

CAESAR THE ANZAC DOG

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STROUD

ILLUSTRATED BY
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 HarperCollins Publishers

READING UNIT AND ACTIVITY PLAN

CAESAR THE ANZAC DOG



Available at all good booksellers. Price: \$16.99. Published by Harper Collins.

Overview of the Story

Written by Patricia Stroud and illustrated by Bruce Potter, this new book tells the proud story of Caesar a redcross trained bulldog and his handler 'Uncle Tom'.

Caesar's job was to rescue wounded soldiers from 'No-Man's-Land' at the Battle of the Somme during the 1st World War. Patricia Stroud recalls this poignant and true story told to her by her Mother Ida who was present when the New Zealand Rifle Brigade boarded their troop ship to transport them to Egypt and the Western Front. The troops were led by their mascot, Caesar, who wore a blue ribbon on his collar given to him by Ida.

Perfect for student Anzac Day awareness, general reading and social studies, this is a true story highlighting courage and loyalty of a dog and his handler in war time. Caesar is an unsung Kiwi hero and this story highlights this little known aspect of the First World War.

Curriculum Details

Levels: 2-4

Curriculum Area: English

Strands: Reading, Listening, Speaking, Viewing
Writing and Presenting

Achievement Objectives:

- Discussing language, meaning and ideas in the text
- Relating understanding to their own experiences
- Making use of visual clues to add meaning and to gain an historical overview
- Listening to and interacting with others in class and group situations to gain meaning from a narrative

Essential Skills:

- convey and receive information, ideas and feelings
- identify, locate and gather and present information from a variety of sources and in a variety of ways.
- thinking critically, imaginatively and logically

Links to: Social Studies Time Continuity and Change

- Relationships between people and events through time

Pre Reading To/Shared Activities

WHAT IS ANZAC DAY ALL ABOUT?

- Find out what the students know about ANZAC Day, eg
 - what does ANZAC stand for? (Australia and New Zealand Army Corps)
 - when is it observed? (25 April)
 - why is it observed as a public holiday?
 - what special ANZAC observances take place at school or in the local district each year
- Invite a representative of your local RSA to talk to the class about what ANZAC Day means to New Zealanders and Australians.
- Using a dictionary have students find the difference between 'an observance' and 'a celebration'.
- Which word do they think best describes ANZC Day? Give reasons why.
- Can they think of any public holidays in New Zealand which are a celebration rather than an observance?

HOW ANIMALS HELP US?

- Have groups brainstorm and list all the ways that dogs can help humans, eg
 - companionship
 - guide dogs for the blind
 - hunting, sheep and cattle dogs

Introducing the Story

- Tell students that you/they will be reading/sharing a true story about a very brave dog called Caesar and his handler 'Uncle Tom' who helped save the lives of ANZAC soldiers during the First World War (1914-18)

STUDY SKILLS

- Tell students that this story takes place in Egypt and in the Somme region of France.
 - using atlases, help students locate these areas
 - older students can use the scale to find the distance these places are from New Zealand