

Cyclone

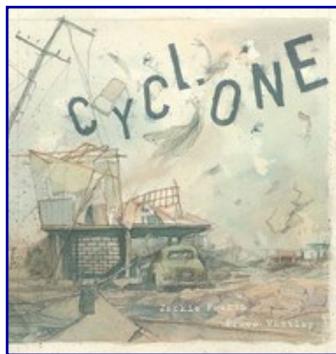
By Jackie French and illustrated by Bruce Whatley

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Christmas Eve 1974 is marked indelibly into the Australian psyche, as the night tropical Cyclone Tracy devastated the city of Darwin. Now, over 40 years later, Jackie French's lyrical rhyming text tells the story of a city's indomitable spirit, and Bruce Whatley's sumptuous illustrations bring to life the powerful force of the storm to a whole new generation of readers.



Themes:

- Cyclones
- Natural disasters
- Community spirit
- Rebuilding

Discussion Points:

- Before you read this book, had you ever heard of Cyclone Tracy? Did you know anything about it?
- As a class, find out if it is the most destructive cyclone that Australia has ever seen?
- Do you think that the Cyclone happening on Christmas Eve added to the impact of the cyclone? Why do you think this might be?
- Discuss/investigate how and where cyclones form?
- What are some of the other major natural disasters that occur in Australia? Can you name any significant ones?
- Describe how someone going through this type of disaster might feel, both during and then afterwards?
- How do you think a town recovers from this type of event? Who do you think would help?
- Discuss some of the practical problems that arise from destruction and how the town ultimately gets put back together.
- Can good come from such a tragedy? Discuss the changes that took place to the buildings and infrastructure that were of long term benefit to the town.

Activities:

- Undertake a pictorial study of Darwin before the destruction of Cyclone Tracy, the damage it caused and then after the city had been rebuilt. Compare and contrast the pictures.
- All cyclones have names. Find out who is responsible for naming them and how they come up with the names. Is there any pattern to the names?