

My Name Is Lizzie Flynn: A Story of the Rajah Quilt

By Claire Saxby & Illustrated by Lizzy Newcomb

Publisher: Black Dog Books/Walker Books

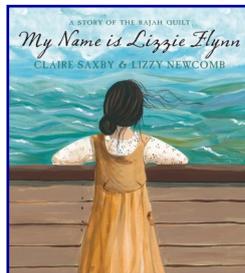
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**Picture Book of
the Month**

Based on the true story of a quilt made by convict women on board the Rajah, bound for Australia.

Lizzie Flynn has nothing but her name when she boards the Rajah, which is bound for the penal colony of Australia. On board the Rajah the convict women were given a "useful bag" containing among other things fabric and needle and thread. The women were taught to sew and together they made the Rajah quilt which is currently housed in the National Library.



Teacher notes have been based on those supplied by the publishers, Black Dog & Walker Books. A full version will be available online at classroom.walkerbooks.com.au.

Themes:

- Australian History
- Resilience
- Emotional & Physical Journeys

Discussion Points & Activities:

- The subtitle of this book is "A Story of the Rajah Quilt". What is a quilt? What is the Rajah Quilt? Research it online.
- Why do you think the author chose to name the book *My Name is Lizzie Flynn*? How does this title connect the reader to the main character over other characters in the story?
- Lizzie and Molly become friends aboard the Rajah. How does this friendship help Lizzie through such a difficult time? How does Molly's death affect Lizzie?
- "...her stitches, neat and tiny like a baby's eyelashes." The author has used a simile in this quote. What is a simile? How does it add richness to the text? Find other examples of similes in the book. Write five similes of your own.
- "The past is a misted memory. The future has no shape." How does this quote show how Lizzie is feeling at this point in the story?
- Lizzie states that the Rajah is bound for Van Diemen's Land. Where is that? What is it known as today?
- The Rajah Quilt is now housed in the National Gallery of Australia. Why do you think this quilt is significant enough to be held in a museum? What does the quilt symbolise about the women who were transported on the Rajah?
- Write a journal from Lizzie's perspective from before she stole the shawl, through her journey on the Rajah to landing at Van Diemen's Land. Include how she might be feeling and how her relationships develop with other characters in the story.
- How would you feel if you were taken from your family and sent to the other side of the world?
- Quilts are made by laying out different fabrics in different patterns which are then pieced together. Using coloured paper, cut triangles of different sizes and piece them together to make patterns. Make a small 'quilt' using triangles and A4 paper.
- Can you name some early Australians? How many of them are male and how many are female? Research some early Australian women and the reasons they are remembered. Why were men recognised more often than women? Is this different today? Is this still changing?