

## Shearing Time

By Allison Paterson

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As the sun peeks over the horizon we are ready to start the working day all over again I love shearing time! Shearing time is the best time of the year! Told through the eyes of a child, *Shearing Time* is a charming and evocative story that captures the authors delight as her family work together during one of their most significant annual tasks. Sunrise to sunset there are sheep with attitude, a shed of shearers, dogs with personality, motorbikes and a country kitchen to open the door on the life of a country kid. *Shearing Time* reflects the experience of rural children while providing an opportunity for early childhood readers to both appreciate that the lives of others are different to their own, to understand concepts related to the Australian farming experience and to engage with a delightful, accessible narrative of times past.



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

### Themes:

- Family
- Belonging
- Shearing
- Changing technology
- Farm life
- Australia

### Discussion Questions & Activities

#### *Pre-reading:*

- Discuss farm life, including the types of farms that exist in Australia – children can share their thoughts/experiences.
- Introduce *Shearing Time*. What does the cover tell you about the book? What sort of things might happen in the story?

#### *During and after reading:*

- Turn to the first page and set the scene. What is the girl sitting on and what is it used for? What time of the year do you think it is? What might the dog be thinking?
- At the end of the day how does the illustrator depict that the characters are tired?
- Discuss the idiomatic saying “counting sheep”. Why is there no need to do that tonight?
- Why do you think that shearing time is the little girl’s favourite time of the year?
- Brainstorm the different uses for wool.
- What do the endpapers show the reader? How does the story begin and end?
- Explore the illustrations closely and discuss the use of colour, tone, shadow, line and space – how do they create atmosphere? How does the illustrator show movement and emotion?
- Discuss the themes of sense of place, the past, belonging, family connections, rural life and pets.
- Explore the notes and terms on the final page in *Shearing Time* and discuss. Older students could complete the included word search activity.
- *Shearing Time* is an example of a personal recount. Have the students write a recount of their favourite time of the year.
- Have the students pick a page in which there is interaction between the sheep and dogs. Create dialogue or speech/thought bubbles for the animals.
- Ask the children to create their own woolly sheep using a template (there are many online versions) and cotton wool balls. Create a mural depicting a mob of sheep in their paddock.

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E A M K C U B M U J C P T Z W  
B D U K I S H E A R E R S R O  
Q H S S H E E P X W R W A O A  
T D T S E K I B R O T O M U X  
R O E S K C O D D A P O D S V  
H I R I I Q E B P G I A R E N  
L W N W T P D L Y G U G E A Z  
Z A O G N I R A E H S N H B J  
H O M L E R A D P D D I X O E  
L A M B B R O E Y O M L T U C  
S P U C S Y B S G T O A S T E  
G N I T R I K S M N B B N L E  
E U Q M B W X Q E W E R E Z L  
P R C L I P E R M H Z O P M F  
G W R D R A F T F O Y J Q S O

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BALING	MUSTER
BLADES	PADDOCKS
BLOW	PENS
BOARD	RINGER
CLIP	ROUSEABOUT
DOGS	RUN
DRAFT	SHEARERS
EWE	SHEARING
FLEECE	SHEEP
GUN	SKIRTING
HERD	WOOL
JUMBUCK	
LAMBS	
MOB	
MOTORBIKES	

