

Write And Connect

Book 2

Ages 11 - 14 years



- As Smart As Einstein
- Building The Bridge
- Vote At 16
- Codename: White Mouse
- Into The Rainforest
- The Kraken: Fiction Or Fact?
- Think Like An Inventor
- Is Graffiti Art Or Vandalism?



By Margaret Warner

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Teachers' Notes

Write And Connect - Book 2 is written for lower secondary students who are struggling to keep up with their peers, and is therefore linked to the Year 5 English curriculum. Researchers and teachers know that students' written literacy skills improve when they write more often, and experience success.

It is important to remember that secondary students experiencing difficulty with writing must be retaught basic written literacy skills that they may have had difficulty processing in earlier years. When they acquire these skills, they will begin to gain confidence with their writing.

Students at lower secondary level who are not writing confidently at their expected level of competency are more likely to engage with interesting texts that teach them about the writing process. In *Write And Connect - Book 2*, students will engage with a range of texts that are likely to be of interest to them and will complete writing activities related to these texts.

How you could use this book:

- *model effective writing strategies and discuss the writing process as you compose a text or discuss a written text;*
- *discuss the topic knowledge, awareness of intended audience and the purpose of a particular piece of writing;*
- *actively teach the technicalities of writing e.g. sentence construction, complex sentences, paragraphing, vocabulary development, spelling, text coherence, editing and proofreading skills;*
- *encourage students to work with a partner or in a group to develop their ability to discuss and then improve their writing and to develop editing and proofreading skills;*
- *develop students' written literacy skills so that when they write they will know the expected format for different genres, they will know their intended audience and they will know the purpose of their writing and they will have the skills to write with confidence.*

Australian Curriculum Links

Year 5

Language

ACELA1797

ACELA1500

ACELA1502

ACELA1504

ACELA1505

ACELA1506

ACELA1508

ACELA1512

ACELA1513

Literacy

ACELY1701

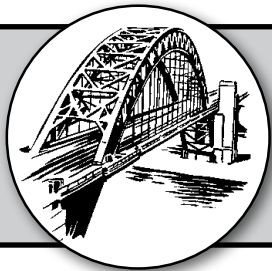
ACELY1702

Literature

ACELT 1608

ACELT1609

- **Building The Bridge** is a report about the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Reports are informative.



◦ Building The Bridge ◦

The Sydney Harbour Bridge, one of Australia's most famous landmarks, celebrated its 80th birthday in 2012. Sydneysiders call it 'The Coathanger' because of its distinctive shape. It holds the record for being the world's largest (but not the longest) steel arch bridge.

As early as 1815, the architect Francis Greenway put forward the idea of building a bridge across Sydney Harbour. However, although there was interest in the idea over the years, it wasn't until after WW1 that engineer, Dr John Bradfield's plans for the design of the Bridge were accepted. Construction finally started in 1924.

The Bridge took eight years to construct and over 2,000 men worked in various teams to complete the project. Among the men were: engineers, surveyors, architects, blacksmiths, boiler makers, carpenters, concreters, stonemasons, riggers, crane drivers, painters and labourers. Sixteen men died during the Bridge's construction although not all died on site.

The official opening of the Bridge on Saturday 19th March 1932 was a very important event - several hundred thousand people crowded around the harbour foreshores. The New South Wales Premier, the Honourable John 'Jack' Lang officially declared the Bridge open. However, before he could cut the ribbon, Captain Francis De Groot rode forward and slashed the ribbon with his sword. Some people found this entertaining but others were very upset. The ribbon was retied and the Premier then officially cut it.

The celebrations included a colourful parade and various bands that marched through the city and across the deck of the Bridge. There was a gun-salute, fireworks and parties. After the official opening the public were allowed to walk across the deck of the Bridge. The next time that this event took place was on the Bridge's 50th anniversary in 1982.

When the Bridge was opened it cost six pence for a car to cross and three pence for a horse and rider. Today horses and riders are banned from using the Bridge and it's more expensive for a car to cross it but people can still walk across it for free and bikes can cross using a special lane. In 1932 the average daily traffic totalled about 11,000 cars. Now it's over 150,000 vehicles per day.

In 1998, a new tourist attraction, the Bridge Climb, began. Locals and tourists were so enthusiastic about seeing the amazing view from the top of the Bridge that there were, and still are, day, twilight and night climbs available. It's a challenging climb but climbers say it is definitely worth it for the breathtaking sight from the top.

'The Coathanger' might be 80 years old but today it is just as popular as ever.



○ Re-read *Building The Bridge* and answer the questions.

① A report is informative and usually contains facts, the names of people or places, dates, statistics and technical information.

A ○ Name two important people connected with the design and the opening of the Bridge.

B ○ The report contains many facts and figures.

1. When did construction of the Bridge start? _____
2. How many men worked on the Bridge? _____
3. How many men died during the construction? _____
4. How long did it take to build the Bridge? _____
5. When was the Bridge officially opened? _____
6. How many cars on average crossed the Bridge each day in 1932? _____
7. How many cars on average use the Bridge daily now? _____
8. When did the Bridge Climb start? _____
9. How old is the Sydney Harbour Bridge now? _____
10. How old will you be when the Bridge is 100 years old? _____

① Capital letters are used to start a sentence and also for the names of: people, places, titles, days, months, festivals, organisations and for the titles of books and movies, e.g. the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

C ○ Proofread these sentences and add capital letters where necessary.

1. the Sydney harbour bridge is one of australia's most famous landmarks.
2. it wasn't until after wwl that dr john bradfield's plans were accepted.
3. the nsw premier, john 'jack' lang officially opened the sydney harbour bridge.
4. in 1998 a company started the bridge climb, which is very popular.
5. 'the coathanger' is now 80 years old and still an important landmark.

EXTRA! Complete in your workbooks.

■ List five examples of the use of capital letters in the report.

- **Writing a report involves careful research and clear presentation of relevant information in a way that will be interesting to the reader. When you have edited your final draft and finished the proofreading, your work should be ready to be shared.**

Check the following points and rate your writing.

	Yes	No
Was the title relevant?		
Did you introduce the topic clearly in the opening paragraph?		
Did you research your information in-depth before you presented it?		
Did you present the information in a logical order?		
Did you use relevant facts when writing about the topic?		
Did you use interesting verbs and strong descriptions?		
Did you use verbs in the present tense?		
Were ideas linked smoothly?		
Did you include a final statement summing up the information?		
Did you edit your report so that it was well-structured?		
Did you proofread your work so that there weren't any errors?		
Did you connect with your intended readers? Do you think they would be interested in reading about your topic?		

- **Codename: White Mouse** is a biography. It is a recount about the life of the WWII heroine, Nancy Wake.

**TOP
SECRET**

◦ Codename: White Mouse ◦

Nancy Wake was one of the most decorated Australian servicewomen in WWII. She received these awards for her courageous work with the French Resistance during the war and for helping to save many hundreds of lives.

Nancy Wake was born in New Zealand on 13th August 1912. When Nancy was about two years old her family moved to Australia where Nancy grew up. At age 16 she was working as a nurse but a few years later in 1932 she left Australia to work as a journalist in Europe. One of her early assignments was to interview Adolf Hitler who had become Chancellor of Germany in January 1933. In 1935 when she visited Berlin she saw first-hand the increasing violence against minority groups.

In 1939 war was declared. It was also the year that she married Henry Fiocca, a wealthy French businessman. In 1940 when France fell to Hitler's advancing armies, Wake and her husband joined the French Resistance. They helped to deliver secret messages and necessary food to groups who were helping Jewish refugees, escaped prisoners of war and aircrews whose planes had been shot down.

By 1942 the Gestapo knew about a secret agent who was working against them. They gave her the code name: 'The White Mouse'

and listed her as number one on their wanted list offering a five million franc reward. Fearing being captured, Wake escaped to England but her husband was arrested. In 1943 she began working with the French section of the Special Operations Executive, a unit of specially trained men and women who worked with resistance groups in occupied areas. Following special training, Wake returned to France in 1944 to once again work with the Resistance before D-Day. She was parachuted into France and helped to organise weapons and equipment for Resistance fighters. On one occasion she cycled close to 500 kilometres in 72 hours, crossing several German checkpoints to obtain important radio codes after the original codes were destroyed in a German raid.

When the war ended in 1945, Wake learned that her husband had been killed after he was captured in 1943. For her bravery and assistance in helping so many

soldiers and refugees escape to safety, she received military honours from France, Britain and the United States. However, it is the people who she helped to escape and those who fought alongside her, who praise so highly the courage of 'The White Mouse'.

Nancy Wake's medals are on display at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. She died in London on 7th August 2011.



Wikimedia Commons

○ **Reread *Codename: White Mouse*, then answer the questions.**

① A biography is a recount of a person's life. It usually has an orientation which introduces the subject of the biography to the reader, a main part which tells the reader about significant events, usually in time order, and a conclusion which tells the reader why this person will be remembered and sometimes includes a personal opinion.

1. What important fact does the first paragraph tell you about Nancy Wake?

2. Where was she born and when?

3. Which country did the family move to? _____

4. What was Nancy Wake doing at age 16? _____

5. What work was she doing in 1932? _____

6. When did she get married? _____

7. In 1939 war _____

8. In 1940, France fell to _____

9. Wake and her husband joined the _____

10. By 1942 she was known to the Germans as _____

11. In 1943 she escaped to _____ as she feared being captured.

12. In 1945 _____

YOUR OPINION!

■ **What is your opinion of Nancy Wake after reading part of her biography?**
