

Lore of the Land: Cultural Influences

Celebration Essay

Having listened to the reading of the essay ...

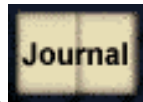
Identify the different voices — the Narrator, the Aboriginal elder, the Jewish and the Italian migrants.

How do these different voices help recreate for you the different periods in Australia's history as described in the essay?

Focus on the four collages. What particular images can you identify in them? How do these images help you to appreciate the different historical periods that we presented?

Meet the different characters — the Aboriginal elder, the Jewish migrant, the Italian patriarch and his family. Note their histories and their connections with this land.

Create a character of your own from your own family story, from an interview you conduct with someone newly arrived in Australia or from your knowledge of the history of immigration to Australia. [See Stories].



Describe this character in your journal

Note the many contributions and achievements made by immigrants. What else would you add to the author's list?

Walk the streets of your city as the author suggests and "observe the rich abundance, the achievements of our immigrant forebears".



Reflect on your findings in your journal

Consult a calendar to note the many cultural celebrations observed by Australians. Which of these do you participate in?

Do you agree with the author that we need “a special day, each year, to reflect upon the perilous journeys of our immigrants forebears ... while recognising our indigenous peoples ...”.

What might such a day be called? Suggest a format for celebrating this day.

In his conclusion the author proposes a means by which Australians can recognise their shared history in this land. What is your response to his proposal?

Look back over the essay. What do you now think of the title?