

MEET... NELLIE MELBA

JANEEN BRIAN AND CLAIRE MURPHY



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	

Meet...Nellie Melba by Janeen Brian (illustrated by Claire Murphy) is a non-fiction narrative that outlines the extraordinary life of Australia's first classical international opera singer. It moves from her early days growing up in a society that didn't believe it was 'proper' for women to sing on stage to her later achievements of putting Australia on the map through her singing.

Writing

IDEAS: Many stories and information reports have been written about Nellie Melba, but this book manages to tell her story in a new and interesting way. It would be worth comparing this version of Nellie's biography with another version such as the one featured in the book, *Amazing Australian Women*. How are the versions similar and different? Which one draws you in as a reader? Why? What details about Nellie's life has the author chosen to focus on in each version? **WORD CHOICE:** There are plenty of tier 2 words worthy of instruction in this book. These include: snapped, jutted, drummed, silvery, devastated and deafening. This would also be a useful text for looking at crafting effective noun-groups: razor-sharp memory, pure crystal voice, thunderous applause. **SENTENCE FLUENCY:** Use this text to study how the author has varied her sentence beginnings, particularly through the use of prepositional phrases e.g. 'When Nellie was 20...' You could also study the use of complex sentences to pack extra information into each line.

Reading

INFERRING: Some of the key information in this biography is tied up in important phrases that students may miss on first read. E.g. 'Against the custom of the day, Nellie worked and cared for her son as a single mother.' The first part of this sentence provides some context into the environment Nellie grew up in. It also links back to a comment her father says earlier in the book, 'Stop that whistling! You sound like a tomboy!' **QUESTIONING:** Use this text as a discussion starter for women's rights and equality over time. How was Nellie's world different or similar to the one we live in now?