



Reflect and Respond

Come Together - Things Every Aussie Kid Should Know about the First Peoples

Author: Isaiah Firebrace

Illustrator: Jaelyn Biunaiwai

Storyteller: Isaiah Firebrace

Publisher: Magabala Books

Themes: First Peoples and Nations, Australia, Culture, Connection, Traditions, Ceremonies, Language, Place, Identity, Storytelling, Environment

Year levels: Middle and Upper Primary



Learning Areas: Humanities

Discussion questions:

- At the start of the story Isaiah Firebrace writes "I want everyone who reads this book to understand more about First Nations People and the true history of our country". Can you describe something new that you learnt? Why do you think Isaiah wants people to understand more about First Nations people and the history of Australia?
- Can you identify the difference between a 'Welcome to Country' and an 'Acknowledgement of Country'? What role do they play when people come together for events in Australia?
- Describe some of the ways in which First Nations people care for Country.
- Isaiah talks about the importance of music, songs and storytelling in First Nations culture. Why are these things important? How are they part of indigenous culture?
- Can you think of a story or song that you have learnt from your family or culture? How did you learn it and how does it make you feel?
- Why are Elders referred to as 'Aunty' or 'Uncle'? How are they an important part of First Nations communities?
- Use the [AIATIS map](#) to locate the different First Nations groups mentioned in the book.
- *Come Together* includes facts as well as Isaiah's own personal stories. Why do you think he has chosen to include these? What do they add to the book?

Story response ideas:

A. Jigsaw Investigation: In groups of 3-4, each select a different topic from *Come Together* to investigate further.

1. Start by noting down what you already **knew** about the topic prior to reading the story, in the 'Know' section of a **KWL chart**.
2. Then write down what you have now '**Learnt**' about the topic after viewing the story.



Scan the QR code to view the story!





Story response ideas continued...

3. In the '**Wonderings**' section, write down what you would like to still find out.
4. Use resources such [ABC Education](#) other [First Nations' stories](#) on Story Box Library to gather further information that will help to answer your wonderings.
5. Once you have done your research, take turns in your group to share your findings with each other. Make sure you listen respectfully and provide time to discuss these findings together.
6. On the back of your KWL chart, make a note of something new you have discovered from each of your group members.

B. Comparing non-fiction texts: *Heroes, Rebels and Innovators* is another First Nations book that includes factual information about Indigenous culture, in particular inspiring stories about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from history. Use a **Venn Diagram** to compare this book with *Come Together*. What are the similarities and differences? Think about the following when making your comparisons:

- **Structure** of the book - how is the information/stories organised?
- **Authors purpose** - what does the author want the reader to find out?
- **Content** - what is the book about? Are there any common themes?
- **Tone** - what is the authors attitude towards the subject? E.g. is it hopeful, humourous, joyful, optimistic, respectful, negative, doubtful, proud etc.
- **Language** - how has language been used? E.g. word choices and language devices (such as, repetition, similes, metaphors, rhetorical questions etc).
- **Audience** - who is this book for? How would it interest or engage this audience?
- **Illustrations and imagery** - what do you notice about the use of colour, the style of illustrations, the choice of images etc.

C. About the Author. Did you know that Isaiah Firebrace...

- presented a petition with over 290,000 signatures to parliament calling for Aboriginal History to be taught in primary and secondary schools?
- is an Indigenous singer who won the eighth season of The X Factor Australia in 2016?

Read the article: [Isaiah Firebrace: from humble beginnings, now a second shot at glory](#) on the National Indigenous Television (NITV) website to find out more about Isaiah's journey and achievements.

Using the **Interview Planner**, note down 4-5 questions that you would like to ask Isaiah if you had the opportunity to interview him.



KWL-CHART

NAME _____



Date _____

Topic _____

**WHAT I
KNOW**

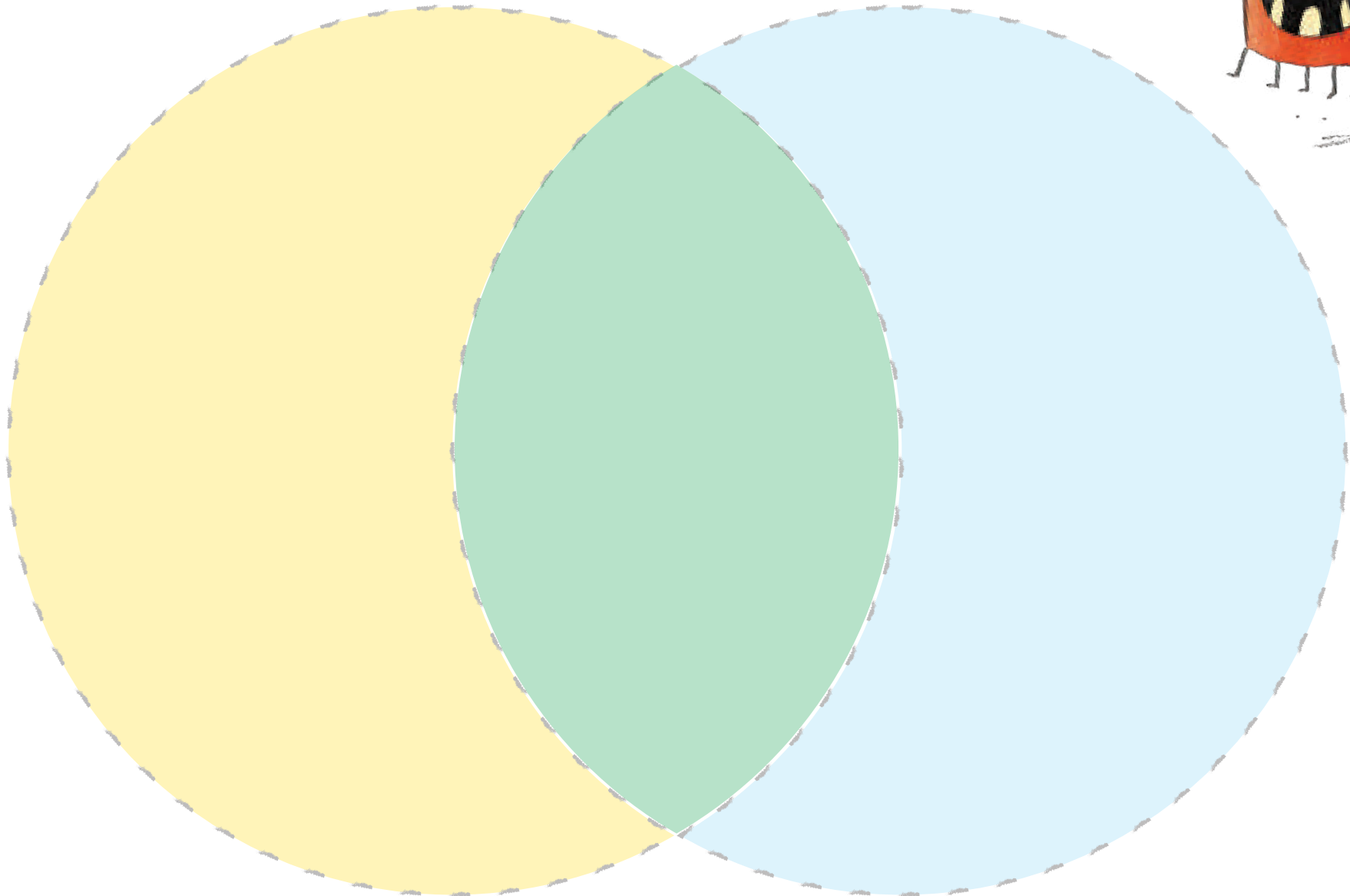
**WHAT I
WONDER**

**WHAT I
LEARNED**



VENN DIAGRAM

NAME



INTERVIEW PLANNER



NAME

INTERVIEWER'S NAME:

INTERVIEWEE'S NAME:

INTERVIEW DETAILS:

DATE: -----

TIME: -----

PLACE: -----

PURPOSE OF INTERVIEW (what information would you like to gather?):

WHAT TO ORGANISE FOR THE INTERVIEW:

- -----
- -----
- -----
- -----

QUESTION 1:

ANSWER 1:



INTERVIEW PLANNER



NAME

QUESTION 2:

ANSWER 2:

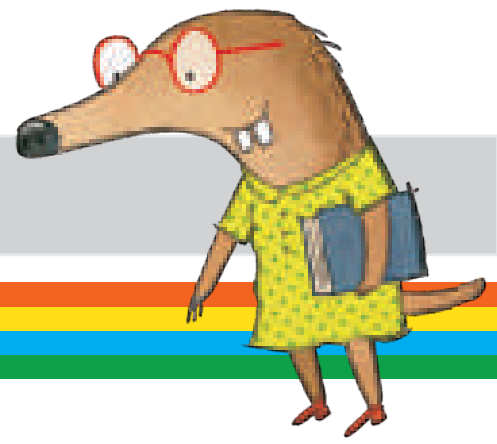
QUESTION 3:

ANSWER 3:



INTERVIEW PLANNER

NAME _____



QUESTION 4:

ANSWER 4:

QUESTION 5:

ANSWER 5:





Student Task Sheet

Print this page for your students to use during Literacy Rotations

Today, you will be viewing and listening to:

Come Together - Things Every Aussie Kid Should Know about the First Peoples

Author: Isaiah Firebrace

Illustrator: Jaelyn Biumaiwai

Storyteller: Isaiah Firebrace

Publisher: Magabala Books

Year levels: Middle and Upper Primary



Learning tasks:

After viewing the story, choose one of the following 3 activities to complete.

a. Exploring culture through story: Browse the selection of First Nations' stories on Story Box Library. Many of these stories also explore the topics that Isaiah has described in *Come Together*. For example, Jasmine Seymour's *Baby Business* tells the story of a smoking ceremony to welcome baby to Country.

Can you find other First Nations' stories on the website that also explore the topics featured in *Come Together*? Use the **T-Chart** below to make a list of topics featured in *Come Together*. E.g Ceremonies, Caring for Country, The Dreaming etc. In the opposite column, write the titles of other First Nation stories that also feature these topics.

Read the descriptions of the First Nations' stories to help you. If you have time, you may like to watch the stories too. How many titles can you find?

E.g.

Topics	Stories
Ceremonies	<i>Baby Business</i> (smoking ceremony for baby)



Scan the QR code to view the story!





Learning tasks continued...

b. Writing to the author: Read the short bio about Isaiah Firebrace, the author of *Come Together*, as well as the article on the NITV website: *Isaiah Firebrace: from humble beginnings, now a second shot at glory*

Write a **Letter** to Isaiah to share with him your thoughts about *Come Together*. You might like to include:

- what you enjoyed
- what you learnt
- connections you made with the story
- questions about the book
- questions or comments about his work with Aboriginal communities.

c. Create a mini glossary: You may have come across new terminology/words in the book that you hadn't seen or heard before. Select 3 words from *Come Together* and explain in your own words, what they mean. You might like to create an illustration to go with each of your explanations.



