

## **The Day We Built The Bridge**

By Samantha Tidy & Illustrated by Fiona Burrows

Publisher: MidnightSun Publishing

ISBN 9781925227437 SCIS:1893114

\$29.99

There are moments in history that connect us and define a country. In our hearts and minds, some moments rely on us to hold onto a dream, face tough challenges, and put in a great deal of effort. Big dreams can take generations. It can also take six million hand-driven rivets and 53,000 tonnes of steel. *The Day We Built the Bridge* celebrates our connection with one another, and declares that despite the greatest of challenges, together we can make history.



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

### **Themes:**

- Australian History
- Design and Construction
- Achievements

### **Discussion Questions & Activities:**

- Research the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and create a timeline in the classroom of all the major moments in its creation, from conception to opening. What other major world events were happening at that time in Australia? Add those to the timeline.
- Search online for the Honour Roll, of all who worked on the bridge, including the 16 people who lost their lives in the process. Research the many nationalities of people who worked on the Harbour Bridge. Using a world map, mark flags in those countries that represent the many nationalities or backgrounds of those who worked on the bridge.
- The road that crosses over the Sydney Harbour Bridge is called the Bradfield Highway. Who was this named after and why?
- What great achievements have you witnessed in your lifetime? How long have they taken to build? What great achievements do you hope to see in your lifetime?
- How did the Great Depression affect Australia? Research the lifestyle of this era and compare it with your own.
- Today's ferries pass under and around the Sydney Harbour Bridge several times on a daily basis. Research the names of the ferries. Create a biographical report about one of those people.
- What controversy happened on the day of the opening of the bridge? What effect did it have on the proceedings of the day?
- Other than the year markings in the book, what other things tell you about the era/year/time of the story? Research the fashions, the transport and the pastimes, of people in the 1900s to 1930s in Australia.
- There are several poster ads on the wall of the shop / Milk Bar. Are they real or made up names? Research products that those posters may refer to, and design your own ad for a product that would be right at home in this era.
- Research how many rivets were used in the building of the bridge. What other materials were required? How much of these materials were required?
- The final design that was used for the Sydney Harbour Bridge was one of many that were considered. Research those designs and compare and contrast them. What do they have in common? How would Sydney be different if one of the unsuccessful designs had been used? Would our bridge still be iconic? Would Sydney still be so famous around the world for the bridge?
- Design your own bridge, as if you were one of the designers in the early 1900s. How would you make the bridge iconic? What do you need to consider when designing it?