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## Introduction

This novella and film study which covers the novella of *Storm Boy* by Colin Thiele and the 1976 movie adaptation provides students with a comprehensive understanding of storytelling in different mediums. Through analysis, comparison, and persuasive writing, students will develop critical thinking and communication skills while forming their own opinions about books and films. This study can also foster a love for literature and film, encouraging students to explore more stories in various formats.

In this unit students will study the story of *Storm Boy*, comparing both the film and the novella. Whilst this is primarily an English study it encompasses other subjects. These include:

- Australian waterways, care and management (Geography).
- Traditional owner land rights. (Cross Curriculum Priority).
- Respectful relationships (Personal Health and Development).
- Earth Science.

You will need:

- A copy of the book *Storm Boy* by Colin Thiele © 1963 (Week 1). Note: A Read Aloud version is available however the book version is better to use if you can as you will need to reference particular passages.
- Access to the movie *Storm Boy* 1976 version (not the 2019 version). This is currently available on Netflix and can be watched through various streaming services. (Week 4).
- You will find a comparison of the movie and the book in the *Storm Boy* Links found in the Virtual Cupboard.

**Note:** It is better if you do not watch the movie before you read the book.

### VIRTUAL CUPBOARD STORM BOY LINKS

Additional links that support this study can be found in the Virtual Cupboard.

### LESSON SCHEDULE

There is one lesson scheduled per week but some lessons will take longer than others. Lesson 1 and 4 require reading the whole book or watching the whole film over the week. Other lessons can be completed in less than an hour.

### ANSWER GUIDE

There is no specific answer guide. Parents are encouraged to look over their student's responses and make suggestions for improvement. It is best if the parent knows the content of both the book and movie however if that is not possible a comparison study of each medium has been provided in the *Storm Boy* links. This will assist you when looking at the responses from Lesson 6.

## Week 1: Exploring the Book

Read the book *Storm Boy* over the week. This will take approximately 2 hours to read.

Enjoy the story but also be aware of how the author is crafting the story for us. See if you can identify themes, gather information on your characters, look for developments in the plot and clues that the author adds along the way. Keep a small note pad handy and write a short summary of the story as it develops. It is just a rough draft and it doesn't need to be very long. You will refer to this summary in subsequent lessons.

## Week 2: Main Characters

Authors need characters to develop their story. What the characters do, think and say determines the direction of the story. In the beginning of a novel we are usually introduced to the main characters. The author wants to give us an impression of the characters and quickly help us know them or feel intrigued by them. As the story develops, we often learn more and more about a character and sometimes we may even reverse our first impressions of a character. Characters are an essential part of any story.

It's usually easy to work out the main characters of a story. They are the ones that feature mostly, and they are part of the plot. However, many minor characters also contribute to a story.

A character analysis involves gathering some key pieces of information and looking at the character's personality and moral character.

Write a short summary on the following 4 characters of the story:

- Storm Boy
- Hide-Away Tom
- Fingerbone
- Mr Percival

Write about one of the main characters in the story. Start with their name and then you might like to include some of the following:

- Vital statistics: Age, race, background, family.
- How is he/she first introduced? What is he doing? List character traits, with incidents that show them.
- How did they get their name?
- How do others view this character?
- Are they a main or minor character in the story?
- How does this person's opinions change in the book (if they do)?
- What struggles does this person/pelican face?