Walkabout

While reading
Chapter 1

1 Who said this? Work in pairs. Imagine who said the sentences below.
   a ‘I’m hungry.’
   b ‘It’ll be better in the morning.’
   c ‘I’m coming too.’
   d ‘What are you doing?’
   e ‘Why didn’t you get dry first?’
   f ‘Here’s some chocolate.’
   g ‘They’re only ants.’
   h ‘I don’t like this place.’
   i ‘Let’s climb to the top. Perhaps we’ll see the sea.’
   j ‘I’m very, very sorry.’

2 You are Peter. Complete what you say. You have the first letter of each word to help you.
   a ‘My l………… hurts.’
   b ‘W………… are we?’
   c ‘I want to go h………… .’
   d ‘When will it be lunch-t…………?’
   e ‘Let’s c………… to the top.’
   f ‘I can s………… .’
   g ‘I’m h………… .’
   h ‘The c………… is very small. Is that all?’

3 You are Mary. Answer each thing Peter says in activity 2. For example: Mary can say ‘It’ll be better in the morning’ for sentence a.

4 What is the animal? Match the sentences with the names in the box.
   marsupial tiger cat wombat
   kookaburra ants

   a The …………… wanted food – a small animal, or some insects.
   b The …………… pushed the sleeping children with his nose.
   c The …………… only are plants.
   d The …………… opened his mouth and made a loud noise.
   e The ……………’s young babies couldn’t eat the children.
   f The …………… were all over Peter’s legs.
   g The …………… looked at the children for a minute or two.

Chapters 2–3

5 You are Peter. Tell how you met the bush boy using these phrases to help you. They are in order.

   … were eating red fruit
   … was watching us
   … was black and naked
   … wanted to run away
   … was young and friendly
   … wasn’t dangerous
   … carried dead wallaby

   … felt our face, hair and clothes
   … kicked the ground
   … turned red
   … made a strange noise
   … sneezed
   … laughed

6 Underline the wrong information in the sentences and correct them.
   a In South Carolina, no white person came near black people.
   b Mary was happy because she wasn’t in charge.
   c Mary wanted help from the bush boy because she was afraid.
   d The bush people were often hungry because the desert is very hot.
   e Mary felt she was Peter’s little sister again when he took her hand.
   f Trees are yellow when there’s water near.

7 Peter and Mary don’t know how to make a fire. Put the instructions in order.
   a ☐ Move it round and round very fast.
   b ☐ Put some very small pieces of wood on the rock.
   c ☐ Put the end of this into the small pieces.
   d ☐ Take a long piece of wood between his hands.
   e ☐ Find a flat stone.

8 There is a life plan for the bush boy and for his tribe that never changes. Put the words in order.

   After that, you walk alone, on your walkabout. After the walkabout, you become man. And after that, you die. and then you walk with your tribe. Every day is dangerous for you. First, you are born, In the walkabout you have to live in the desert alone for six months. When you are a man, you live with a woman. You have to find food and water.
9 What is the bush boy thinking about? Complete what he thinks.

I can see something in the girl’s (a) e………. It is (b) d………. and (c) s………. She is (d) a………. To me, that can mean only one thing: the girl sees my (e) d………. Now her (f) b………. is looking at me in the same way. So the boy can see my death (g) t……….! I’ll walk into the (h) d………. .

Chapter 4
10 How do you catch fish? Put the words in order.
   a A rock find and it throw as hard into the water as you can.
   b Of fish the top watch water the for
   c Take of water dry fish throw on out and the dead them to the rocks.
   d Fish with hit rock the head the a.

11 Without looking at activity 10, tell a friend how to catch a fish. Use the words: first, next, then and last.

12 When it was dark, Peter and Mary slept. But the bush boy stood on the rocks and looked out at the desert again for a long time (page 28). What was the bush boy thinking? What were the children dreaming about?

Chapter 5
13 Are these sentences right (√) or wrong (×)?

Correct the wrong sentences.
   a Mary and Peter made a bed on the ground for themselves.
   b When a person died in the Australian desert, everybody went to church.
   c The bush boy’s lessons helped them because they knew the desert now.
   d ‘When we die, there are many for us,’ Mary said.
   e Mary tried to give the baby koala back to its mother, but it caught her dress and pulled until it came off.
   f The family of Aboriginals knew they were lost and told them where to find more bush people.
   g The black man made a map on the ground and showed them where to find trees, rivers and hills.

After reading
14 Who did this in the story? Work in pairs. Imagine who did the following in the sentences below.

   a first swam in the river.
   b first met the bush boy.
   c first sneezed.
   d laughed with the bush boy.
   e drank little water.
   f helped the bush boy make a fire.
   g played alone in the river.
   h put his or her hand on his or her stomach.
   i danced.
   j slept very little.
   k fell ill.
   l threw a small rock at somebody.
   m wanted to leave quickly.
   n took the bush boy’s head in her hands.
   o finally fell asleep.
Walkabout

Chapter 1
1 Choose the right ending for these sentences.
   a Mary and Peter walk into the desert because ……
      1) they have to look for water.
      2) they have to look for food.
      3) they have to get away from the animals.
   b Mary puts her dress on very quickly because ……
      1) she is cold and doesn't want to get ill.
      2) she remembers that she has no clothes on.
      3) she finished swimming.
   c It is good that Peter doesn't understand the problem
      so that ……
      1) he doesn't get worried.
      2) he likes Australia.
      3) he enjoys the journey.
   d From the top of the high ground they see ……
      1) Adelaide.
      2) the sea.
      3) the desert.

Chapters 2–3
2 Are these sentences right (√) or wrong (×)? Correct
   the wrong ones.
   a Peter sees the bush boy first.  ×
   b In South Carolina, white children and black
      children are friends.  √
   c Peter teaches the bush boy English words.  ×
   d Mary is afraid of the bush boy because he is
      a young black man.  ×
   e The bush boy thinks Mary is afraid because
      she knows he is going to die.  ×
3 Choose the right answer.
   a Why does Mary tell Peter to put his clothes on?
      ……
      1) She thinks it is wrong to be naked.
      2) She thinks he will get a cold.
      3) She thinks he will lose his clothes.
   b When is Mary frightened by the bush boy? ……
      1) When he makes a fire and cooks the wallaby.
      2) When he plays in the water with Peter.
      3) When he dances and looks at her.
4 Write M (Mary), P (Peter) or B (the bush boy) next
   to these sentences.
   a This person learns some words of the bush boy's
      language. ……
   b This person plays in the water alone. ……
   c These people find food and make a fire. ……
   d This person is afraid of the bush boy. ……
   e This person walks into the desert alone. ……
   f This person asks the bush boy to come back. ……

Chapter 4
5 Number these things in the order they happen in
   the story.
   a The bush boy and the children get to a river.  ×
   b The bush boy dies.  √
   c Peter feels ill.  ×
   d Mary holds the bush boy's head and smiles at
      him.  ×
   e The bush boy feels ill.  ×
   f The bush boy has an idea: he will take them to
      the rivers-under-the-mountain.  √
   g The bush boy lies under a mugga-wood tree.  ×
   h The bush boy sees Mary naked in the water.  ×
   i Peter tells Mary the bush boy is dying.  √

Chapter 5
6 Are these sentences right (√) or wrong (×)? Correct
   the wrong ones.
   a The bush boy was wrong: at the bottom of
      the hill, everything was green.  √
   b ‘This is great!’ Peter shouted to Mary when
      he climbed a tree.  ×
   c The mother koala pulled Mary's dress.  √
   d When the children were swimming in the
      water, they remembered Adelaide, Uncle
      Keith and their old life in South Carolina.  ×
7 These sentences describe what happens in the story.
   Put the words in brackets into the past tense.
   Mary and Peter’s aeroplane (a) …………………… (crash) in the middle of nowhere. They
   (b) …………………… (survive) the crash and
   (c) …………………… (run) away from the
   plane. They (d) …………………… (have) some
   chocolate and there (e) …………………… (be) a
   river so they (f) …………………… (have) water.
   They (g) …………………… (walk) down the
   river. The river (h) …………………… (go) south.
   A bush boy (i) …………………… (find) them
   and (j) …………………… (help) them. Peter
   (k) …………………… (like) the bush boy, but Mary
   (l) …………………… (be) afraid of him because he
   (m) …………………… (be) a naked black man. The
   bush boy (n) …………………… (teach) them how
   to live in the desert. When he (o) …………………… (get) Peter's cold and (p) …………………… (die) they
   (q) …………………… (start) to walk again. They
   (r) …………………… (see) an Aboriginal family. The
   Aboriginals (s) …………………… (show) Mary and
   Peter the way home.