Drought

By Jackie French & Illustrated by Bruce Whatley
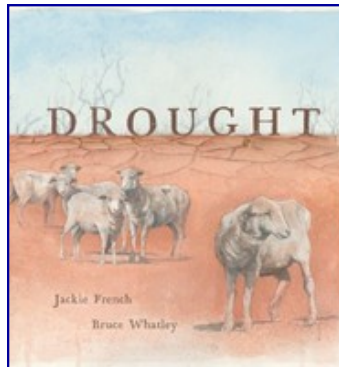Publisher: Scholastic
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I remember when rain stopped,
When day by day the water dropped,
All across a sun-bleached land,
Drought spread its withered, deadly hand.

From the award-winning creators of Flood, Fire and Cyclone comes Drought, a moving story about the devastating effects drought has on many Australians and their farms.

Themes:
- Drought
- Natural Disasters
- Community Spirit
- Hope

Discussion Questions & Activities:
- As a class, discuss what you know about drought.
- This is a very powerful book, both in words and in pictures. How did you feel reading the book, and looking at the illustrations in this story?
- Describe the realm of emotions that those in the story might have gone through. Can you relate to how they might have felt? Discuss.
- What are the short and long term effects of drought on farmers and those that live in rural areas?
- Drought not only effects those in the country, but also in the city. Discuss the flow on impact of drought for the entire community.
- Share with the class any first hand experience that you have had with drought.
- How did the rest of Australia help those on the land when they were experiencing the worst of the drought?
- What other examples do you know of where there has been a big community involvement or a show of community spirit to help others in need? When else might you see this happen? Who do you think would co-ordinate this?
- How important is it to have hope when you are faced with a disaster such as this?
- Drought isn't the only natural disaster that occurs in Australia. What are the other major ones that we face in Australia?
- Do you think Australia is more prone to certain types of natural disasters than other countries? Discuss this, and the reasons for your answers.
- How has colour been used throughout this book to portray the changes that were occurring?
- Bruce Whatley has a very unique illustration style. Choose a scene from the story and recreate it in a similar style.