

And The Band Played Waltzing Matilda

Words by Eric Bogle & Illustrated by Bruce Whatley

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

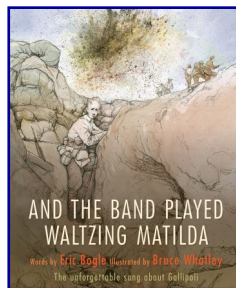
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The iconic song about the Battle of Gallipoli, written by Eric Bogle in 1972 at the height of the anti-war movement, re-imagined by esteemed children's illustrator Bruce Whatley.

But the band played 'Waltzing Matilda' when we stopped to bury our slain. We buried ours, and the Turks buried theirs; then we started all over again.

Eric Bogle's famous and familiar Australian song about the Battle of Gallipoli explores the futility of war with haunting power. Now Bruce Whatley's evocative illustrations bring a heart-rending sense of reality to the tale.

A timely story for every generation to share.



Teacher notes have been adapted from those supplied by the publisher, Allen & Unwin. A full version is available on their website, www.allenandunwin.com

This picture book can be used to critically explore:

- The iconic status of the song 'Waltzing Matilda' in the Australian psyche
- The Gallipoli campaign and subsequent legend
- The nature of courage and duty
- The debt owed to soldiers, both past and present
- Warfare as a method for resolving conflict
- The culpability of political and military leaders who send soldiers into futile conflicts
- Issues faced by returned soldiers
- Living with a severe disability
- Protests against war, for example through songs.

BEFORE READING -

Ask students to brainstorm what they know about 'Waltzing Matilda' and/or the Gallipoli campaign. Then, students can be encouraged to explore these topics in more detail.

AFTER READING -

IMMEDIATE REACTION

After reading the picture book, students should be asked for their immediate responses. One way of doing this is to write a simile 'poem'. For this, each line of the response is related to a sense. So how does the book look? How does it sound? How does it smell? How does it feel? How does it taste?

EVOKING READER RESPONSES THROUGH SUBJECT MATTER

- Listen to the original song, for example at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=471-ucVd7o0>. Afterwards discuss what is the predominant emotion that comes through when listening to the story?
- Emotions in written language are partly provoked by the subject matter. Discuss: Why would many Australians find the subject matter of 'And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda' emotional? Note: Discuss the significance of both the original version of 'Waltzing Matilda', as well as the Gallipoli campaign (and Anzac Day).

CREATING THE ILLUSTRATIONS

- According to Bruce Whatley, most of the pictures 'were based on actual photographs (sometimes a combination of two or three) from the Gallipoli conflict but not specifically Suvla Bay. You won't find an exact match as such as they were very much the starting point'.
- Students can Google images of Gallipoli (there are many!) and see if they can find any that are similar to scenes created by Whatley (see an example below). Then, they can discuss: What similarities can you find? What differences? How 'truthful' do you think Whatley's illustrations are of the Gallipoli campaign?