

Lamont Books Standing Order

March 2013

Teacher Notes and Activities

An Anzac Tale

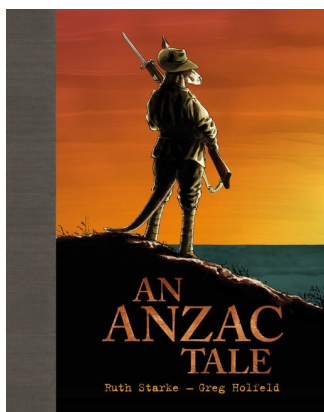
By Ruth Starke & Illustrated by Greg Holfield
ISBN 9781921504532
\$29.95

Picture Book of
the Month

When Australia pledges its support to Great Britain at the outbreak of World War I, mates Roy Martin and Wally Cardwell are among the first to enlist.

But what the friends first thought would be an adventure soon turns to disaster. The day after the landing at Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915, more than 2000 of their fellow Anzac's are dead. As the campaign drags on, life for Wally and Roy and their new friend, Tom, becomes a battle of endurance against a plucky enemy, a hostile landscape, flies, fleas, cold and disease. The story of the Anzac campaign, including the battle of Lone Pine, is interspersed with scenes of Australians at home to show the shift from popular support of the Empire at the start of the war to profound disillusionment as the casualties begin to mount.

In this graphic novel, Ruth Starke and Greg Holfield have combined to create an extraordinary and original work for upper primary students on the subject of Gallipoli and the Anzac campaign.



Teacher notes have been taken from those prepared by the publishers, Working Titles Press. A full version is available at their website: www.workingtitlepress.com.au

Themes:

- Duty
- Bravery
- Attitudes to War
- The Enemy
- Conditions of War

Discussion Points & Activities:

- What are Roy and Wally's reasons for signing up to go to war?
- Why do they feel such a strong sense of duty to The Empire? Were Britain to go to war today, would Australian's feel the same?
- Do the characters still feel this same sense of duty at the end of the story? How have their attitudes changed?
- How do you think the soldiers must have been feeling behind their bravado? Do you think you could have shown such bravery? Is there any shame in wanting to turn around and go home? Did the soldiers have any choice but to be brave?
- On page 2 Wally and Roy are excited by the prospect of war. Why might this be? People were celebrating in the streets and ringing the church bells. Knowing what we know now, how could they be excited?
- On page 49, the soldiers come face to face with the enemy in the close quarters of the trenches. Why might this make it more difficult to fight? Is it easier to fight a faceless enemy?
- On page 36 we see the Australians trading with the Turkish. How is it possible to be fighting one day, and trading amiably the next?
- See what you can find out about the conditions endured by soldiers in other parts of the war, France and Germany for example. How did the conditions compare?
- Using all you have learned about the Gallipoli campaign and the soldiers, find 5 or 6 images, from newspapers, paintings, posters etc., that represent your feelings about the story. You may also like to create your own images.