

Drover

By now, Drover has worked out the leaders and the troublemakers. They name the flighty one, Shifty.

Drover names the troublemaking bullock Shifty. The word shifty means untrustworthy. Imagine you are a drover. Create a list of possible names for bullocks with the following traits:

Doesn't like to move and always wants to lay down: _____

Stomps its foot and continually charges you: _____

Eats all day: _____

Sleeps-in and tries to take regular naps: _____

Walks in the wrong direction and often gets lost: _____

Bellows noisily: _____

Butts the other bullocks: _____

Walks next to you and your horse and is very protective: _____

Drover

A hush descends over the bush. Lancewood is dense with gnarly branches with thorns so sharp they can tear the clothes off a rider and skewer his horse.

Neridah McMullin has included a vivid description of the Lancewood trees in the bush. She has also described the dangerous thorns by explaining the damage they can do to a rider or their horse. Finish the sentences below with further information. The first one has been completed for you.

The trunk of the boab tree was so wide it would take over thirty seconds to walk around it.

The flowers of the wattle tree were so golden _____

The eucalypt tree was so tall _____

The green moss was so thick it looked like _____

The spinifex was so sharp the drover knew it could _____

Your choice: _____

Drover

Bib's on first watch and as Drover settles down to sleep, smiles as Bib sings softly out of tune.

The glossary of *Drover* explains that drovers sung to their herds at night to reassure and calm them. Below are the lyrics to a song about droving, *The Diamantina Drover*, written by Hugh McDonald. Fill the missing words in the lyrics with words from the rectangle.

Diamantina	drover	photograph
long	station	fences
sun	dreaming	night

The faces in the _____ have faded
And I can't believe he looks so much like me
For it's been ten _____ years today
Since I left for Old Cork _____
Sayin' I won't be back till the drovin's done

For the rain never falls on the dusty _____
And a drover finds it hard to change his mind
For the years have surely gone
Like the drays from Old Cork Station
And I won't be back till the drovin's done

Well it seems like the _____ comes up each mornin'
Sets me up and then takes it all away
For the _____ by the light
Of the camp fire at _____
Ends with the burning like the day

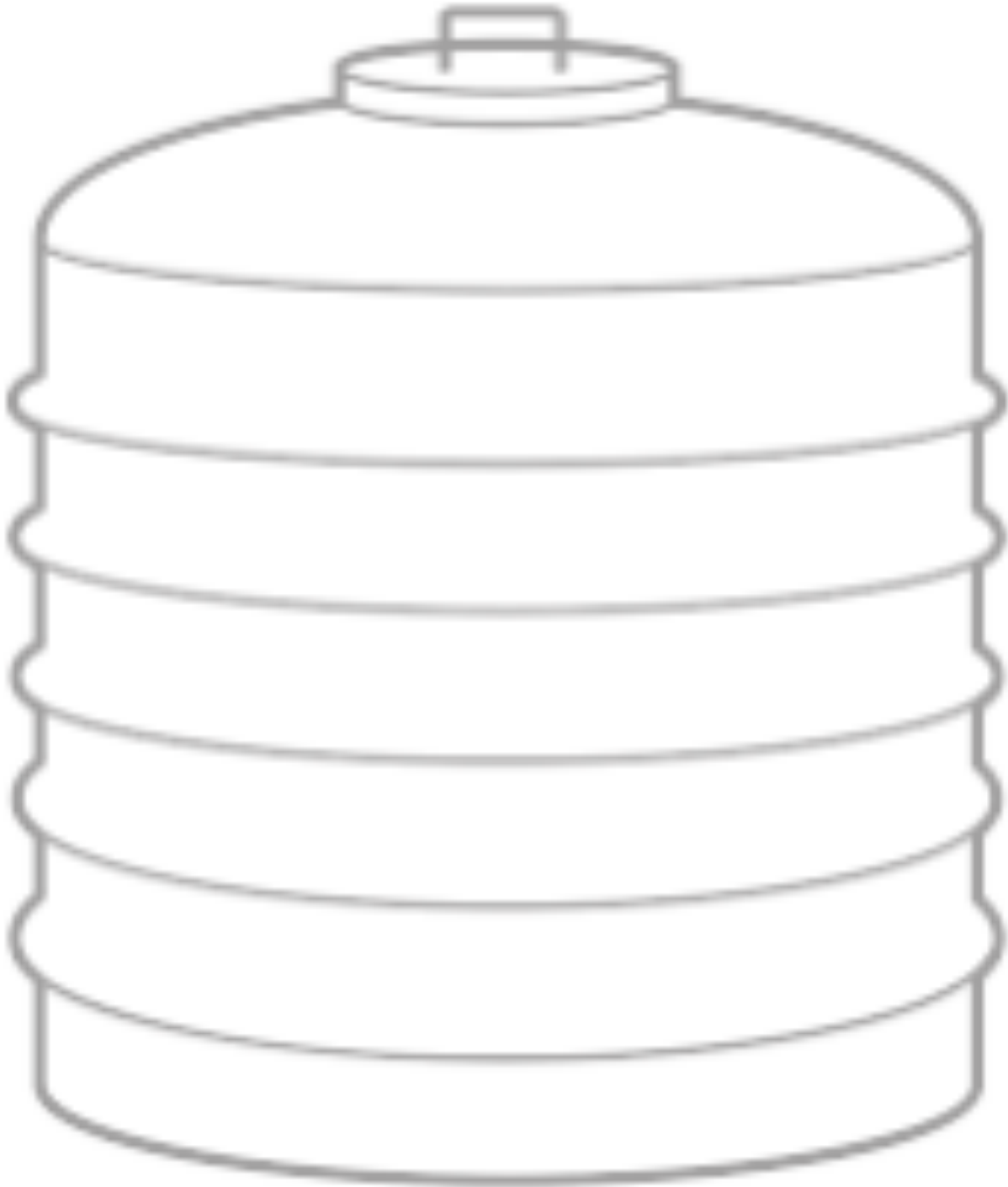
For the rain never falls on the dusty Diamantina
And a _____ finds it hard to change his mind
For the years have surely gone
Like the drays from Old Cork Station
And I won't be back till the drovin's done

Sometimes I think I'll settle back in Sydney
But it's been so long it's hard to change my mind
For the cattle trail goes on and on
And the _____ roll forever
And I won't be back when the drovin's done

Drover

Bib, Cook and Snooks catch up on the Bagman's Gazette which are messages left on the water tanks by other drovers.

The glossary of *Drover* explains that the *Bagman's Gazette* was the newspaper of the outback. Drovers would write messages on the sides of the water tanks at each bore. The messages could include news, gossip, complaints, quotes, poetry and pictures. Research the life of a drover and create your own *Bagman's Gazette* on the water tank below with messages from different drovers.



Drover

Drover sits a little straighter in the saddle and cracks her whip high above her head as she gallops by.

Did you assume the drover was a man? Assuming someone possesses a certain trait or can do a specific role based on whether they are male or female is called a gender stereotype. The women below all disproved a gender stereotype. Match the women with the achievement they're widely-known for:

Kathy Switzer	First woman to go into space
Jessica Watson	First female Prime Minister of Australia
Marie Curie	Youngest person to sail solo and unassisted around the world
Valentina Tereshkova	The first woman to officially finish the Boston Marathon
Edith Cowan	First woman to climb Mt Everest and the highest mountain of each of the seven continents
Julia Gillard	Australia's first female politician
Katherine Johnson	Her mathematical skills helped launch people into space
Junko Tabei	Became a world-renown physicist at a time when women weren't regarded for that role

Research another person who has broken a stereotype (gender, racial, age) and write your findings on the lines below.

Answers: Kathy Switzer – Boston Marathon, Jessica Watson – solo sailor, Marie Curie – physicist, Valentina Tereshkova – cosmonaut, Edith Cowan – first female Australian politician, Julia Gillard – Australian PM, Katherine Johnson – NASA mathematician, Junko Tabei – mountain-climber.

Drover

Australia's famous stock routes include: the Strzelecki Track, the Murrumbidgee Track, the Barkly Stock Route, the Birdsville Track, the Tanami Track and the Canning Stock Route, the longest stock route in the world. Draw each of these stock routes on the map below.



Drover

*Gone a-droving 'down the Cooper' where the Western drovers go;
As the stock are slowly stringing, Clancy rides behind them singing,
For the drover's life has pleasures that the townsfolk never know."*

Banjo Patterson, 1889, 'Clancy of the Overflow'

Two of Australia's most famous bush poets are Banjo Paterson and Henry Lawson. The two writers had different views of Australian bush life: Lawson had a realistic view and wrote of the struggles while Paterson had a romantic view. Paterson and Lawson even took part in a debate, or a 'duel by poetry', in the pages of *The Bulletin* in 1892-3. Research the poetry of the two writers and list three examples that display evidence of their view below. For example, in the poem above Paterson writes '*the drover's life has pleasures that the townsfolk never know*'.

Henry Lawson – realist

Banjo Paterson – romanticist

Drover

Drover belongs to a group of books that are written in the narrative non-fiction style. Narrative non-fiction books:

- Give facts using a narrative technique
- Are accurate and confirmable
- Have a memorable voice
- Reveal emotions and events

For example, the first page of *Drover* states:

Drover reins in Midnight and sighs at the peachy dawn. The cattle have been quiet overnight, but it's time to wake everyone and break camp.

Do you notice how the text is telling you facts about droving life in the form of a story? If the book was traditional non-fiction the first page may say:

Drovers woke early each day and prepared their horses. Typically the drovers would sleep near the cattle, who would generally remain quiet throughout the night.

The following sentences are written in the traditional non-fiction format. Rewrite them in the narrative non-fiction style:

Drovers had to be independent and tough as they could spend years in the bush.

Excellent horse-riding skills were a necessity for drovers.

Boss drovers had to be able to manage the cattle, as well as the other drovers.
