

## **Drover**

By Neridah McMullin & Illustrated by Sarah Anthony

Publisher: Walker Books

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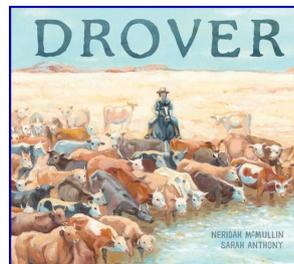
\$26.99

**Picture Book of  
the Month**

The true story of an important pioneering woman in Australian history.

Courageous, clever and daring, Drover is one of a kind. Travelling through the heart of the outback, Drover delivers a mob of cattle. Searing heat, dust and flies, hardship and danger: these are just part of the job. But there's no place Drover would rather be.

The truly remarkable story of legendary drover Edna Jessop is celebrated through stunning oil illustrations and evocative text.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

### **Themes:**

- Adventure
- Achievement
- Nature
- Australian History

### **Discussions Questions and Activities:**

- On the whiteboard or on a large sheet of paper, place an image of the cover of Drover and surround it with words that describe the book. Include words that describe what you liked and what you disliked about the book.
- When and where is this story set? How can you tell? Look at the clothes worn by characters and the work they are doing, plus examine the town that Edna passes through. Discuss what is similar and what is different to today.
- What is a drover? Does this job still exist? How has it changed over time?
- Do you think a drover is uniquely Australian, or might other places in the world have similar roles? As a class, make a list of other countries or cultures where a drover could be useful.
- Using what you've learnt from *Drover*, make a timeline of activities you think could happen in a typical day in the life of a drover.
- We only find out Drover's real name, Edna, at the very end of the book. Why do you think that Neridah McMullin has chosen to keep Edna's name a secret until the very end? How does this change how you read the story?
- Why is it significant that Edna is female? What kind of work was expected of women at this time in history? Think about gender roles in modern occupations by writing a list on the whiteboard starting with the list below. Discuss whether you would expect a man or woman to do each job, then discuss why you think other can or cannot do the same job. The aim of this activity is to show that gender should not be a prerequisite or obstacle to any activity. For example - Builder; Baker; Truck Driver; Teacher; Dancer; Business Person.
- There are several words or phrases used in *Drover* that may not be commonly used today, or might mean something different in the book to what you're used to. Find the words below in the book, and write what you think they mean using the context of what's happening in the story or the illustrations for clues. Check your definitions using the glossary and/or dictionary if you're unsure, and be sure to add other words to your list that you find interesting! For example - Bullock; Yarn; Flank; Hobble; Bore.