

Task for *Becoming Kirrali Lewis*

Three-level guide

In pairs, students are to carefully read the excerpt below, as well as the statements in each of the three levels. After discussing each statement, students circle True (T) or False (F) according to the text and discussion. All students must be prepared to justify their stance to the class.

Excerpt (pp. 12–13):

The tuckshop episode did teach me to keep my mouth shut though. Secondary school was full of lessons like that. I learnt not to question my history teachers when they asked who discovered Australia: 'Captain James Cook, sir.' And the first man to cross the Simpson Desert: 'doh, Simpson, miss.' My mother and father were always telling me – well, they tried to, anyway – a different version of history.

By the time I was a teenager, my life out of school was just as educational. I learnt to ignore the remarks when I walked down the street with my parents. Once I even got strange looks when an Aboriginal family stopped off in town. The skinny black kid in the all-white family. Kirrali Lewis. Little black duck.

Level 1: Literal understanding

Does the text say this? Circle the correct response

T/F	Simpson was the first man to cross the Simpson Desert.
T/F	No one knows who discovered Australia.
T/F	Kirrali learnt as much out of school as in school.
T/F	It was unusual to see an Aboriginal child in an all-white family.
T/F	Kirrali's mother referred to her daughter as a little black duck.

Level 2: Interpretive understanding

Does the text give you this idea? What words and/or phrases support your answer?

T/F	Kirrali understood that her school history was not true.
T/F	Kirrali did not have much respect for her history teachers.
T/F	Kirrali's adoptive mother and father supported the history teachers at the school.
T/F	Kirrali was immune to racist remarks when out with her family (in other words, racist comments didn't trouble her at all).
T/F	Kirrali always had a high opinion of her looks.

Level 3 Applied understanding

Do you agree with these statements? Why/why not?

T/F	The History syllabus taught in Australian schools is an accurate record of events.
T/F	Everyone who lives in Australia knows that it was not 'discovered' in 1788.
T/F	Aboriginal/First Australians enjoy celebrating the arrival of the British to Australia.
T/F	Aboriginal children are never removed from their own families these days.
T/F	Non-Indigenous children are often adopted/fostered by Indigenous families.
T/F	Australia Day should be celebrated on 26 January, the date that the First Fleet landed in Australia.