

A Novel Study Planning Guide based on Blooms & QAR

Birrung The Secret Friend 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)
Knowledge In the Book: Right There		Create a map which entails the various important locations and landmarks or buildings within the story.	Create a Timeline of all of the events in the story. Be mindful to present this accurately and in detail.			
Comprehension In the Book: Think and Search	How might the story have changed if it had been written by Birrung or Elsie? Describe one of the incidents through the eyes of Birrung as if it is a diary entry or letter.				'Elsie and I weren't there to see it, but why we weren't, and where we'd gone, what happened when the Frenchman came for Elsie, is a story I won't tell you today'(p103) Barney hints with this quote about their future. Write your own story using these hints about what happened to Barney and Elsie when they grew up.	
Analysis & Application In My Head: Author and Me				'We'd been at Port Jackson for nearly two years now, and there'd been no store ship to bring us food and new clothes or spades or pannikins or even news. England and the whole world over the horizon could have vanished and we'd never know.' (p 5) How does this quote represent a theme that is central to the novel?		'And above us the moon seemed to sing a lullaby, just like Ma had done, as it played among the clouds.' (p 37) OR 'Days passed in the shiver of Winter' (p91) Locate three other similes or metaphors in the novel and explain their meaning. How do they relate to the experiences of either character or the Australian landscape? Elaborate on this.

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<p>Synthesis In My Head: On My Own</p>	<p>The cover of a book is an ideogram for the contents, and a marketing tool as well. Examine the cover of this book which features a beautiful portrait of Birrung foregrounded against this landscape. What does it suggest about her? What do you imagine her life to be like?</p>		<p>‘Smoke came from the bedroom, funny smoke that made me feel like I wasn’t quite there, as if the hut had floated into another land.’ (p 61)</p> <p>The smoke which Birrung makes in Mrs Johnson’s bedroom as she was delivering her baby, is an example of the various forms of Indigenous cultural knowledge referred to in the novel. Make a list of other examples and what they mean in Indigenous culture.</p>			
<p>Evaluation In My Head: On My Own</p>				<p>Create a new cover for the work, drawing on either theme or incident to create the image. Use techniques such as collage, illustration, painting with watercolours. Take a photograph of your design. Write a blurb for the back cover to complete the book.</p>	<p>Write a Book Review for a magazine about the novel of at least 250 characters. Include the positives and negatives about the story. Give it a five star rating and recommendation.</p>	

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)

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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)