

CROW COUNTRY

SETTING

Boort is a real town in Victoria, approximately 100km northwest of Bendigo and 250km northwest of Melbourne. Located in the Loddon Valley, it is known as the 'Northern Oasis' for its healthy wetlands and copious birdlife. 'Boort' is a Dja Dja Wurrung word meaning 'smoke from the hill'.

Pay close attention to Constable's descriptions of the land. What impressions of Boort do readers get? Work with a partner to study the descriptions of the setting in Chapters 1 (pp. 1–7) and 2 (pp. 8–13). You could ask yourself:

- How is Boort described? What details do we get about the town and its physical environment?
- What is the effect of developing these details? How do they affect your understanding of the place in which Sadie and the other characters live?
- How does the description establish the vastness of rural Australia?
- How does the description construct representations of Australia?

Description of the setting (quote or paraphrase, page reference)	Effect: how does it construct Boort? What qualities of the location does it highlight?	What techniques are used? What aspects of the writing develop an image/idea of Boort?

