

# A Novel Study Planning Guide based on Blooms & QAR

## Nanberry – Black Brother White by Jackie French

Content ⇒ Process ↓	People	Places	Events	Themes	Connections within the novel and with the readers experience.	Structure and Methods (Use of a range of reading strategies)
<b>Knowledge</b> In The Book: Right There	Keep a notebook for each of the main characters		What do the encounters between Nanberry and other Aboriginal people teach you about their culture?			
<b>Comprehension</b> In the Book: Think and Search	Compare Nanberry and Balloonderry.  Compare Nanberry White and Andrew White.	Find pictures or maps that depict the places in the book. Compare these with pictures or maps that show the places today.  Compare the Sydney that Surgeon White knew with the Sydney Andrew returns to.	The arrival of the Second and Third Fleet are key events in the growth of the colony. What does the book teach you about the life of convicts on these fleets and after their arrival?	The novel contains many themes. Identify each themes and briefly describe the role it plays or how it is introduced.		Chapter headings reveal the character perspective presented. How does this presentation of multiple perspectives affect the reading of the novel?
<b>Analysis &amp; Application</b> In My Head: Author and Me	There are a number of key characters in the book whose lives are well documented. Who are these people and choose two to research in detail.	Research the life Nanberry would have faced in the Royal Navy. What were the conditions like? What is scurvy? What did it mean to be press ganged into service? What else can you discover about life in the Navy?	What do meal times and attitudes towards food reveal about the two cultures?	Nanberry is confronted by many new ideas as he moves into his adopted family. Keep a record of these changes and construct a comparison chart for his two lives.	Learn what you can about an Aboriginal group living around Sydney Harbour. Investigate their customs and language.	
<b>Synthesis</b> In My Head: On My Own	There are a number of minor characters that come and go. How could you expand their role to make them major characters? Describe the changes you would make.	Many places in New South Wales are named after people mentioned in the novel. Construct a list that links places to characters. You could also research the origin of places with Aboriginal names.				Select a chapter or incident, presented from the perspective of Surgeon White and re-write it from Nanberry's point of view.

<p><b>Evaluation</b> In My Head: On My Own</p>	<p>Did Surgeon White treat Nanberry fairly in your opinion? Despite his best intentions, White treats Nanberry generally not as a foster son but as a 'pet' not unlike the o'possum. It's no accident thematically that both are left behind when White returns to England. What else might White have done to make Nanberry's future a brighter one? How does Nanberry take control of his own destiny?</p> <p>Does the book have a character that would be an ideal role model? If so who and why? If no, what qualities could you take from each of the main characters to build an ideal role model? Describe the characteristics you select and why they matter.</p>	<p>What were the challenges faced by the young colony of New South Wales and/or Norfolk Island? What should have been done to overcome or avoid the difficulties faced? Develop a plan for settling the colony with the benefits of what you have learned from reading the book.</p>	<p>Read the Journal of Surgeon John White and compare events described in that with events in the novel and information in the Author's Notes. What aspects of the two accounts match up? What aspects do not? Why might this be?</p> <p><a href="http://bit.ly/johnwhitejournal">http://bit.ly/johnwhitejournal</a></p>	<p>Evaluate Surgeon White's attitude to family? His family in Sydney is an odd collection but is to White, a temporary thing. What are the consequences for his family of this attitude? Consider this for each member.</p> <p>What do you believe is the main theme of the novel? Explain your choice and compare the importance of this main theme with at least two lesser themes.</p>	<p>Racism is a key theme in the book and how the English respond to the 'natives'. What evidence is their of this and what values underpin the attitude of the English?</p> <p>Evaluate the morals of the typical English settler. Provide quotes from the novel to support your evaluation. What impact do their values and beliefs have on the life of the young colony?</p>	<p>This is a Historical Fiction that the author claims is close to the truth of what occurred. From the evidence in the 'Author's Notes' and your own research, how true is this claim? What responsibility does an author owe to the truth? Explain?</p>
--	---	--	--	---	--	---

Resources – Biography of Surgeon White - <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/white-john-2787>  
<http://firstfleetfellowship.org.au/stories/john-white/>  
 Surgeon John White's Journal <http://adc.library.usyd.edu.au/data-2/p00092.pdf>  
 Biography of Woollarawarre Bennelong <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/bennelong-1769>

**QAR - Question - Answer Relationships - Thinking about questions**

**In the Book**

*Right There:* A "detail" type of question, where words used to form the question and words that answer the question are often "right there" in the same sentence. (Blooms - Knowledge)

*Think & Search:* The answer is in the text, but readers have to "think & search" to find the answer; sometimes within a paragraph, across paragraphs, or even chapters. (Blooms - Comprehension)

**In My Head**

*Author and Me: The information to answer the question comes from my background knowledge, but to even make sense of the question, I'd need to have read and understood the text. (Blooms - Application, Analysis)*

*On My Own: The question relates to the text, but I could probably answer this one even if I had never read the text. All the ideas and information come from my background knowledge. (Blooms - Synthesis, Evaluation)*