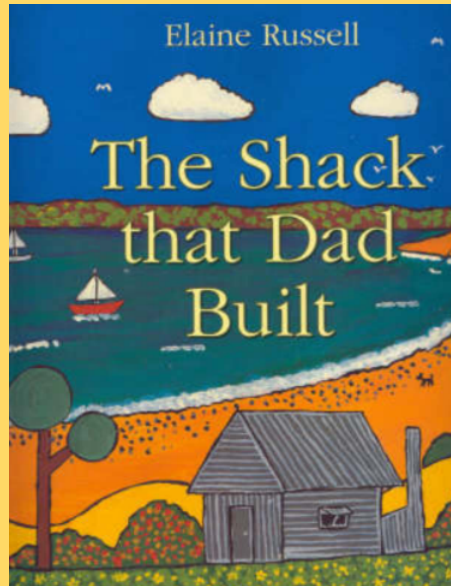


Online Reading Lesson-

"The Shack that Dad Built"

Reading Strategy- Making Connections



We are going to read the text "The Shack that Dad Built" by Elaine Russell. This lesson video includes a reading by Kylie Bracknell and instructions on how to complete this lesson.

The book can also be found on the Story Box website if you would like to read it first and come back to the lesson video later. Here is a link to the Google doc, that shows you how to find the book and how to turn on the (cc) closed captions (words). [Using Story Box](#)

When the Author of the story, Elaine Russell was five, her dad built her family a shack just outside the Aboriginal mission at La Perouse in Sydney, a suburb opposite Kurnell on the shores of Botany Bay, not far from Sans Souci.

In the story, Elaine lived a simple but happy early life near the bush and bay. Her father had a job at La Perouse but there was not enough money to buy many clothes or toys.

The materials that Elaine's father used to build the shack were recycled from rubbish tips and the family relied on mostly natural or repurposed materials for shelter, food and entertainment.

Have you ever had a holiday where you were camping in a tent, cabin or caravan? These days we often have all the luxuries of home when we camp or go on holiday. Maybe you have built a tent or cubby in your yard out of recycled materials that you might have at home? Imagine what materials you might use to make it as comfortable as possible.

First, we will listen to the story and look at the list of all of the materials that Elaine's family used. The list has already been put into a table in this document so we can think about how each material was used as we read the story.

Next, we are going to come up with some adjectives to describe the properties of each material that was useful to the family.

(Remember, an adjective is just a describing word that is used to describe a noun or thing. All of the nouns on our list will be the names of materials or things used in the story.)

Here are some examples of adjectives that describe the properties of materials with definitions included.

rigid	Cannot be bent.	shiny	Reflects light.
smooth	Even surface	opaque	You cannot see through it.
absorbent	Soaks up water	hard	Difficult to scratch or squash
rough	Uneven surface.	flexible	Can be bent.
synthetic	Man-made.	waterproof	Does not soak up water or let water through.
strong	Difficult to break.	brittle	Hard but easily broken.
transparent	You can see completely through it.	natural	Not man-made.
magnetic	Attracted to a magnet.	translucent	You can see through it a bit.

When we have used adjectives to describe the properties of the materials in the story, we will think about any problems someone might have when trying to use that material to do a job. Make connections to your own experience of choosing suitable materials and problem solving during our egg drop project earlier this year.

Then finally, we will decide whether the material is single use or recyclable and give it a sustainability star rating of 1-5 stars. 1 star would be given to products that can't be made of renewable materials and don't break down without causing pollution. 5 stars could be given to a material like twigs or leaf litter which are compostable and good for the environment.

That sounds like a lot of work but don't worry, we will read and complete our table together. As we listen to the story and reach the first material, you will be directed to pause the video and complete the table. You might like to have this reading lesson open in a tab next to the lesson video so that you can pause and type your answers straight into the table in the document.

If your device won't allow you to do that, you can print that page or simply make a list of the materials on a piece of paper and upload a photo of your page. Let's Go!

Material	Used as	Useful Properties	Problems?	Natural or Processed	Sustainability Star Rating
Tin		Waterproof strong	Gets very hot and cold	Man made	
Dirt	Flooring	cool			5 Stars
Newspaper					
Lino (like vinyl flooring)					
Bush tucker					
Tin pots					
Wood					
Shells					
Lantana					
Floor boards					