

THE DIGGERS LETTER

Year 10 English, History and Visual Arts Project – Katrina Axford, Suzanne Velzeboer



“They're not heroes. They do not intend to be thought or spoken of as heroes. They're just ordinary Australians, doing their particular work as their country would wish them to do it. And pray God, Australians in days to come will be worthy of them.”

C. E. W. Bean, journalist, war correspondent, historian and author of the *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918*

“The exaggerated machinations of hell are here typified. Everywhere the ground is littered with bits of guns, bayonets, shells and men. Oh, the frightfulness of it all. Until my dying day I shall never forget this.”

Captain Frank Hurley , Official Photographer of the AIF, 23 August 1917, at 'Hill 60'

PROJECT OVERVIEW

You will receive an image of a real life digger from the Playford area who served in World War 1. Using that image as inspiration you will write a letter from the perspective of the digger to a loved one back home. You will then combine the letter, image of digger and art techniques to create an artwork that conveys understanding and empathy for soldiers who fought in WW1.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How would you describe your war experiences on the front to someone back home?

REQUIREMENTS (WHAT YOU WILL DO)

You will:

1. Learn about the history of WW1 and record your research.
2. Receive the name and image of a digger from the Playford area.
3. Learn about the language used in a letter in that era.
4. Write the letter on computer
5. Rewrite the letter in handwritten cursive.
6. Edit image in Photoshop and print out A4

7. Paint several layers of Gel medium on print out and wash off pulp.
8. Combine letter and image together framing it with black matte board.

FINAL PRODUCT

1. Typed diggers letter with audio podcast and QR code.
2. One A4 sized mixed media artwork (all will be presented on wall mounted light boxes).

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (HOW YOU WILL BE MARKED)

English
Students evaluate how text structures can be used in innovative ways by different authors
Students show how the selection of language features can achieve precision and stylistic effect
Students create a wide range of texts to articulate complex ideas
History
Evaluate the reliability and usefulness of primary and secondary sources
Select and use a range of communication forms (oral, graphic, written) and digital technologies
Identify and analyse the perspectives of people from the past
Visual Arts
Students use skills in combining a variety of art making methods & media into a final artwork
Students develop an understanding of using historical knowledge to create meaning for artwork

TIMELINE

Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Receive image of digger in History • Investigate/ record research in History • Begin draft of letter in English
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue letter writing in English • Finalise letter and handwrite it in cursive on an A4 sheet of paper • Edit Digger image using Photoshop and print out • Paint Gel Medium onto print out
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combine letter and Gel medium • Record audio and create QR code

CHALLENGE/ EXTENSION OPTIONS

1. Write a reply letter from the diggers relative.
OR
2. Create a WW1 poem to include in your letter.