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TWELVE WOMEN WHO SHAPED HISTORY

Pamela Freeman Sophie Beer

TEACHERS RESOURCES

AMAZING AUSTRALIAN WOMEN

BY PAMELA FREEMAN
AND SOPHIE BEER

Teachers Resources by Robyn Sheahan-Bright

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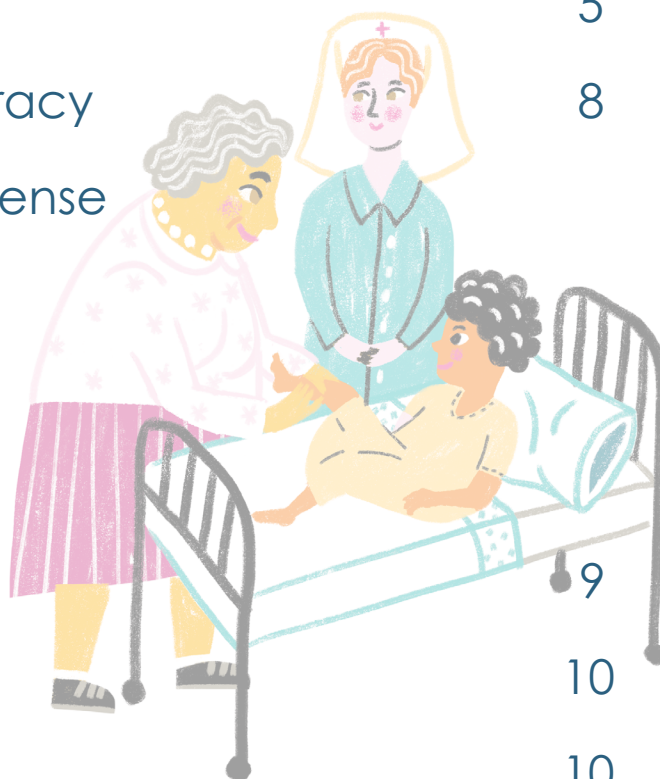
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INTRODUCTION

'Don't let them tell you you can't do it!' Lores Bonney's motto

This non-fiction text covers the extraordinary achievements of twelve Australian women, some of whom are famous, such as Dame Nellie Melba and Elizabeth Kenny, and some lesser known than others. Why this is so, is part of the story told in this text, for women have not only suffered from a lack of access to opportunities, but history has also sometimes diminished their reputations and achievements.

For example, women were required to leave their permanent employment positions in the public service once married, even if they were, as Ruby Payne-Scott was, one of the first radio astronomers in the world. Lores Bonney's pioneering career as a pilot came to an end when World War Two broke out and all aviation fuel was requisitioned for the war effort.

So many remarkable women in history have often been forgotten, while their male peers have been remembered. Today women have secured many more rights and opportunities, but still the world is asking questions such as why so few reach CEO status; why equal pay is not mandatory; and why women are sometimes harassed or treated poorly by male peers?

Women have been entertainers, sports people, scientists, doctors and nurses, business people, suffragists, activists, writers, politicians, artists, and warriors ... and the list goes on ... each of these women more than made their mark in their chosen profession and each is celebrated here. Let's hear it for women!



BEFORE AND AFTER READING THIS NON-FICTION TEXT

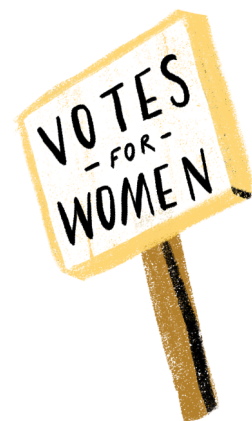


- Examine the cover. What does it suggest about the themes?
- After you have read the work, examine the cover again: what does it suggest to you now?
- After you have read the work, read about Pamela Freeman and Sophie Beer in reviews and articles and use the notes below to examine the text more closely.
- Read further about any person who appears in this book. Links to further information are included in the back of the book.

THEMES & CURRICULUM TOPICS

Several themes relevant to curriculum topics (Studies of Society and Environment, and English Language and Literacy) might be identified in this work:

STUDIES OF SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT (SOSE)



- **WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND RIGHTS**

ACTIVITY: Research the twelve women covered in this book: Tilly Aston, Lores Bonney, Edith Cowan, Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Elizabeth Kenny, Annette Kellerman, Mary Lee, Nellie Melba, Ruby Payne-Scott, Rose Quong, Mary Reibey and Tarenore. [See references in the book and in the **Bibliography** below.]

DISCUSSION POINT: Discuss some of the interesting or surprising facts you discovered about their lives. [See **Worksheet 1 Quiz.**]

ACTIVITY: Make a list of other famous or not so famous Australian women whom you admire. [See **Worksheet 2 Who is That Woman?**]

ACTIVITY: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made a significant contribution to the arts. Research some of these women such as Leah Purcell, Deborah Mailman, Sally Morgan, Oodgeroo Noonuccal, Elma Kris, Larissa Behrendt, Miranda Tapsell, Bronwyn Bancroft, Anita Heiss, Roslyn Watson, Ambelin Kwaymullina, Nakkiah Lui, and Maroochy Barambah.

ACTIVITY: These women have done amazing things. But what constitutes achievement? Look at a woman you know (eg. mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, teacher) and outline some of their achievements as a short biography.

DISCUSSION POINT: Research some of the achievements of women in terms of equal rights such as being able to vote, equal opportunity to working conditions, access to study and qualifications, marital equality etc.

DISCUSSION POINT: What is feminism? Research and conduct a debate on its role in society historically.

DISCUSSION POINT: Julia Gillard was the first female Australian prime minister. Which other female politicians or activists do you admire, either in Australia or overseas? eg. Theresa May is Prime Minister of Great Britain; Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand; Hillary Clinton was First Lady to President Bill Clinton, a US Senator, then the US Secretary of State in the Obama Administration; Michelle Obama was First Lady to President Barack Obama and is an inspirational philanthropist and writer. Do you admire them? Why? Why not? Do you think Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama are best known for their status as First Lady or for their other notable achievements?

DISCUSSION POINT: Women in royal positions (such as Princess Mary of Denmark; Princess Grace of Monaco; Diana, Princess of Wales; Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge; Meghan, Duchess of Sussex) are often hailed as role models. Does being appointed to a position by virtue of birth or marriage constitute greatness?

DISCUSSION POINT: In a mixed classroom invite boys to discuss the lessons they've learned from this text. Were they surprised to learn that Lores Bonney had flown solo around Australia or that Tarenore had been such a fierce warrior for her people? Why? Why not?

ACTIVITY: Celebrate International Women's Day in your classroom by sharing some of the fantastic achievements of women whose lives you have researched in this unit.

DISCUSSION POINT: Recently movements such as *#Me Too* and *NOW Australia* have challenged discrimination and harassment, but not all women support this, as they are fortunate to feel confident in their working situations, and fear that such movements victimise women. Discuss and conduct a debate about this topic with your students.

- **PROFESSIONS**

ACTIVITY: Research any of the professions these women excelled in and what that work entails. [See also **Worksheet 3 Name That Profession.**]

ACTIVITY: Invite students to make a list of other professions that women participate in and then collate the lists which each student prepares, into one list. Then brainstorm which professions are missing from the list. Encourage students to become aware of the new professions and skills required in our global marketplace. Discuss the barriers to women's participation in these professions.

ACTIVITY: Invite students to consider what work they are most interested in or passionate about doing. Is there a job description for that? What training would they need? Have they visited someone in that particular type of workplace to observe how that workplace operates? Encourage students to take into consideration their favourite pastimes or 'hobbies', as often they can lead to employment, too. For example, professional sportspeople or performers generally begin playing in amateur competitions or venues; artists and writers also begin by practising their skills before professional publication or exhibition; students who love investigating nature or collecting rocks might become scientists or geologists or archaeologists, as well. Make a display of books and images which represent the many professions you have discussed in class.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Study the writing style employed in this book which is an **expository narrative text with elements of the creative narrative text** as well.

- **NARRATIVE PERSON, NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE AND TENSE**

DISCUSSION POINT: This text is written in third person past tense, but contains some first-person quotes. The latter add a personal element to the narrative and make it a more approachable text for readers.

- **STRUCTURE**

ACTIVITY: Examine the structure of each of the twelve stories in this book. Use this structure as the model for the writing tasks below.

- **GENRE**

ACTIVITY: Biography is a genre which entails research and synthesis. The writer must make a cohesive and accurate narrative out of what has been gleaned from both primary and secondary sources. Sometimes facts are difficult to establish so that instead of asserting something as truth, the writer must present both sides of an argument or theory. Biographers also have to include the less savoury aspects of their subject's character sometimes, eg. 'Ambitious, hard-working, generous (but occasionally ruthless to her rivals), Nellie Melba was one of the great stars of her time, renowned for the purity and beauty of her voice.' Discuss the art and conventions of biography before embarking on the Writing tasks below.

- **WRITING TASKS**

ACTIVITY: Invite students to each choose one of the other women they have researched and to write a short piece like the ones in this book. [See also **Visual Literacy** below.]

ACTIVITY: Write a story about a particular woman in another mode, eg. an acrostic poem or a playscript outlining the key events in that person's life.

- **VISUAL LITERACY**

ACTIVITY: Invite students to illustrate the story created for the **writing task** above with a portrait. When you create your portrait, try to emulate Sophie



Beer's vibrant colour palette, but in your own unique style. [See also **Worksheet 4.**]

ACTIVITY: Collate the students' stories and images; edit into your own class book of amazing women with a cover based on a template. Brainstorm/ add a new title to the book, and use 'Amazing Australian Women' as the sub-title. [See also **Worksheet 5.**]

ACTIVITY: Create a comic or graphic novel interpretation of any incident in one of these twelve lives. [See **Bibliography** and **Worksheet 6.**]

ACTIVITY: Design a new cover for this book.

ACTIVITY: Create a book trailer for this book. [See **Bibliography.**]



FURTHER ACTIVITIES

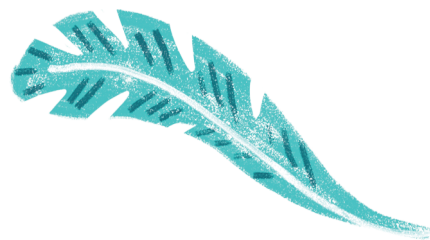
1. **Read and compare** two different biographies of the same person in picture books or longer biographies or memoirs [See **Bibliography**].
2. **Design a poster** to advertise this book.
3. The **title of this book** is self-explanatory. What other title might the book have had?
4. **Debate any of the topics** covered in these notes, or suggested by the work.
5. **Create a slogan and design a poster** advocating for equal rights for girls and women. Make it as eye-catching and provocative as possible. [Look at images used in the past by the Suffragette or Feminist movements to give students some background.]



CONCLUSION

This text might be used as the foundation of a unit on women and their achievements both in Australia and overseas. It could also be used as a springboard for exploring potential professions which women and girls might aspire to. Celebrate womanhood with your students and invite male students to participate as well. This book might act as a positive reinforcement in a classroom that girls can participate in anything, if they set their minds to it, and have an aptitude for a particular field of endeavour. *Go Girls!*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Pamela Freeman was born in Parramatta, Sydney, and became a reader at an early age. After school, she gained a BA in Communications from University of Technology, Sydney, and has since gained a Doctorate of Creative Writing. She has lectured in creative writing at university and is the Director of Creative Writing at the Australian Writers' Centre.

She has held a variety of jobs, and became a children's writer while working as a scriptwriter for ABC Kids TV. One of the stories she published in the NSW School Magazine, *Betony's Sunflower*, became the last chapter in her first book *The Willow Tree's Daughter* – the first of the 'Floramonde' books. She worked for some years as both consultant and writer but now writes full time.

Pamela has written 27 books for children and young adults, and has won awards for both children's and adult writing. For children, *Desert Lake: Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre* won the ASO Librarians' Choice award in 2017 (and was shortlisted for four other awards), *Victor's Challenge* won the Aurealis Award for Best Children's Fantasy in 2009, and her historical novel about Mary McKillop, *The Black Dress*, won the NSW History Prize for Young People in 2006. It was this book which got her interested in the lives of historical Australian women. *The Castings Trilogy* was Pamela's first adult fantasy work. She also writes historical fiction under the name Pamela Hart. She lives in Sydney with her husband and son. Visit her website for further information: <<http://www.pamelafreemanbooks.com/>> or www.pamela-hart.com.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Sophie Beer is an illustrator/author living in Brisbane, Australia. She completed a dual degree in Law and Creative Industries with distinction at Queensland University of Technology but found the whole law thing unutterably dull and now works primarily in children's and editorial illustration. She is perpetually astounded that she has somehow hoodwinked people into paying her money to draw all day long. Revelling in colour, shape and texture, she lives by one simple rule: art should never be boring. When she's not illustrating and writing, she thinks a lot about plants, animals, music and books. Sophie was also Winner of the 2016 SCBWI Penguin/Random House Portfolio award. Visit her website for further information: <<https://www.sophie-beer.com/>>



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF THE NOTES

Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright operates *justified text* writing and publishing consultancy services, and is widely published on children's literature, publishing history and Australian fiction. Her publications include *Paper Empires: A History of the Book in Australia 1946–2005* (co-edited with Craig Munro) (UQP, 2006). In 2011 she was recipient of the CBCA (Qld) Dame Annabelle Rankin Award, in 2012, of the CBCA Nan Chauncy Award for Outstanding Services to Children's Literature, and in 2014, the QWC's Johnno Award.

WORKSHEETS

WORKSHEET 1: QUIZ



1. What was Mary Reibey's birth name?
2. Which of the women in this book are featured on Australian currency notes?
3. Which Australian state was the first place in the world where women could stand for election to Parliament?
4. What was Dame Nellie Melba's real name?
5. Who was the first woman to be elected to Parliament in Australia?
6. Who was the first blind person in Australia to go to university?
7. Who developed a radical new treatment for poliomyelitis patients in the 1950s?
8. Which swimmer and movie star was known as the 'Australian Mermaid'?
9. What record did Lores Bonney set, which has never been beaten?
10. Which Aboriginal woman is regarded as one of Australia's great artists?
11. Which Australian woman was one of the first radio astronomers in the world?
12. In your answers to this quiz, which two women who feature in this book have not been mentioned?

Answers: 1. Molly Haycock. 2. Mary Reibey, Nellie Melba, Edith Cowan. 3. South Australia. 4. Helen Porter Mitchell. 5. Dame Edith Cowan was elected as an MP in Western Australia in 1921. 6. Tilly Aston. 7. Sister Elizabeth Kenny. 8. Annette Kellerman. 9. A long-distance solo flying record when she flew around the coast of Australia alone in 1932. 10. Emily Kame Kngwarreye. 11. Ruby Payne-Scott. 12. Mary Lee and Rose Quong.



Clipart Image: Dame Nellie Melba

WORKSHEET 2: WHO IS THAT WOMAN?

Complete the names of the following remarkable Australian women and then research the lives of any of them.

Title (if appropriate)	First Name	Surname
1.	C _ _ h _	_re_ma_
2. D _ _ e	_u _ _ t _ n	B _ _ ce
3.	E _ _ ly	_od_a
4.	E_o_ne	G_ol_go_g Ca_l_y
5.	M _ _	Gi_b_
6.	N _ c _ le	_id_an
7.	K _ l _ e	M _ _og _ u _
8.	Me_	F _ _
9. P _ _ fess _ _	F _ o _ a	Wo _ _
10.	_el _ a	G _ o _ re _
11.	L _ a _	P _ _ cell
12.	Je _ _ i _ a	W _ t _ on

Answers: 1. Cathy Freeman. 2. Dame Quentin Bryce. 3. Emily Rodda. 4. Evonne Goolagong Cawley. 5. May Gibbs. 6. Nicole Kidman. 7. Kylie Minogue. 8. Mem Fox. 9. Professor Fiona Wood. 10. Delta Goodrem. 11. Leah Purcell. 12. Jessica Watson. Worksheet 3 Name that Profession

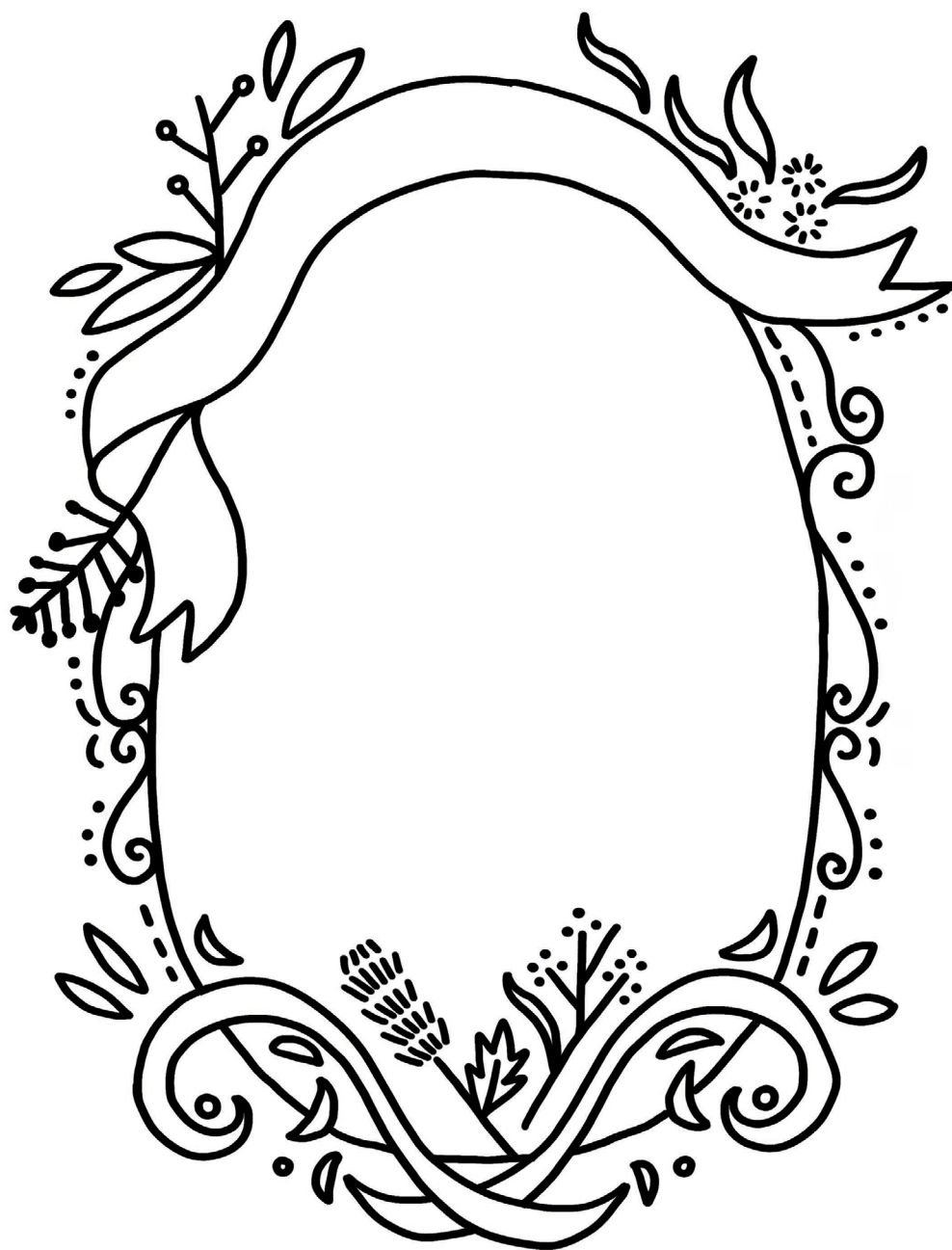
WORKSHEET 3: NAME THAT PROFESSION

		
1	2	3
		
4	5	6
		
7	8	9
		
10	11	12

Answers: 1. Veterinarian (Vet). 2. Golf player. 3. Engineer (or architect). 4. Doctor. 5. Businesswomen. 6. Explorer (or Teacher). 7. Scientist. 8. Teacher. 9. Opera Singer. 10. Ballet Dancer. 11. Pilot. 12. Activist (or Politician).

WORKSHEET 4: CREATE A PORTRAIT OF AN AMAZING AUSTRALIAN WOMAN

Use this template to create your own portrait of an Amazing Australian Woman for the story you have written.



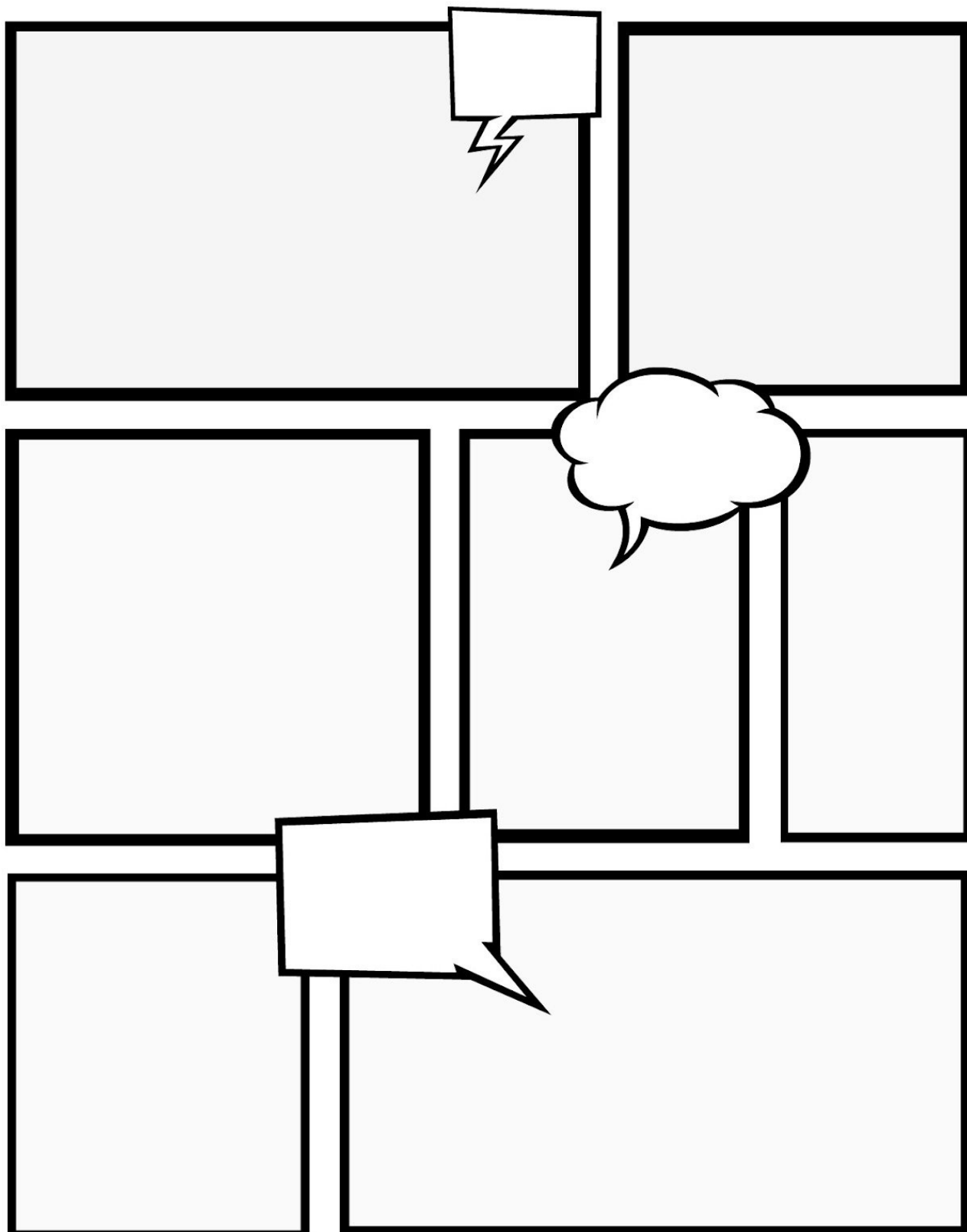
WORKSHEET 5: CREATE A CLASS BOOK OF AMAZING AUSTRALIAN WOMEN

Use this template to create the cover of the class book on Amazing Australian Women. Add a new title as the header.



WORKSHEET 6: CREATE A COMIC OR GRAPHIC NOVEL PANEL

Create a comic or graphic novel interpretation of any incident in one of these twelve lives.



Free} Graphic Novel (Comic Book) Templates Mr Mosley's Creations for Graphic Novel Template Pdf from <<http://www.researchpaperspot.com/graphic-novel-template-pdf/free-graphic-novel-comic-book-templatesmr-mosleys-creations-for-graphic-novel-template-pdf/>>