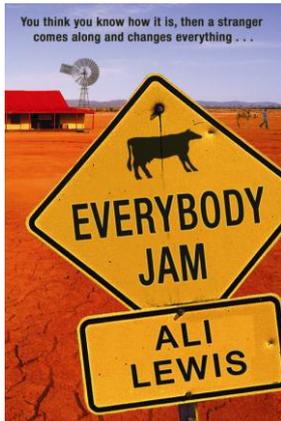


TALKING POINTS

CILIP Carnegie Medal Shortlist 2012



The CILIP Carnegie
& Kate Greenaway
Children's Book
Awards



Everybody Jam by Ali Lewis

Liz, the English backpacker who arrives to help the Dawsons with their cattle muster in Australia's Northern Territory, needs help understanding her new life which at first the Dawsons' son Danny is reluctant to give her. Here are some traditional outback terms to translate for Liz:

- Cow-surfing
- Dunny
- Everybody jam
- Gin
- Gin jockey
- Outback raisin
- Poddy
- Pom/Pommie
- Races
- Root (verb, everything else is a noun)
- Sheila
- Smoko
- Ute

TALKING POINTS

THE LIFE OF DANNY

Danny's life is unlike that of most 13-year-olds in Europe. He lives far away from other young people of his age, in an extreme climate that directly affects his family's livelihood.

- What skills does he have that most 13-year-olds who live in cities do not have?
- What aspects of life as a young teenager does he miss out on?
- What might be the benefits of his situation?

How does using Danny to tell the story make it

- More entertaining?
- More emotionally intense?

FAMILY VALUES

Danny and his father Derek don't talk to each other much. If there were nothing stopping him, what would Danny say to:

- his father
- his mother
- his dead brother, Jonny.

What would Derek say to:

- Danny
- his daughter Sissy?



Do Derek and Danny's mother, Sue, appear to be strict with their children compared with other parents whom you know?

- Why is it important to Derek that he seems to be in control of his family?
- How does he show that he regards Danny as part of the family business?

Danny wants to work with the men at stock camp during the muster and resents having to study at home with his sisters.

- Why is being the only boy at home hard for Danny?
- Why is Derek reluctant to let him join in more with the practical work of the station?
- Why is Derek so angry with Danny when he runs away?

The workers who help run the station are almost part of the Dawsons' family.

How does Derek treat:

- His full-time station hands, Lloyd and Elliot
- Reg Evans, the expert musterer, and his team
- Jack Black, Reg's Aboriginal worker
- Greg Croft, his nearest white neighbour
- Davy Sugar and Mick and Gil Smith, his Aboriginal neighbours.

When the drought creates a crisis in the station, how do all the above people help to pull the Dawsons through it?

THE LIFE OF LIZ

- When Liz joins the family what does she like about it and what does she find difficult?
- She isn't of much practical help at first, but what contribution does she make to the Dawsons' family life?
- What are the aspects of life with the Dawsons that seem acceptable to Danny which are hardest for Liz to cope with?

The existence of Liz in the story helps any readers who do not know much about life on cattle stations in 1600 square miles of the Australian desert. Danny gets irritated when Liz asks a lot of what he sees as stupid questions. But Liz's questions also help the Dawsons understand themselves.

- What does she talk about that the family never mention among themselves?
- About what controversial issue does Liz say 'What difference does it make? Really?'

WRITING AROUND THE STORY

LETTER HOME

Danny uses his account of the month that Liz spends with his family to outline everything that is bothering him. Imagine Liz is writing an email to a close friend about her month with the Dawsons and describe her first breakfast with the family and her first driving lesson with Danny.

Danny's family situation means that he has a special relationship with animals.

- Compare and contrast his relationship with Buzz, the camel, with Liz's feelings about her special calf, Dingo.



DAWSON TERRITORY

- How many cattle stations like the Dawsons' are there in Australia? Use the internet to find news stories and photographs showing the effects of drought similar to those experienced by Danny's family.
- Display these alongside a map of Australia showing the Dawsons' station in relation to Alice Springs.



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