

# TOOK THE CHILDREN AWAY By ARCHIE ROACH



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	

Took the Children Away, written and sung by Archie Roach, tells the true story of Australia's Stolen Generations. Archie Roach wrote the song about his own experience of being forcibly removed from his parents under the Australian Government's Aboriginal 'protection laws' of the time. It's an incredibly emotional song and provides insight into the impact of the policy on the stolen children and their families.

## Writing

**IDEAS-** Archie Roach has written from personal experience- something all our children are experts on. He has kept the focus tight- just on his experience. (He would have had to narrow this down from many different options).  
**VOICE-** Archie Roach writes about a topic he is obviously passionate about and this passion shines through in the form of voice in his writing. His tone is compelling and authentic and keeps us hanging on very word.  
**WORD CHOICE-** Archie has carefully selected words to add to the meaning of this piece. It is emotional and persuasive, and the word choice and sentence fluency has lots to do with this.

## Reading

This song begs to be read alongside books such as Coral Vass' Sorry Day, David Hollinsworth's They Took the Children and Anita Heiss's The Diary of Mary Talence. Students could read these texts and **MAKE CONNECTIONS** and **SYNTHESISE** their understandings of the Stolen Generations. Students could compare and contrast details from books in addition to critiquing the text's ability to evoke empathy and emotional from the reader/listener. So many **QUESTIONS** should (and will) come from students hearing this song.