

## **My Gallipoli**

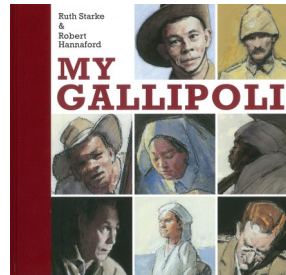
By Ruth Starke & Robert Hannaford

Publisher: Working Title Press

ISBN 9781921504761

\$29.99

From the shores of Anzac Cove to the heights of Chunuk Bair, from Cape Helles to Gurkha Bluff, the Gallipoli Peninsula was the place where thousands of men from sixteen nations fought, suffered, endured or died during the eight months of occupation in 1915. For each of them, their families and their nurses, Gallipoli meant something different. Their voices emerge from the landscape and across the decades with stories of courage, valour, despair and loss.



Teacher notes are an edited version of those supplied by the publisher, Working Title Press.

### **Themes:**

- Bravery
- The war at home
- The enemy
- Conditions of war
- A shared effort

### **Discussion Points**

On pages 6 and 7 we read about Midshipman Peter Burch RN, describing the landing at Anzac Cove.

- How do you think it would have felt to be in his position?
- Do you think you could have been so brave?
- Did the soldiers have any other choice than to do what they did?

Newspapers reporting on the war told a different story from what was actually happening (see pages 18–19).

- Why do you think the newspaper reports didn't tell the full truth?
- Would it have been acceptable to misrepresent the truth to give the public some good news?
- How are things different today? Is it still possible to mislead the public as to what is happening in other parts of the world, or does social media mean that it's harder now to hide the truth?

On page 4 we meet Adil Sakin.

- Does it seem like he had a choice in whether to join the war? Do you understand his wanting to defend Turkish land?

We see throughout the book that many different people were on the Gallipoli Peninsula. On pages 10 and 11 we meet Sister Ellen Walker, a nurse attending the wounded during the landing.

- How do you think the nurses felt about the constant stream of soldiers being brought to them for treatment?
- How would treating injured soldiers at the front be different from working in a hospital emergency department?

### **Activities:**

- Write a newspaper article, meant for the Australian public during the war. Include information you found in this book.
- There has been some controversy over the years about some of the decisions the people in charge made, which may have cost lives. What can you find out about this?
- Create your own illustration that represents Gallipoli. It might be a scene depicted in the book, or something that shows how you feel about the Gallipoli campaign.