Big River' Stephen Herrick	Rural Australia, memory, time, colonisation? urbanisation?	Imagery (visual, auditory), metaphor	7-9	22-23
'Dilemma' Michael Dugan	Humour, place	Rhyme, repetition	5-6	24
from 'Mullumbimby to Bondi' J. Andrew Johnstone	Place, colonisation,	Australian slang/colloquialism, alliteration, rhyme	5-6	25
Part 2: Mountains, forests and plains				
'Bell-Birds' Henry Kendall	Nature, time, reflection, nostalgia, childhood	Rhyme, alliteration, imagery (visual, auditory, tactile), repetition, metaphor, euphony, personification	8-9	30-32
'The Bush' James Lister Cuthbertson	Beauty, Australian landscape	Rhyme scheme, personification, imagery (olfactory, visual), figurative language, alliteration	6-7	33
'In the Forest' Thomas Shapcott	Nature, deforestation, loss, innocence, human impacts on the environment	Personification, tone, onomatopoeia, metaphor, rhetorical question, repetition, cacophony	7-8	34-35
'Clinging' Mark O'Connor	Adventure, danger	Alliteration, Enjambment, Metaphor, Rhyme	8-9	36
'Rainforest Song' Libby Hathorn	Deforestation, Loss of Nature, Identity	Imperative, personification, imagery, assonance, rhyme, alliteration	6-7	37
'The Bunyips' Doug MacLeod	Fantasy, Australian folklore and legend,	Humour, slang, Australian vernacular	6	38
'The Bunyip' Oodgeroo of the Tribe Noonuccal	Indigenous culture and heritage, Australian legend and folklore, bedtime stories	Aboriginal English, Tone, Slang, Australian Vernacular, Alliteration, Imagery, Extended	7-8	39

		Metaphor, Symbolism		
from 'Bold Jack Donahoe' Anonymous	Australian Bushranger, Colonial Life, Rebellion, Crime, Justice, Injustice, Honour, Cowardice	Rhyme scheme, ballad form, alliteration, assonance, colloquial language metaphor, humour	7-8	40-41
'Ned Kelly Song' Anonymous	Australian legend, remembrance, crime, justice, morality, memory	Slang, rhyme scheme, idiom, dramatic monologue, connotation, tone	5-6	42
'Said Hanrahan' John O'Brien	Australian outback, rural life, drought, bush life, mateship, fate, Australian climate	Archaism, Australian vernacular, rhyme, colloquialism, personification, figurative language, symbolism	5-6	43-47
from 'In Time of Drought' Mary Hannay Foott	Drought, faith, fate, poverty, depression, hardship	Irony, tone, biblical reference, allusion, alliteration, imagery	7-8	48
'Drought' Anonymous	Drought, depression, despair, faith, hardship	Anaphora, biblical allusion, alliteration, rhyme, imagery (auditory), personification, repetition	6-8	49
from 'The Never-Never Land' Henry Lawson	Australian outback, depression, place, natural beauty	Repetition, imagery (visual), personification, figurative language, alliteration, rhyme	7-8	50
from 'Click Go the Shears' Anonymous	Shearing, rural life, folk songs, Australian traditions, time	Australian vernacular, Australian English, rhythms, rhyme, alliteration, repetition, Bush ballad form	5-6	51
'Trouble on the Selection' Henry Lawson	Rural life, childhood, growing up, place	Voice, characterisation, dramatic monologue, humour, reference, alliteration, Australian vernacular	6-8	52-53
from 'The Old Bullock Dray' Anonymous	Marriage, relationships, rural life, hardships	Humour, rhyme, rhythm, Australian vernacular, colloquial language, Bush ballad form	7-8	54-55
from 'Waltzing Matilda' A.B. (Banjo) Patterson	Outback life, crime, justice, national identity, remembrance	Bush ballad form, rhythm, rhyme, repetition, alliteration	5-6	56-57
'The Man from Snowy River' A.B. (Banjo) Patterson	Rural life, nostalgia, place, Australian outback, courage, horse riding, national identity,	Bush ballad form, rhyme, rhythm, Australian vernacular, imagery (visual,	5-6	58-62

		auditory), alliteration, metaphor, simile		
'Parrots' Judith Wright	Natural beauty, the environment	Simile, rhyme scheme, symbolism, enjambment,	5-7	63
'Crow-Call' Gwen Harwood	Nature, eternity, death, a moment in time	Historical reference, biblical allusion, imagery, metaphor, symbolism, alliteration, free verse form	8-9	64-65
'The Glasshouse Mountains' John Foulcher	Deforestation, urbanisation, human impacts on the environment, age	Imagery (visual, auditory), simile, metaphor, symbolism, enjambment, alliteration, free verse form, personification	7-8	66-67
'Uluru' Eva Johnson	Indigenous heritage, culture, protest, The Dreaming, sadness, memorial	Alliteration, personification, enjambment, imagery (auditory, visual)	8-9	68
'In Possum Land' Henry Lawson	Imagination, dreams, outback Australia	Rhyme scheme, imagery, repetition, rhyme	5-6	69
Part 3: My country				
from 'The Law About Singing Out' Gela Nga-Mirraitja	Indigenous heritage, culture, parents, tradition, pride, connection to nature	Personification, free verse form, auditory imagery, symbolism	8-9	74
'My Country' Dorothea Mackellar	Natural beauty, place, environment, national identity, nostalgia, harshness of the bush	Imagery (visual), rhythm, rhyme, personification, symbolism, metaphor, repetition, figurative language, alliteration, imperative	7-8	75-77
'On the Night Train' Henry Lawson	Outback Australia, enchantment	Imagery (visual, auditory), voice, rhyme, personification, repetition, exclamation, rhetorical question	7-9	78
'On Frosty Days' David Campbell	Youth, droving, rural life, natural beauty, mateship	Rhyme, imagery (visual, auditory), alliteration, rhyme, rhythm	6-7	79
'Nine Miles from Gundagai' Jack Moses	Rural life, pioneering, hardships, bullock team, place, death, memory	Rhyme scheme, alliteration, personification, cultural and historical reference, symbolism, metaphor	6-7	80-81
'The Days When We Went	Childhood, nostalgia,	Rhyme scheme,	7-8	82-83

Swimming' Henry Lawson	rural life, innocence	sibilance, Australian vernacular, imagery (visual, tactile)		
'When the Golden Grain is Ripe' J.M. Roache	Rural life, passing of an age, technology, time, farming, hope	Imagery (visual, auditory), symbolism, alliteration, repetition, dramatic monologue	6-7	84-85
'Song of the Rain' Hugh McCrae	Contentment	Imagery (visual, auditory), alliteration, personification, rhyme, onomatopoeia, assonance	7-8	86
'Tanks' Rhyll McMaster	Nostalgia, Australian dream	Free verse form, enjambment, imagery, metaphor, figurative language, personification	8-9	87
'Rainwater Tank' Les A. Murray	Harshness of rural life, farming, drought	Personification, imagery (visual), simile, alliteration, rhyme	8-9	88-89
'Old Horses' Max Fatchen	Horses, age, contentment, rural life, time, droving	Shape poetry form, repetition, imagery (auditory, visual, olfactory), personification	6-7	90-91
from 'The Old Whim-Horse' Edward Dyson	Horses, old age, passing of time, rural Australia, nostalgia, place	Imagery (visual, auditory), personification, biblical allusion, rhyme, simile, classical allusion	8-9	92-93
'Where the Pelican Builds Her Nest' Mary Hannay Foott	Adventure, harshness of the outback, exploration, tragedy	Rhyme, rhythm, Bush ballad form, archaism	8-9	94-95
'Frogs' Bill Scott	Frogs, nature	Alliteration, assonance, imagery (auditory), onomatopoeia, humour	5-6	96
'The Great Snake' Mary Gilmore	The Dreaming, nature, creation	Repetition, imagery, symbolism	7-8	97
'The Song of Cicadas' Roderic Quinn	Nature, childhood, youth, nostalgia,	Alliteration, repetition, imagery, (visual, olfactory, auditory), onomatopoeia, tone	8-9	98-99
'Tractor' William Hart-Smith	Farming	Personification, extended metaphor	6-7	100
from 'The Dusk' Robert Gray	Kangaroos, nature	Simile, imagery	7-8	101
'Ballad of the Drover' Henry Lawson	Droving, rural life, place, perseverance, natural disasters, harshness of the outback, tragedy	Ballad form, repetition, rhythm, rhyme, imagery (visual, auditory), archaism, metaphor, personification,	7-8	102-105

		onomatopoeia, alliteration, voice, zoomorphism, tone		
'Clancy of the Overflow' A.B. (Banjo) Patterson	Droving, rural life, nostalgia, city life, national identity, folklore	Bush ballad form, dramatic monologue, rhyme, rhythm, Australian colloquialism, tone, personification, imagery (visual, auditory) symbolism, alliteration, cacophony, juxtaposition, metaphor	7–8	106–107
'Andy's Gone with Cattle' Henry Lawson	Droving, harshness of the bush, realism	Rhyme, rhythm, personification, figurative language, tone, irony, repetition, symbolism, zoomorphism, alliteration	8–9	108–109
'A Tree' Kevin Hart	Cycle of life, childhood, time	Imagery (visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory), enjambment, personification, metaphor, extended metaphor	8–9	110–111
'Tree Australia Tree' Libby Hathorn	Natural beauty, Australian trees and environment, Indigenous heritage	Imagery (visual, auditory), repetition, personification	6–7	112–113
from 'Took the Children Away' Archie Roach	Stolen generations, protest, sadness, belonging, family	Simile, irony, repetition, tone, imagery, anaphora	8–9	114–115
Part 4 – Through the city, night and day				
'Face of the City' Grace Perry	Time, change, heritage, loss, destruction	Personification, alliteration, sibilance, onomatopoeia, imagery (auditory, tactile), figurative language	7–9	120
'Supermarket' Libby Hathorn	Shopping, city life, place	Onomatopoeia, alliteration, rhyme scheme, assonance, rhythm, imagery (auditory, visual), humour, rhythm	6–7	121
'The Gardener' David Rowbotham	Memory, childhood, legacy, kindness, gardening	Simile, alliteration, imagery (visual), connotation	8–9	122
'Mothers Come Flying'	Motherhood, city life	Rhyme, internal rhyme,	6–7	123

Anonymous		imagery (visual), alliteration, rhythm		
'Profiles of My Father' Rhyll McMaster	Childhood, fathers, memory, nostalgia, place	Alliteration, enjambment, free verse form, personification, imagery (auditory, visual, tactile), humour, irony, tone, simile, metaphor, inference	8-9	124- 125
'Glenelg' Jim Hayes	Place	Alliteration, palindrome	5-6	126
'Night Noises' Patricia Wrightson	Fear, night-time	Tone, simile, imagery, inference	5-6	127
'Full Moon' Robin Klein	Full moon, werewolves	Rhyme, dramatic monologue, humour, imagery, alliteration, simile	5-6	128- 129
'Nightening' Michael Dugan	Fear, night-time	rhyme, tone, alliteration, imperative	5	130
'Things that Go Squark' Peter Wesley-Smith	Nonsense poetry	Nonsense poetry, rhyme and internal rhyme, repetition, rhythm, imagery (auditory), onomatopoeia, anaphora, cliché	5-6	131
'Sitting on the Fence' Michael Leunig	Self, trust, childhood	Repetition, figurative language, imagery, nonsense poetry	5-6	132
'Free Wheeling on a Bike' Robert Gray	Bike riding	Imagery, metaphor, assonance	5	133
'The Man from Ironbark' A.B. (Banjo) Patterson	City vs country folk, place, folklore	Juxtaposition, rhyme, Bush ballad form, rhythm, humour, anaphora, Australian vernacular, tone, characterisation, inference, hyperbole, metaphor, repetition, imagery	7-8	134- 136
'The Wagtail' Judith Wright	Innocence, deception, naivety	Personification, imagery (visual, auditory), onomatopoeia, metaphor, alliteration, rhyme	6-7	137
'Peacocks' Kate Llewellyn	Peacocking, natural beauty, identity	Simile, imagery (visual, auditory), juxtaposition, metaphor, humour, alliteration	6-7	138- 139

'Once Return' Nicolette Stasko	Moment in time, perception	Metaphor, imagery, simile	7–8	140–141
from 'The Call of the City' Victor Daley	Freedom, The city, place	Juxtaposition, religious allusion, alliteration, rhyme, personification	6–7	142
Part 5 – To the sea				
'The Beach' William Hart-Smith	The beach	Metaphor, imagery, personification	5–6	148
'The Sea' Lilith Norman	The sea	Imagery, personification	5	149
'Shark' Geoffrey Dutton	Fear, dangers of the sea	Imagery (visual, auditory), symbolism, repetition, rhyme, alliteration, personification, tone	6–7	150
'The Sunbather' John Thompson	Summer days, sunbaking, moment in time, imagination	Figurative language, simile, imagery (visual, auditory, tactile), alliteration, personification, metaphor, sibilance	7–8	151
'Diver' R.A. Simpson	Overcoming fear, exhilaration, worship, defiance,	Symbolism, tone, alliteration, metaphor, religious allusion, personification, figurative language	7–8	152–153
'The Rock Pool' Peter Skryznecki	Childhood, wonder, magic, imagination	Metaphor, imagery, alliteration, rhyme, enjambment, repetition, imperative, extended metaphor, onomatopoeia	6–7	154–155
'Tide Talk' Max Fatchen	Nonsense poetry, family, childhood	nonsense poetry, personification, imagery, rhyme, assonance	6–7	156–157
'Dolphins' Peter McFarlane	Natural beauty, ownership, belonging, music	Personification, imagery (auditory, visual), extended metaphor, alliteration, sibilance, pun	8–9	158–159
'A Wind from the Sea' Randolph Stow	Humans' relationship with nature, freedom, age	Rhyme imagery, repetition, symbolism, personification	7–8	160
Part 6: Horizon and beyond				
'Epiphany' Dorothy Hewett	Imagination, epiphany	Symbolism, imagery (auditory, visual), simile, metaphor	8–9	166
'Trails' Eva Johnson	Indigenous heritage, The Dreaming, place, belonging, legacy, time, change, memory	Personification, anaphora, imagery (visual, gustatory, olfactory, auditory),	8–9	167

		figurative language, metaphor		
'Kingsford-Smith' Winifred Tennant	Exploration, memorial, remembrance, tragedy, adventure, heroism	Personation, imperative, imagery (auditory, visual), rhyme, classical allusion	8-9	168
'Eclipse of the Moon' Elizabeth Riddell	Beauty, entrapment, belonging, identity	Imagery (visual), personification, extended metaphor, classical reference	8-9	169
'The Australian Sunrise' James Lister Cuthbertson	Sunrise, natural beauty	Imagery (visual, auditory), personification, alliteration, rhyme	7-8	170
'The Star Tribes' Fred Biggs	The Dreaming, Indigenous heritage, legacy	Metaphor, Indigenous language, imagery (tactile, auditory, visual), voice, tone, alliteration, free verse form	7-8	171
'No Point in Staying Longer' David Brooks	The Dreaming, passing of time, stargazing	Classical allusion, free verse form, imagery, metaphor	7-8	172
'The People' John Tranter	Unity, memorial, afterlife, connection, ancestors	Imagery, rhyme, connotation	8-9	173
'Song of the Yellow' John Shaw Neilson	Passing of time, identity,	Imagery (auditory, visual), repetition, personification, symbolism, metaphor	8-9	174-175
'Be Content' Christopher Brennan	Contentment, peace	Personification, imagery (visual, auditory), figurative language, free verse form, imperative, alliteration	7-9	176