

## Worksheet 2: While You Watch

### 2.1: Home in Jigalong and the Aborigines Act 00.00 – 07.00

**Exercise A:** Complete the following sentences with words from the box.

<i>spirit bird</i>	<i>A.O. Neville</i>	<i>Perth</i>	<i>tea</i>	<i>Gracie</i>	<i>desert</i>
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1. Molly and Daisy are sisters and \_\_\_\_\_ is their cousin.
2. The Jigalong tribe is a \_\_\_\_\_ people.
3. The Australian government gives the Jigalong tribe rations including flour, tobacco and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Molly's mother tells her that the \_\_\_\_\_ will always look after her.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is the legal guardian of all Aborigines in Western Australia. He has the power to remove any Aboriginal child from their home. His office is in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exercise B:** Answer the questions below.

1. What are the girls doing at the beginning of the film? What does this tell us about their culture and way of life?
2. Who are the fathers of Molly, Gracie and Daisy? Where have they gone?
3. Why does Molly's mother tell the children to hide when she sees the policemen?
4. What three things do Aboriginal people need to ask Mr. Neville's permission to do?

### 2.2: Capture and Moore River Native Settlement 07:00 – 27:50

**Exercise A:** True or false? If false, write the correct sentence.

1. The rabbit-proof fence is the longest fence in the world and goes all the way to the sea.
2. Constable Riggs threatens that if Gracie moves from the car, he will lock her mother up.
3. The girls go to Moore River in a car.
4. The Moore River Native Settlement was established to train Aboriginal children to go to university.
5. The children at Moore River are all six years old and older.
6. Children with the lightest skin are removed from Moore River and sent back to their families.

**Exercise B:** Answer the questions below.

1. What are some of the rules at Moore River that the children must follow?
2. Who is Moodoo?

**Exercise C:** Discuss the following statement as a class.

*"For if we are to fit and train such children for the future, they cannot be left as they are, and in spite of himself, the native must be helped."* - A.O. Neville

1. What was Neville's plan to 'help' Aboriginal children?
2. What did Neville believe would happen to 'mixed blood' and 'full blood' Aboriginal people once his plan was implemented?
3. What did he mean by *"in spite of himself, the native must be helped"*?

## 2.3: Escape 27:50 – 47:00

**Exercise A:** Match the quote with the person who said it.

Gracie	the hunter	Neville	Molly	Daisy	the woman from the house
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1. "We don't know this place. How we gonna eat?"
2. "Those three girls. They've run off. Maybe the older one, I wondered when I saw her, too much of their mind. Unfathomable. The tracker's onto it. In the meantime, it must be kept out of the papers."
3. "And watch out for those boys further along, they go hunting rabbits along the fence... Yes, the rabbit-proof fence."
4. "We like it here."
5. "You know what you're doing? That tracker from Moore River, he pretty good. I heard he get them runaways all the time. Gotta be good to beat him. He'll take you back to that place."
6. "Make me sick, these people. Sick."

**Exercise B:** Discuss the following questions in groups or as a class.

1. How do Molly, Gracie and Daisy escape from Moore River?
2. What are some of the things the girls do to stay hidden from the tracker?

## 2.4: Following the Rabbit-Proof Fence 47:00 – 1.10:21

**Exercise A:** Match the quote with the person who said it.

Neville	Mavis	Modoo	Gracie	Daisy
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1. "She pretty clever, that girl. She wants to go home."
2. "We on the wrong fence."
3. "Don't go Molly. Please don't go. He come back if you go."
4. "She gone, Molly. She not coming back."
5. "People fail to understand that the problem of the half-caste is not simply going to go away. If it is not dealt with now, it will fester for years to come. These children are that problem."

**Exercise B:** Discuss the following questions in groups or as a class.

1. What is the trap that Neville sets for the girls?
2. At the train station, why does Gracie turn around and run away from Molly and Daisy? What do you think will happen to Gracie now?
3. Why do you think Modoo works as a tracker? What does he think about Molly, Gracie and Daisy? Is he really unable to catch them?
4. Who is Mavis? What evidence is there to suggest that life is difficult for Mavis?

## **2.5: Return 1.10:21 – end**

**Exercise A:** Answer the questions below.

1. What do Molly and Daisy see when they wake up in the desert? Why is it important? What does Molly say and do?
2. What are Molly and Daisy's mother and other women from their community doing before the girls arrive? Why?
3. What does Molly say when she sees her mother?
4. What do Molly and Daisy do when they reach Jigalong? What happens to them into the future?
5. What happened to Gracie?

**Exercise B:** Discuss the following questions in groups or as a class.

At the end of the film, A.O. Neville states:

*"We face an uphill battle with these people, especially the bush natives, who have to be protected against themselves. If they would only understand what we are trying to do for them."*

1. Neville's official title is 'Chief Protector' yet the children at Moore River call him 'Devil'. Who is Neville protecting? Why do the children call him 'Devil'? How would you describe him? Why?
2. Why do you think the Aborigines Act and related policies were accepted and promoted in Western Australia.

## **Plot Summary**

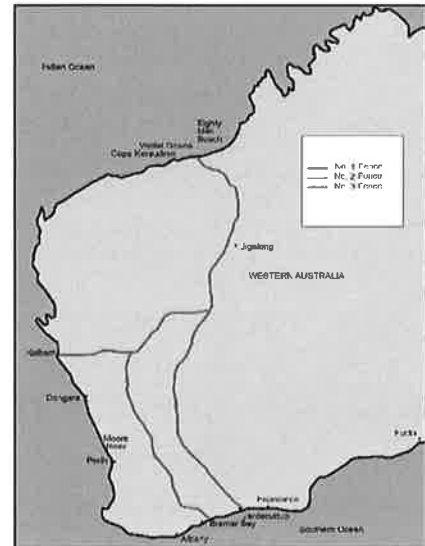
*Rabbit-Proof Fence* tells the story of three Australian Aboriginal girls – Molly Craig, Gracie Fields and Daisy Karnpill Craig – and their dramatic escape and walk home from the Moore River Native Settlement in the year 1931.

At the start of the film, we see Molly, Gracie and Daisy hunting with their mothers in Jigalong, the remote area in which they live. We then see A.O. Neville, the Chief Protector of the Aboriginals in Western Australia. He believes that removing children of mixed European/Aboriginal heritage from their families is good for them.

A.O. Neville orders the local policeman, Constable Riggs, to capture Molly, Gracie and Daisy, who have European fathers. Riggs captures the girls one afternoon and sends them to the Moore River Native Settlement. At Moore River, the girls are trained to talk and act like white Australians. Children at Moore River are not allowed to speak their language or practice their customs and culture. Instead they must speak English, learn Christianity and other European practices. Molly, Gracie and Daisy enter a scary new world. They are unsure of how to behave and face severe punishment for breaking the rules.

Molly, the oldest of the three girls, organises to escape from Moore River with her sister and cousin. The girls head north and, after getting some information from a woman who feeds them, are able to find the rabbit-proof fence which Molly knows will lead them home. The girls must walk 1,500 miles (2414km) through difficult conditions. The girls are chased by Modoo, an Aboriginal Australian tracker, and by Constable Riggs. The girls meet a collection of strangers along the way who provide food as well as advice – both good and bad. Some of this advice convinces Gracie to stop walking and results in her re-capture.

As Molly and Daisy near home, the rabbit-proof fence stops and they find themselves in the extreme desert and they collapse from exhaustion. At the same time, women in their community in Jigalong are chanting and sending them strength. When the girls wake up in the desert, the spirit bird appears, and they find the strength to walk the rest of the way home. When they arrive, they must immediately hide so that they are not recaptured. The film ends with images of the real-life Molly and Daisy walking in Jigalong. They say they will never go back to 'that place' – Moore River.



**Map of the Rabbit-Proof Fence**