

THE DROVER'S WIVES

GENRE-BASED TEXTS

Text	Reading	Writing
Tanka (p. 7)	<p>How is the story retold, and what is omitted, in this tanka (a Japanese form consisting of five lines with 5/7/5/7/7 syllables)?</p> <p>Consider the effect of the simile and its relationship to the snake. How is it poetic and evocative?</p>	Compose a tanka to tell the story of a battle with an animal antagonist. Ensure that you include imagery related to the villainous animal.
Sporting Commentary (pp. 20–25)	<p>Find phrases or examples of jargon that reflect this textual form. How does the writer attempt to address the audience and purpose of the text?</p> <p>How have references to the original text been inserted (and often changed) to suit the new context?</p>	Consider a moment of tension in another text you have read. Rewrite this moment in the form of sporting commentary and consider how the new form makes meaning out of the struggle. Is your version an appropriate homage to the original story, or does it change the meaning through the process of adaptation?
Editorial Comments (pp. 39–41)	<p>Consider the tone of this text. What aspects are analytical?</p> <p>Does this text read like a dialogue with the author?</p> <p>Consider some of the intertextual references. How do they help to establish the context?</p>	Imagine that you are working for a publication with a particular readership (e.g. women, adolescents). Provide TEN editorial suggestions for making 'The Drover's Wife' more relevant and/or relatable to this readership.
A Fine Wine (p. 65)	<p>What are the connections to the original story in this short text?</p> <p>How does it amusingly parody wine tasting notes?</p> <p>Why do you think O'Neill chose this textual form?</p>	Think of another product (e.g. a scented candle, a soap, an article of clothing) that could be associated with Lawson's short story. Write a brief advertisement showcasing the textual connections in evocative language.
A 1980s Computer Game (pp. 66–69)	<p>Consider the textual form (you may need an introduction to text adventure games). What elements of the story have been transformed?</p> <p>How does presenting the wife as the central character in a computer game allow for humour?</p>	Compose a short text that engages in dialogue between a human and a piece of technology. You may wish to present a misunderstanding or parody the nature of the interaction (e.g. the misunderstandings that can occur using speech-to-text technology).

	What do you think is the purpose of this text? Is it nostalgia, parody, satire, or something else?	
A School Play (pp. 75–78)	<p>This text is comparable to ‘A Year 8 English Essay’ (pp. 8–10). What is O’Neill suggesting about the study of Lawson and other classic Australian authors in schools?</p> <p>Recite this play in class (a playscript is always a blueprint for performance). What can you discover about the use of humour in the text?</p> <p>What is being satirised? Consider the disjuncture between the evocative stage directions and the simplistic dialogue.</p>	Retell a classic story as a play intended for children (a scene from Shakespeare could be interesting). Afterwards, consider the challenges of altering the audience and textual form of the original story.
A Fable (p. 84)	<p>How does this text respond to the Biblical allusions in the original story?</p> <p>What does the fable enable the writer to do with the story?</p>	Write a fable that provides a resistant or alternate reading of the ‘The Drover’s Wife’. Perhaps it is really about problems with the availability of building materials? Perhaps the drover is a liar who maintains two or three families? Re-read the story in a playful manner.
A Card Game (pp. 89–90)	<p>Why do you think O’Neill chose a card game as a textual form?</p> <p>How does he use the cards to reflect aspects of the story? How do these references guide the game?</p>	Write an advertisement for a board game based on ‘The Drover’s Wife’. What are the rules and what parts of the story lend themselves to a game?
An Insurance Claim (pp. 116–117)	Comment on the blend of non-fiction and fiction. How can informative texts communicate ideas about fictional texts?	Consider another informative way to explore a text. Take the beginning of a fictional text and change it into an informative text. Reflect on how using a non-fiction form can provide a useful perspective.
Songs from a Broadway Musical (pp. 119–120)	Read through these songs and select your favourite (you can explore your own preferences and consider which song appeals to you as a reader). Reflect on the song and on O’Neill’s technique in appropriating it.	Take an iconic poem and vary the words to give it an ‘Australian’ flavour. You can then reflect on the changes and how these have shifted the theme.
Chronological (pp. 135–137)	This text arranges the events of the original story in chronological order. How is understanding the timeline of events helpful to the reader?	Choose a sequence of FOUR events and inject emotion into them. Rewrite these events from a subjective perspective. How has the story changed?

An RSPCA Report (pp. 151–152)	What is the focus of this report? How does this perspective lead to a partial reading of the story?	Write a letter to the wife from the point of view of an animal rights activist, addressing her relationship with Alligator (whose fate as a ‘snake-dog’ is sealed) and her actions towards the snake.
A Golden Age Detective Novel (pp. 164–170)	Briefly research this form . Who invented the ‘ motive, means, and opportunity ’ motif? Consider how context has been established throughout the story. How does the dialogue reflect the conventions of this type of novel? Read the list of related titles at the end. What famous Australian literature is parodied?	Consider another sub-genre of fiction (e.g. Australian Gothic, cozy mysteries). Rewrite the beginning of ‘The Drover’s Wife’ OR another story in line with the conventions of this genre.
A Self-Help Book (pp. 175–176)	What recurring phrases appear in this promotional text, and how do they adhere to the reader’s expectations of self-help books? Consider the use of hyperbole and exaggerated promises.	Write the opening paragraphs to this self-help book. Maintain extreme positivity and include meaningful (though potentially inaccurate) references to ‘The Drover’s Wife’.
Classifieds (pp. 214–217)	Read through the ads and consider how they comment on the original story. How has O’Neill responded in a humorous manner?	Write the beginning of a short story that alternates between classified ads promising solutions, and the inner thoughts of a character with a problem. Juxtapose the ads with the protagonist’s internal monologue, and consider how this multi-genre opening can achieve an effect.
Bush Ballad (pp. 225–227)	Like many of the texts, this one involves a pastiche of references. Read Banjo Paterson’s ‘ The Man From Snowy River ’ to better understand the parody. This form is consistent with the original context of ‘The Drover’s Wife’. Does this make it more ‘appropriate’? Should textual games pay some attention to context, or are the liveliest examples of intertextuality those that transform context? Consider both sides of this argument.	Take the Australian National Anthem and rewrite it to suit the ideas and themes in ‘The Drover’s Wife’ or another iconic Australian narrative.