All I Want for Christmas is Rain
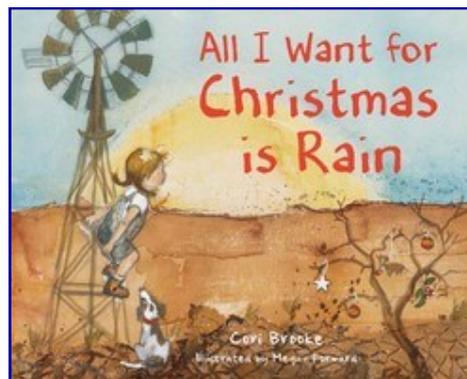
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An Australian Christmas is threatened when drought takes hold. A little girl has only one wish - for rain. Will her wish come true?

Themes:
* Family
* Drought
* Farm life
* Christmas
* Presents

Discussion Questions:
* Jane only had one wish for Christmas - rain. Why did she want it so much?
* How do you think she knew, even at a young age, that rain was so important for her family farm?
* What characteristics did she show by hatching her plan to ask Santa for rain?
* Do you know what it is called when there is no rain?
* Why is rain so important? Who relies on it? Make a list of all the things that are affected when there isn't any rain.
* If you could wish for one thing for Christmas or your birthday that wasn't a toy or a thing, what would it be?
* Why is this important to you?
* 'When I woke Christmas morning I heard a sound: A sploshing and dripping that echoed around. In a flash I skipped around the tree, past all the presents waiting for me.' Do you think that we all want and have too many material things? Discuss.
* Describe how you think Jane and her family felt when they woke that Christmas morning to rain?
* Does this story make you feel more appreciative for the things that you do have?
* Can you recall what shops were in the town? If you are from the city, do you think this is what a small country town would like? If you are from the country, how similar is this to your town?
* Make lists of the things that are different and the same from the city to the country.
* Do you think people who live in the city realise how hard life on a farm is when there is a drought? Discuss this as a class.

Activities:
* Think about how different life on a farm is before and after rain. Draw your own contrasting picture to highlight the difference.
* Make and decorate your own version of an 'Aussie Christmas tree' just like the one in the story.