

My Country

Dorothea Mackellar



The final stop on our world tour is Australia. This week we are looking at poetry.

Task 1: Read the poem 'My Country' and answer the questions.

1. Why do you think Dorothea McKeller calls Australia a 'sunburnt country'?
2. Australia is a land of contrasts (things which are very different from each other). Give two examples from the first verse.
3. What does the first verse tell us about Australia?
4. To what might 'terror' refer? (Verse 1, line 7)
5. What is meant by 'core of my heart'? (Verse 2, line 1)
6. Dorothea McKeller is aware that Australia is not the only beautiful place in the world. Write the line in the last verse that tells us that.

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains;
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror-
The wide brown land for me!

Core of my heart, my country!
Land of the Rainbow Gold,
For flood and fire and famine
She pays us back threefold,
Over the thirsty paddocks,
Watch after many days,
The filmy veil of greenness
That thickens as we gaze.

An opal-hearted country,
A wilful lavish land-
All you who have not loved her,
You will not understand-
Though earth holds many
splendours
Wherever I may die,
I know to what brown country,
My homing thoughts will fly.