SYNOPSIS

My Home Broome is a beautiful picture book set in the town of Broome in Australia’s north west. Inspired by a poem written by nine year old Tamzyne Richardson, My Home Broome is a rich collage of interesting facts and vibrant artwork that reflects the town’s rich history and diverse ecology.

The illustrations include a range of artworks by local primary school children who worked with artist Bronwyn Houston.

THEMES

Aboriginal culture and customs:
• Broome is home to the Yawuru people
• Aboriginal people have lived in Australia for thousands of years

Broome and its community
• Broome is a multicultural community; its diversity and richness helps make Broome unique
• Broome’s history, culture and environment feature in the text

Poetry
• Each page is inspired by a verse of Tamzyne Richardson’s poem about Broome

WRITING STYLE

Each page of My Home Broome is based on a stanza of the poem written by nine year old Tamzyne Richardson. The stanzas are told from a first person, present tense point of view.

Text boxes share information about the features of Broome featured in each stanza. Topics include local flora and fauna, industries, geography, history and culture.
STUDY QUESTIONS

• Before reading *My Home Broome*, conduct a pre-test to ascertain what students already know about Broome. A KWL chart is an effective way to do this. Discuss what features of a township may feature in such a book.
• Each page opening of *My Home Broome* features a specific feature of the town. Create a list of these features. In small groups, categorise these features, devising our own sub-headings. Discuss the various aspects, then combine to make Broome such a unique and diverse community.
• Select one of the page openings on which to conduct further research. What information, if any, could you add to this page?
• What does the author think about Broome? What clues does the reader get that shows her connection to the town?
• Discuss the term ‘home’. What makes a place a home?
• Which is your favourite page opening? Why? Share your ideas about this page with your class.
• Use Google Earth to visit Broome on the internet. Use ‘street view’ to visit some of the features of Broome that feature in the text.
• Create a map of Broome, using the text as a guide. Show key places of interest, both man-made and natural.
• Research the pearling industry in Broome and the impact that this industry has had on the cultural diversity of the region. Create an information report that shares your findings.
• Broome became home to many new cultures as a result of the pearling industry. Find evidence of different cultures that feature in *My Home Broome*?
• Select one of the local species of flora or fauna in *My Home Broome* to investigate further. How do local species help to define a community?
• As a class or in small groups, create your own book about your hometown. Brainstorm geographical, cultural and historical features that make your town unique. Plan an excursion to your local area. Using digital cameras and sketches from the excursion, create a photo journal to help create your own book. Write poetry to help shape this book. Include things such as climate, pastimes, places of interest and culture.
• Invite a guest speaker from your local historical society to share stories about the area with the class.
• Interview a community member about their memories and experiences of living in your town or suburb. Write a feature article that shares this person’s perspectives.
• Using just the poem from *My Home Broome*, investigate the poetic techniques used by the author. Use these techniques to help with the creation of your own poem about your area.
• Experiment with collage and the artistic techniques used by the illustrators in *My Home Broome*. Use similar techniques when illustrating your own book/page.
• Re-read the page opening that features the ‘staircase moon’. Read *Staircase to the Moon* by Bronwyn Houston. Teacher Notes are available for this text.
• Make bush damper using the recipe included in *My Home Broome*.
• What is Broome-talk? Give examples from the text. Does your local community have its own type of language?