

Book Raps

- The organiser chooses a popular book, with potential for discussion.
- Could be a picture book for younger students or a novel for others.
- The aim of the Rap, across about a month, is to share views.
- 'Rappers' read the novel first.
- Rap Points are initiated by organiser & shared beforehand.
- Usually 3 very different areas to discuss/investigate
- Sometimes the Rap is centralised by a literary group who initiate the questions or rap points & have electronic skill to link others.
- Enables isolated/remote readers to share opinions.
- One person may summarise their group's views to share and speak on their behalf.
- When participating in a book rap, readers discuss weekly, an aspect of that novel. They meet in person, or electronically via Skype or email, and in the final week, the author may participate in the discussion too.
- Just needs an enthusiast to choose the book & rap points & co-ordinate how all will communicate. By email? Skype? Phone?
- Some Raps might be music, craft or dance related.

e.g. 'Outback Ferals' Rap Points below. Apt choice because of varied, topical content in this YA novel.

Outback Ferals

ISBN: 0734409354 Hachette/Lothian Books

Rap 1 Under Cover- design a cover to a brief

Rap 2 Pandemic-Hypothetical with you in charge

Rap 3. Mateship

Book Rap: Outback Ferals

Rap Point 1. Under Cover

Check out the 'Outback Ferals' book cover. This is graphic design student David Liston's first book cover. Due to preparation meeting opportunity, he got the chance to have the real job, and be paid for his cover.

An art brief is written by the author for a book cover and it's like a letter.

Below is the brief from which the graphic artists worked.

You have been invited to design an 'Outback Ferals' cover, using this brief.

Sample Art Brief:

Background

- YA (young adult) novel of 30,000 words, Outback Ferals is set in Darwin, Northern Territory and could have future filmic possibilities as real settings involving crocodiles, choppers, the Night Markets and the Beer Can Regatta have been used.
- Potential readers are males & females 12 -17 upwards.
- The cover needs to look active & adventurous
- Photographic or symbolic
- Other material could be designed such as:
 - bookmarks
 - Competition Activities for newspapers or magazines

Author Expectations of the Designer

- Read the book, before designing the cover, and as it is a sequel, also check the previous book.
- Strong contrast, so that the cover would reproduce well in black and white newspaper reviews.
- Title needs to stand out well against background.
- Could be a wrap around cover, and you will need to design space for the blurb & bio for the back.

Points for 'Outback Ferals'

1. Authentic Northern Territory setting of outback Australia which is a last frontier. Active adventure chapters with crocodile chase and feral pig aerial survey by low flying chopper.
2. Humour and fast pace of The Can Regatta, Night Markets and the Bottomless Boat race which are real tourist attractions
3. Satirising Survivor Reality TV shows.
4. Eco-issues of quarantine, bio- infection, possible pandemic and the role media plays in creating or diluting a THREAT.
5. Strong but varied male and female characters.
6. Quirky characters like A.N.Zac the Long Grasser and Aunty May the aboriginal elder.
7. Entrepreneurial young people across cultures.
8. Indigenous art and whether this should be shared commercially.
9. The role of the older, wiser woman as mentor helping indigenous youth.
10. Backpackers' lifestyle
11. Housemates in a tropical Top End climate.
12. Importance of sport, especially football across cultures and the 'scratch' semi final for the under 14s where most weren't.

Rap Point 2 . Pandemic

In 'Outback Ferals' some words have more than one meaning. Apart from an infection, to what extent could 'pandemic' also mean a spread of ideas?

You have just been appointed either, Minister of Media or the Chief Scientist in charge of controlling a pandemic.

What will you do first and why?

- Is the threat of a Pandemic real or just media hype?
- How do bugs, infection or ideas spread?

Rap Point 3 Mateship

'With a pandemic threatening, eco-sleuth Kyle is working undercover in the Northern Territory amongst the backpackers, ferals and friendly locals.

He's chased by a croc, surveys feral pigs from a chopper and almost acts in Survivor TV. Kyle faces the dilemma of not being able to disclose his 'real' job to his housemates Rem, Coco and Ng who invite him into their lives. He also has to deal with 'feral' people like A.N.Zac and his dog whom he meets in his temporary job checking rust-infested vines in the yards of difficult clients. And what else is Ng carrying on his extra chopper loads from the oil rig?

Beneath the outback fun, infection can spread fast. Bugs and ideas!

In physically dangerous places, mateship is vital because you may depend upon your friend to save your life.

How far are you prepared to go for a mate?

Would you support a friend who was trying to do something different?

Consider Coco, Rem, Saori and Ng.

To what extent does Kyle show he is a good mate?