

Years 3 & 4

3rd Place: Suzie Cox

Year 4, Roleystone Community College

## **Black and White**

MIA

My name is Mia. I am 8 and I was born in 1823 in London, England. My favorite thing to do in summer is ride on the horse and cart with my Mummy and Daddy to Brighton to bathe at the beach and eat ice cream. I also love to play in the yard and ride my horse Chocolate. I love when Mummy makes a cup of tea on a cold day, in front of a fire, after school.

JEDDA

Kaya, I'm Jedda, my Mum named me after a small wild goose. I love hunting goannas, climbing trees and dancing but most of all, I love watching stars. My mum always says, "Everything in the vast landscape has a meaning and purpose." My cousin Jarli (barn owl) teaches me and the kids how to hunt and gather materials.

MIA

Today I'm going on a big ship with Mummy and Daddy, I'm excited and confused. Luckily, we're bringing Chocolate! Daddy said, "We're making a fresh start." But I don't really want one, I love the friends I've got. The ship is crowded and I'm seasick. When I try to sleep, waves hit the wooden hull, keeping me awake. I do miss my bed.

JEDDA

Today I look over Derbarl Yerrigan and I see what looks like two upside-down Mamangs (whales) on the top of the water. There are animals and people from another mob on them. They are moving around fast and saying words I don't understand. I feel a little confused and scared. I ran back to the mob and told my mum. She tells me they mean no harm. She has seen things like this before, and they won't stay for long.

MIA

We have arrived at the colony. There are black swans on the water. They are like the shadows of the white swans we have at home. There are also weird dog-like creatures that are tall and jumping around.

There are no buildings or towers here and the ground is brown and dry. It is hot, a heat I have not experienced. There are some darker-skinned people here, they are standing around and staring at us. Daddy told me about them in England. It feels very different here.

Mummy told me to come with her, she said, "Here we will build our house." Then Daddy turned to me and said, "Go explore and come back before dark." Excitedly, I ran off to see what new things I could find.

I didn't expect to find a new friend!

JEDDA

I am collecting berries for my cousin Jarli. I see a girl my size from the Mamangs approaching me and smiling. She has hair like the sunset and skin the colour of beach sand. I don't know what she wants but I smile back. She spoke words to me that didn't make sense. She paused, then picked up a stick and drew a picture in the sand. She drew two girls and pointed to one, then to herself and said, "Mia." NOW that was easier. I guessed she was asking my name. "Jedda," I said.

Then someone yelled at her from a distance, and she ran off.

MIA

I got home and Mummy looked very mad. "ONE OF THOSE NATIVES TOOK OUR SHEEP!" she yelled. Daddy told me to go inside and eat my dinner. I ate my dinner and kept thinking I would like to go outside and explore some more. When Mummy and Daddy were in bed, I grabbed Chocolate and rode to the place I met Jedda.

At that spot there were many people dancing around a fire. I watched as Jedda's family bonded. I wished my family did that.

I saw Jedda in the crowd, she turned to look at me and gave me her widest smile. She invited me to join the fire party. Jedda's family gave me some wild berries and roasted goanna. I danced until I could no longer feel my feet.

JEDDA

It's morning and I keep thinking about Mia. When I was chasing a goanna, something caught my eye. There are new shapes on the land, tall, but not trees, wide, but not kardas (mountains). What could they be? When I got closer, a Mamang person stared at me, then chased me away. I'm never going near a weird karda again.

MIA

My Mum said she is going to report the sheep theft to the governor. So, while she's doing that I can explore again!!! I decided to find the beach; I took a towel and ran in a random direction. After an hour of walking, I finally reached the beach. The waves were fun for a while, but I got bored and went home. When I got home my mum looked pleased with herself, I'm glad she's finally happy.

JEDDA

I just got the news that our leader Yagan has been killed by the Mamang's and they are coming to kill us too. I didn't understand why, as Mum told me they didn't mean any harm.

Dad, my uncles and cousins are making and sharpening spears. They are angry. I asked Cousin Jarlie what he was doing, but he pushed me aside. I have never been so scared in my life, what do I do?

That djinda (starry) night, I slipped out. I climbed up the tallest tree I could find, I tried to find Mia from up here, but I guess she's asleep. When I got back home no one was there! "Mum? Dad?" No one replied.

MIA

Mummy and Daddy have been speaking loudly to each other. I always feel nervous when they speak like this. They were saying it is not safe here. Mummy wants to get on the first boat back to England.

I decided to get away from here for a while. I grabbed Chocolate and rode away until I could find Jedda. I found her all alone, but she is walking slowly and looks small and scared. I invited her to ride on Chocolate, but she looked away.

I tried again. I moved over and patted the spot on Chocolate where she could sit. She seemed to understand and jumped on.

JEDDA & MIA

We don't know where we're going, but we hope it's somewhere safe. We seem to be heading north which probably means we're going to the river. When we got there, we made a spear and caught a fish for dinner.

At home it was chaos, black and white people are fighting. We're happy to stay here for a while. Chocolate ate grass for dinner, we tried to get him to eat fish, but he wouldn't. We're setting up a camp for the night. It's getting dark fast, so we must hurry. The hut is looking good so far, just needs some finishing touches. It's finally finished and stable enough to sleep in. We are tired and rest our heads.

The next thing, the sun rises and shines in our eyes, waking us up. We decided we should go back.

MIA

When I got back, my parents were so angry they told me I must never leave our fence without them again. Mummy told me to go to my room and study my schoolbooks.

JEDDA

I found my mob and they told me we are moving away from this place that has been our home for so long. I'm going to be sad because I'll miss Mia. I tried to find her to say goodbye, but I couldn't.

I left her a drawing in the sand at the place we met. Two girls holding hands. I hope she finds it.

The End

Based on the song "WARRIOR" by Jenny Gaunt