

YOUNG DARK EMU BY BRUCE PASCOE



F	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Writing	
Ideas	✓
Organisation	✓
Voice	✓
Word Choice	✓
Sentence Fluency	✓
Conventions	
Presentation	✓



Reading	
Determining Importance	✓
Inferring	✓
Making Connections	✓
Predicting	
Questioning	✓
Summarising & Synthesising	✓
Visualising	

Young Dark Emu needs to be on the reading list for every Australian school student. This book, which is a younger person's version of the adult's book 'Dark Emu' (both by Bruce Pascoe), offers a more accurate account of Aboriginal Australian history. In this book, Pascoe explores the early accounts of European interactions with and observations of Aboriginal Australians, including highlighting the many ingenious agricultural practices they engaged in (well before the Europeans had arrived).

Writing

The writing contains voice and the careful word choice means the text does a very effective job of informing the younger reader while not overwhelming them. As the content is a bit more advanced, I wouldn't recommend this as a mentor text for writing until the high primary, lower secondary years. It would be an excellent mentor text for a genre unit on informational writing in secondary school.

Reading

I would recommend this text as a discussion starter in reading (especially for its cross over into the humanities domain of history) from year 4 (supported) through to year 10. Use this text to cross reference with information from texts on a similar topic such as farming or aboriginal history. Students could do a brain dump of everything they think they know before reading the book and then add to this in a different colour as they learn more throughout the book (synthesising).