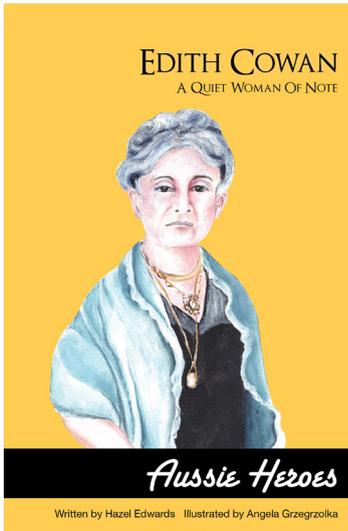


TEACHERS' NOTES

www.newfrontier.com.au/teachers/category/all/



Edith Cowan: A Quiet Woman of Note

Written by Hazel Edwards

Illustrated by Angela Grzegorzolka

Synopsis

Edith Cowan overcame a violent past, dedicating her life to social and political reform, and eventually became the first woman elected to Australian parliament.

Author Background Information

Known for *There's a Hippo on our Roof...* Hazel Edwards O.A.M. writes quirky, thought-provoking fiction and fact for adults and children, across varied media. Hazel is the author of *Feymouse*, *Sleuth Astrid*, *f2m: the boy within*, and titles in the Aussie Heroes series such as *Sir Edward Weary Dunlop*, *Professor Fred Hollows* and *Edith Cowan*. Hazel is also the author of a Music Box series picture book, *Flight of the Bumblebee*. Each birthday Hazel writes a gift story for her grandsons.

Illustrator Background Information

Angela Grzegorzolka is a Brisbane artist and illustrator. She began her career as a primary school teacher and moved into specialist art teaching when the opportunity arose. With a passion for all things artistic and child centred, Angela created many collaborative artworks and curated several art shows with the children she taught. She now illustrates for children's publications and is regularly involved in exhibitions in Brisbane galleries.

Educational Applicability

The Aussie Heroes series introduces primary-aged children to heroes who have made a contribution to Australian society. Each hero has helped others and in turn shaped history. This series gives children an insight into the fascinating lives of great Australians. Each book is written as a narrative with coloured illustrations throughout.



NEW FRONTIER PUBLISHING

Suite 3, Level 2, 18 Aquatic Drive Frenchs Forest NSW 2086 Australia

Ph: +61-2 9453 1525 | F: +61-2 9975 2531 | www.newfrontier.com.au

History

At the end of the book there is a chronological timeline representing the important events in Edith Cowan's life. Students can go back through the text to pick out the events in the timeline. Students can also learn about historical people and the impact they have had on Australian society.

English/Literacy/Critical Thinking

This is a narrative that evokes feeling. It is ideal to be read aloud. Students can participate in the multimodal text discussing the illustrations and timelines. Students can look up sources including current Internet material on Edith Cowan and Australian history.

Writing Style

The text is a simple narrative. It reads as a story rather than a textbook with coloured illustrations throughout to encourage students' interest.

ACTIVITIES

1. Conduct a 'Noting Things' survey

Ask:

- Which way do you put bank notes in your wallet or purse? Would you put Edith's face towards the front or the back? Or would you fold her over?
- Is the side with Edith the front or the back? How do you decide?
- Can you describe what else is on the \$50 note?

(Hint: West Australia's original Parliament House and an illustration of a foster mother and children. David Unaipon also appears on the \$50 note. He was known as 'Australia's Leonardo' because in 1909 he developed and patented a modified shearing handpiece.)



NEW FRONTIER PUBLISHING

Suite 3, Level 2, 18 Aquatic Drive Frenchs Forest NSW 2086 Australia
Ph: +61-2 9453 1525 | F: +61-2 9975 2531 | www.newfrontier.com.au

2. Committee-itus

Edith belonged to many committees. She believed that if people worked as a team, they achieved more. A committee is just a group of people who try to work together to get a job done.

- Which teams or groups do you belong to?
- Is there anything your team achieved that you couldn't have done by yourself?
- What do you think is the most important thing Edith achieved?
- Is it possible that she did something good, none of us know about?

3. Cowan's portrait was featured on an Australian postage stamp in 1975, as part of a six-part Australian Women series.

- Green, white and purple are the 'feminist' colours. Was this deliberate in the stamp?
- If you were to design a six-part significant Australian women series, who would you include?
- Design your stamp series.



4. Political cartoons. Edith was featured in a number of newspaper cartoons once she entered parliament.

- Look at the cartoon below. What was the cartoonist suggesting?
- Draw your own Edith Cowan cartoon, which praises something she achieved, and add a caption.



From Leason's cartoon 'The New "House" Wife', Bulletin, 31/3/1921.

Courtesy National Library of Australia.



NEW FRONTIER PUBLISHING

Suite 3, Level 2, 18 Aquatic Drive Frenchs Forest NSW 2086 Australia

Ph: +61-2 9453 1525 | F: +61-2 9975 2531 | www.newfrontier.com.au

MARKETING AND SELLING POINTS

- The Aussie Heroes series introduces primary-aged children to heroes; promoting knowledge of the past and the impact certain people have had on Australian society.
- *Aussie Heroes: Edith Cowan* reads as a story rather than a textbook, with coloured illustrations throughout to encourage students' interest.
- *Aussie Heroes: Edith Cowan* gives children an insight into not only the fascinating life of Edith Cowan and the importance of her work, but also the time in which she lived; the 19th century.



NEW FRONTIER PUBLISHING

Suite 3, Level 2, 18 Aquatic Drive Frenchs Forest NSW 2086 Australia
Ph: +61-2 9453 1525 | F: +61-2 9975 2531 | www.newfrontier.com.au