

LET'S SAVE THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



CATHERINE BARR AND JEAN CLAUDE

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	

Let's Save the Great Barrier Reef by Catherine Barr and Jean Claude is a persuasive mentor text that tells readers all the reasons why we must protect our reef. Each page starts with 'Let's save the Great Barrier Reef because...' and follows up with a unique reason plus plenty of evidence and detail. This would be an ideal text to study when learning about persuasive writing. The fact that it's Australian and based on a meaningful and relevant topic makes it a breath of fresh air in this arena!

Writing

IDEAS: The author has provided a series of clear arguments backing up their desire to save the Barrier Reef. Study one page at a time, highlighting the fact that the evidence and detail on each page is closely aligned to the argument provided on that page (E.g. On the 'colourful coral is under threat' page, all the supporting evidence relates back to that specific argument.) **ORGANISATION:** Treat each page as a persuasive paragraph. Analyse how it is constructed. How have they used their words and ideas to convince their reader? What can students borrow to apply in their own writing? **WORD CHOICE:** Highlight the specific nouns and technical vocabulary used by the author to show their authority on the topic. (E.g. Notable words on the coral page include: coral polyps, eject, algae, colonies, bleaching, threatens.) **SENTENCE FLUENCY:** A range of sentence types are used, including plenty of complex sentences ('When the water gets too hot, coral polyps eject algae that live inside them.').

Note

Notice how the author uses a mixture of persuasive writing with more traditional informative writing to build their case for why the Reef should be protected? There is no one 'perfect' structure for a persuasive text. This book is a great example of the fact that a writer should use whatever means they need to in order to achieve their goal of convincing the reader of their point of view.