



THE BOOK AND BEYOND:

An educator's guide for exploring children's and YA literature

Title: Dawn Raid

Author(s): Pauline (Vaeluaga) Smith

Illustrator(s):

The aim of the Book and Beyond is to inspire an interest and passion for books and reading. This section is for your thoughts, questions and notes about different aspects of the book and to consider how you might frame discussion with students.

The book

Physical object

A standard A5 paperback that is neither too thick nor too thin. It has a smooth cover, while the paper is fairly coarse to the touch.

Design & cover

The bright turquoise/teal and yellow (tying in with 'dawn') cover, with its Pasifika designs and 70's icons (milk bottles, go go boots) has been given an aged appearance. Overall it's optimistic and reflects the setting and story. A head and shoulders illustration of Sofia wearing a turtle neck, her stance strong, sits front and centre on the cover. Endnotes at the back of the book include photos of the era and historical notes.

Illustration

Pacific motifs dance across the bottom of every page and on the introductory page. Written in the form of Sofia's diary, there are a few line drawn illustrations; go go boots, a hangi. Two tiny black panthers prowl across the front and back cover.

Characters

Sofia, the 13 year old narrator is a typical teen growing up in Porirua in the 1970s. She is curious, intelligent, kind, hard-working and generous with a love of fashion. Her older brother Lenny's talk of injustice against Pacific Islanders, Dawn Raids and their first-hand experience raises her awareness and she makes a plea for justice in a speech competition.

Plot

Sofia's diary reflect her teen concerns in regard to school issues, increasing independence and her growing awareness of injustices and her older brother Lenny's work as an activist.

Setting

Set in 1970s Porirua, NZ and also in Auckland when the family go on holiday to visit Sofia's grandparents.

Theme & message

Political awakening/protest
Racism and prejudice
Finding your voice
Intergenerational tension
Friendships

Language

As a diary format it is Sofia talking to us directly, language captures the voice of a teen girl in word choice 'Huh' and the layout of the pages/diary entries. Language evokes the era, popular songs and jingles and artefacts such as 'viewmaster' etc.

Mood & feeling

Light-hearted, often humorous in feel and mood.
Despite the backdrop of injustice and the dawn raid events the book has a sense of optimism, through Sofia's enthusiasm, gentle political awakening and close family interactions.

Genre & format

Historical fiction — a fictional character set in historical circumstances researched by the author. The historical points are referenced in the endnotes and endpages with photos/notes of the era.
Diary fiction.
One of Scholastic NZ's 'My New Zealand Story' series.

The inquiry

Rich question(s)

This section is for creating and exploring questions that might guide an overall inquiry for a particular book. These questions might be inspired by ideas in the book section and/or personal responses and/or the NZ Curriculum and/or available resources.

How does the media shape society? Why?

How are prejudice and bias created? How do we overcome this?

How and why has the media changed since the 1970s?

Why do people set up groups such as the Black Panthers and the Polynesian Panthers?



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Make connections

The aim of The Book and Beyond is to inspire an interest and passion for books and reading. This section is designed to help students use the book as inspiration to share, wonder, question, and explore ideas, possibilities, connections, feelings, experiences and other viewpoints — either alone or together.

Personal

Explore

Sofia experiences first hand a dawn raid.
 Scaffold students to explore more about the dawn raids.
 Use the Any Questions/Many Answers section about dawn raids. These are quality, reliable sources and excellent scaffolding and questioning helps students navigate digital resources to find out more:
https://anyquestions.govt.nz/many_answers Search by topic for dawn raids.

Explore

Teacher notes https://resource.scholastic.com.au/resource-files/8554462_72413.pdf

Create

Create an interactive timeline of key events in the 70s using an online tool or app:
<https://www.ispringsolutions.com/blog/top-10-free-and-paid-interactive-timeline-makers/>

Read more

● Read the next in the series

Bastion Point: 507 days on Takaparawha by Tania Roxborough is another book in Scholastic NZ's 'My New Zealand Story' series. Also set in the 1970s, it tells the story of a family's life in a tent during the occupation of Bastion Point through the diary entries of teenager Erika.

○ Read another book by the same author

● Read another book with the same idea/topic/ genre

'A' is for Activist - (picture book)
The revolution of Evelyn Serrano/Sonia Manzano (same era/South American political awakening)

○ Listen to an audio version of the book

Social (Share your experience)

Reading aloud / speeches

A good story for reading aloud.
 Sofia's speech (pg 153-158) in the competition is a great example of a speech and could be a model for student speeches. Encourage students to re-read it and read it aloud. Can they use pauses, pace, volume and expression in the way Sofia might have?

Talk

Ask students to think about the people in their lives/ family/whānau who may have been in NZ in this era. Prompt students to talk to them about the book, the trends/fashion, events and way of life of that time.

What connections can you make to yourself, other texts, the world?

Text to self

Text to text

Text to world

NZ Curriculum

This section is intended as a prompt for thinking about how the book might relate to the NZ Curriculum. For example, is it a story about *cultural diversity*? What *language, symbols and text* tell the story?

Learning areas		Principles		Values		Key Competencies	
● English	○ Maths & Statistics	○ High expectations	○ Future focus	● Excellence	● Community & participation	○ Thinking	● Relating to others
○ The Arts	○ Science	● Treaty of Waitangi	○ Learning to learn	○ Innovation, inquiry, curiosity	○ Ecological sustainability	○ Using language, symbols & text	● Participating & contributing
○ Health & PE	● Social Sciences	● Cultural diversity	● Community engagement	● Diversity	● Integrity	○ Managing self	
○ Languages	○ Technology	● Inclusion		● Equity			