

Week 2

Read chapters 5-9 before the weekly meet-up.

Research: Slave Trade

Research the slave labour mentioned in the book. When were the South Sea Islanders brought to Australia? What is meant by South Sea Islands? Find Tonga on a map – how far is it from Australia?

Book: Settings

Preparation

1. Look through this week's chapters and find some useful quotes that describe the house and the improvements that Ryl makes.

2. Think about how Dusty and Ryl each perceive the house and the changes that are made. Are they positive or negative? Do their attitudes change over the course of the chapters? Fill in your ideas in the table overleaf.

	Before	After
Ryl		
Dusty		

Writing Task

Choose a character from the list below and write a letter describing the house and how it has changed since Ryl and Dusty moved in. Think about their character and personality and try to capture their writing style as well as their views on how the house has changed.

Dusty

Ryl

Rose

Clem

Changing Characters

Discuss the following questions:

1. Have Ryl and Dusty changed in their first weeks at Bundoora? How?
2. What influence do Rose and Clem Bradley have on Ryl and Dusty?
3. How does Ryl react to Perry when he is honest about his background? Do her views change when the Bradleys talk about him?
4. Who is your favourite character so far? Why?

Fun Activities

Week 1

Chapter 2 describes Dusty's home and daily life. He grows vegetables, washes his clothes by hand and darns his socks. Depending on the time of year, (and if you have space in your garden) you could grow some lettuces or pumpkins. Alternatively you could do some washing by hand or try darning some socks. Discuss how easy or difficult these tasks were and how it would feel to do that every week.