Primary Geography Alive: People Live in Places (Lesson 5)

Lesson 5: Places in story books

Content focus:

In this lesson students engage with a story focusing on the place in which it is set. In doing so, they develop an understanding of places used in stories. They reinforce these understandings by drawing pictures or picture-maps of them.

Resources:

- A collection of storybooks (from the school library) all of which have particular places (real or imaginary) as their setting.
 Examples:
 - Graeme Base's, *The Waterhole*, Harry N. Abrams Inc. *The Waterhole* is an ingenious mix of a counting book, a puzzle book, a storybook and an art book. It takes the reader of a journey of discovery, from the plains of Africa and the jungles of the Amazon to the woodlands of North America and the deserts of outback Australia.
 - Jeannie Baker's, Where The Forest Meets The Sea, Perma-Bound Books, A boy and his father travel in their boat, 'Time Machine', to a stretch of beach beside an ancient tropical rainforest. As the boy walks among the trees, he imagines the forest as it might have been in the past.
 - Graham, Bob Graham's *Greetings From Sandy Beach*, Lothian. A family's camping holiday to a beach is off to a bad start when dad can't get the tent up. Fortunately, the members of a bikie gang come to his rescue. The peace of the beach is shattered by the arrival of a school group. The book captures the essence of a holiday at the beach.
 - Ezekiel Morgan & Sally Kwaymullina's, My Place, Fremantle Press My place provides a journey through a child's home country
 that celebrates the joys of nature with a focus on forming a connection with place. The book offers an indigenous Australian
 perspective of life as it connects traditional and contemporary experiences in ways that children can understand.
- Worksheet 1: Sketches of places that stories could be set in

Key inquiry questions:

 What makes a place distinctive (different to other places)?

Outcomes:

A student:

- draws pictures or picture maps to show his/her understanding of the links between a story and the place in which it is set
- understands some links between a place and things that happen there.

Lesson sequence:

- Step 1: The teacher chooses a storybook set in a particular place (real or imaginary) and reads it to the class.
- Step 2: The teacher discusses the characteristics of this place with the children.
- Step 3: Worksheet 1 can be used to link stories with places. Ask students to suggest the names of stories that could take place in the places shown in the sketches (the sketches are of an island, a forest, a river and a city street).
- Step 4: Students choose one of their favourite books and draws a large picture or picture-map showing some of the features of the place which are part of the story.