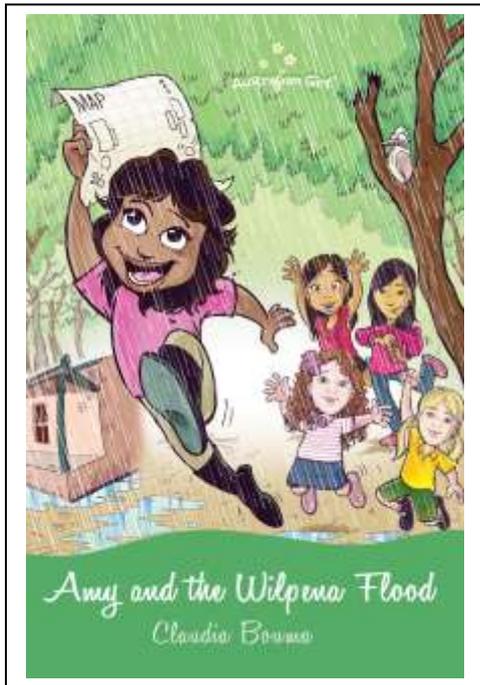# Wombat Books
Books you'll want to share

Teacher's Notes and Ideas

Prepared by Wombat Books

Amy and the Wilpena Flood

By Claudia Bouma

Illustrator: Jason Chatfield

Introduction/Story Summary

Five girls set out on an adventure in Wilpena Pound, South Australia. They discover that the Hills family is in danger of an imminent flood so they need to work together to save Jessie, her four brothers and parents. The girls face raging floodwaters, cold and many other challenges in a race against time.

Key Learning Areas

English/writing

Australian history (early 1900s)

Environment/endangered animals

Values Addressed/Themes

Friendship

Courage

Perseverance

Teamwork

About the Author

Born in 1974 in the Netherlands, now an Australian citizen, Claudia Bouma has always been passionate about writing. Her other passion is travelling around Australia. It was during a two-year trip around Australia with her husband and three young children that her writing career blossomed. Her travel articles have been widely published, both in Australia and overseas. Claudia's love for her children and Australia inspired this Australian Girl book.

About the Illustrator

Jason Chatfield is a cartoonist and stand-up comedian based in Melbourne.

Born in Perth, he is the fifth cartoonist in 91 years to produce the iconic Australian comic strip, *Ginger Meggs* which appears daily in over 120 newspapers in 34 countries around the world.

He is an ex-president of the Australian Cartoonists' Association (Est. 1924) having been elected when he was 26, and was nominated for 2008 Australian Cartoonist of the Year and Comic Strip Cartoonist of the Year in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Chatfield is also an editorial cartoonist for both print and online media each week, as well as one of Australia's premiere live/spot caricaturist at corporate events. His work has been published in several books in Australia and Overseas.

Amy and the Wilpena Flood
Claudia Bouma
Wombat Books
www.wombatbooks.com.au

Chapter 1

1) Amy lives in Adelaide, South Australia. Do you know where Adelaide is?

2) Emily and Matilda arrive on the Ghan. This train traverses the Red Centre of Australia. Where does the train start its journey and how many hours does the trip take? Have you ever been on a long train journey?

Chapter 2

1) The treasure map has the word 'Goyder' written on it. Do you know what Goyder refers to?

2) Amy gets down on herself when she can't remember what the word 'Goyder' means. Do you sometimes get down on yourself? Why?

3) Matilda says to the other girls, 'We're friends and friends look after each other, right?' What do you think? How do you look after your friends?

4) Amy likes to plan ahead whereas the other girls are more spontaneous. What are you like?

Chapter 3

1) Jasmine is scared when the girls end up in a place they don't know. How would you respond in a similar situation?

2) What do you know about the Flinders Ranges and Wilpena Pound?

Author's note: Wilpena Pound is located in the southern Flinders Ranges, a mountain range shaped like an amphitheatre.

3) Annabelle loves to ask lots of questions because she likes to learn. However, she's afraid to do it at school because the other kids will think she's a nerd. What do you think about asking questions in the classroom?

Chapter 4

1) What do you remember about Jessie and her family? Why did they move to Wilpena Pound?

2) What do you know about the dangers of a flood? Have you ever experienced a flood? Did you have to evacuate?

3) Sandy is a yellow-footed rock wallaby. What do you know about these wallabies?

4) Jessie lied to her mum in order to make her leave the homestead. What do you think about lying? How does it make you feel when you lie?

Chapter 5

1) Mrs Hill freely shares the little food they have. What do you think about sharing your toys, food, etc.?

2) The Hill family doesn't have a lot of possessions but they are happy in their little home. Do you think they would've been happier if they'd had more stuff? Does having more things make you happier?

3) Jessie's parents argue about the girls. Do your parents sometimes argue? How does it make you feel?

4) Mrs Hill asks the girls, 'Please tell me, why did you girls come?' Annabelle answers, 'Because we care, Mrs Hill. That's what our parents taught us.' What have your parents taught you that you think is really important?

Chapter 6

1) The girls huddle on the verandah. Why is it so important to huddle when it's cold and windy?

2) The weather changed suddenly and it was dangerous to stay at the homestead. Have you ever been caught in a storm? Were you scared?

Chapter 7
1) Amy says, 'We're in this together, remember? So we either all go or stay.' What do you think of this statement?
2) Annabelle braves the floodwaters to save Jessie's father and brothers. Have you ever been in a situation where you had to be brave?
3) Emily went camping with her father in the Kimberley. Have you been camping? Where did you go?
4) What have you learnt about hypothermia?

Chapter 8
1) Mr Hill finds it very difficult to say 'thank you' after the girls saved him. How often do you thank people for what they do?
2) Annabelle says, 'I think every person has it in them to be courageous.' What do you think?
3) Luke talks about being Australian. Are you proud to be Australian? Why?

Chapter 9
1) Jessie gives Amy her special doll Amanda. Have you ever given someone a special gift?

Chapter 10
1) The girls use a laptop to find out what 'Goyder' means. How often do you use the computer and the internet? Do a search for 'Goyder' and see what comes up.