



Voiceworks

Issue 114: Slug

New fiction, nonfiction, art & comics from young Australians

Teacher's Resource

Voiceworks 114 Slug

Based at the Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas, Express Media is a national organisation providing support and development opportunities for young Australian writers.

For the past 30 years, Express Media has been developing, supporting and promoting young writers through workshops that develop skills, through opportunities for constructive feedback and publication, and through awards and programs that recognise excellence.

Voiceworks is our flagship publication; a national literary journal featuring exciting new work by young writers. It is a unique opportunity for young writers and artists under the age of 25 to publish their poetry, short stories, comics, illustrations and drawings, as well to receive feedback on their submissions. Voiceworks is produced entirely by people aged 25 and younger. Issue number #114 is themed “Slug”.

This resource was prepared by Rafael Ward, current Schools Program Producer and can be linked to the Australian Curriculum and its Content Descriptors for Year 9 level English (identified by AC codes) and general capabilities.

You may wish to differentiate these activities to suit higher or lower year levels or to more closely match your state's curriculum. For more information on the Australian Curriculum, visit www.acara.edu.au.

Express Media acknowledges and pays respect to the custodians of the land on which our offices are located, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. Express Media also acknowledges and pays respect to Elders of the lands on which our programs and content reaches. It was, is and always will be, Aboriginal land.



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Voiceworks 114 Slug

Published by Express Media, *Voiceworks* is a national literary journal featuring exciting new writing and art by young Australians. It is a unique opportunity for people under twenty-five to publish their fiction, nonfiction, poetry, art and comics. It's put together by the editor, a group of interns and a volunteer editorial committee (EdComm), all of whom are under twenty-five. You've been sent this resource because you are one of our Express Media Schools Members. A Teachers Resource comes out with each copy of *Voiceworks*, covering two genres each time.

Learning Outcomes from these exercises:

By participating in the following activities and crafting original work through these exercises, students will be able to:

- Investigate how evaluation can be expressed directly and indirectly using devices, for example allusion, evocative vocabulary and metaphor (**ACELA1552**)
- Use comprehension strategies to interpret and analyse texts, comparing and evaluating representations of an event, issue, situation or character in different texts (**ACELY1744**)
- Investigate how evaluation can be expressed directly and indirectly using devices, for example allusion, evocative vocabulary and metaphor (**ACELA1552**)
- Analyse and explain the use of symbols, icons and myth in still and moving images and how these augment meaning (**ACELA1560**)
- Interpret and compare how representations of people and culture in literary texts are drawn from different historical, social and cultural contexts (**ACELT1633**)

Nonfiction

One of the standout elements in *The Amateur* (by Xan Coppinger) is how the cultural clash is explored through the unique characters and their interactions. The following exercises will get students to provide detailed answers to characterisation questions to make their own characters vivid and interesting.

“The bartender... swiftly flips the vinyl to James Blake’s Retrograde. The first vinyl I ever bought. It’s sitting at the bottom of the pile. Reserved for break-ups, late-night existentialism, lying spread-eagled on the floor.”

Warm Up Exercise - describe a someone you know through the music they listen to. This could be yourself, or someone you know well.

Guiding questions - What is the history of the music (when and where did the person first listen to it?) What does it mean to them? What kind of memories does it evoke? Is it an obvious choice for the kind of person they are?

“The slick granddad next to me has a Nike bum bag strapped to stout belly, bushy eyebrows like a pair of cat’s tails, a leather bag just for a set of drumsticks rolled up in canvas. The cats dance up and down as he chews his assorted snacks in silence. Next to him is a man, all frowns and black sportswear, playing a pair of drumsticks against the bar counter to a rhythm in his head.”

Writing Exercise - Use the characters in the above extract to write a story.

Guiding Questions: What are they doing? What is their relationship? Where are they exactly? And how did they get there? What is their backstory? What happens next?

“There are six people playing at once and every face is a contortion of closed eyes in grimaces and smirks, in lip smacking and pouts. Solos are passed over the throw of an arched eyebrow, beneath the flick of a string of hair, through the tenor’s single index finger balanced on the crown of his head. An elderly man in a tennis cap and golfing getup surfs his electric guitar riffs with eyes shut and hips slowly gyrating. The drummer is popping beads of sweat through his temple like a muslin cheesecloth.”



Fiction

The opening line of *The Mandarin* by James Rudd instantly captures the reader's attention:

At 5:43 am, just as she would have been coming out of her deepest sleep cycle, Sienna D'amico was struck and instantly killed by a meteorite, the upper quarter of her body all but vaporised.

Warm Up Exercise - There've been plenty of really strange deaths in history (from King Henry I Of England who ate lamprey eels, Houdini dying from a punch, or Tennessee Williams from choking on a plastic eyedrops cap) and this quick warm up exercise asks students to think of strange deaths. Note, these need not be gory, but rather encourage students to be creative and interesting.

"At the bottom of this hole lay a softly ticking, still-warm ball of ferrous material about the size of a jeweller's fist or a large mandarin. It had ruined the pastel pink shag carpet."

Writing Exercise - Fruit as the central metaphor

Much like Persephone and the pomegranate, students are to choose a fruit to base a story around. This can be their favourite fruit, or their least favourite. Allow a few minutes of brainstorming different fruits, and how they can be used in their stories.

Extension task - As a challenge, see if students can use their chosen fruit as a way of relating to one of the strange deaths they came up with for the first task!

"The mandarin-sized meteorite sat cold and heavy, straining against the magnetism of the Earth, on an aluminium tray in a mint-coloured room within the Museum of South Australia. The young freelance journalist, working for about twenty cents a word, sketched out the mysterious killer object with frenzied words in a cheap notebook already full of other stories."



The 2019 John Marsden & Hachette Australia Prize

Entries are now open for the 2019 John Marsden & Hachette Australia Prize for Young Writers, a creative writing award for Australian secondary school students.

The prize awards writing excellence in three categories:

- Fiction
- Creative Nonfiction
- Poetry

First prize - \$500 cash prize in each genre, as well as a book pack of YA titles courtesy of Hachette Australia, publication on the Express Media website and their names in an acknowledgement printed in Voiceworks, Australia's premier youth literary journal.

15 shortlisted writers will also receive an invitation to attend:

- an exclusive writing masterclass
- a premiere event as a guest of the Melbourne Writers Festival
- a lunch with John Marsden hosted by Hachette Australia and Express Media

Entries are open now, and close at **11:59pm** on **Sunday 30 June 2019**.

For more information or to submit your entry, visit **expressmedia.org.au/jmp**.



Schools Program

Express Media works with teachers and students in secondary schools to build essential literacy skills, develop young people's voices and support them to achieve their creative goals.

Express Media's workshops bring writing to life and equip students with the tools to tell their stories and express what matters most to them.

Developed in accordance with Australian Curriculum standards, our workshops focus on specific areas of writing, editing and publishing to support classroom learning and empower students to pursue their own creative potential.

As emerging writers themselves, our tutors know firsthand what it takes to animate the writing process for young people. Aside from engaging with high-quality workshop content, students get huge personal benefits from the mentorship of our talented crew. Workshops are available on demand in **Poetry, Nonfiction, Short Fiction, Graphic Narratives** and **Creating Your Own Publication**.

FOR BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

contact our **Schools Program Producer Rafael Ward** on
03 9094 7889 or
education@expressmedia.org.au.

For more information about our Schools Program, head to:
expressmedia.org.au/programs/schools/in-school-workshops/

MEMBERSHIP

Schools Program Membership

\$75 per year

- We believe that young people reading the published work of their peers is a powerful act. It expands their sense of potential and can be the galvanising force needed to put their own pens to paper. As a Schools Member, you'll receive four print editions of *Voiceworks*, with the knowledge you are supporting the development of young Australian writers across the country.

To sign up, or find out more, visit
expressmedia.org.au/membership

MEMBERSHIP

If you're aged 13 to 30 with an interest in writing, reading, or storytelling, become a member of Express Media and subscribe to Voiceworks to access opportunities to develop, share, and publish your writing. Plus, you'll receive invites to launches, events and workshops and join a community of young writers across the country

Express Media Membership

\$25 per year includes:

- A subscription to the monthly Express Post newsletter packed full of the latest writing and publication opportunities
- Unlimited submissions to Express Media's publications, prizes and fellowships
- Unlimited access to Express Media's courses, workshops and events
- A PDF version of the latest issue of Voiceworks delivered to your email inbox each quarter

Add a print subscription to Voiceworks for just \$50!

To sign up for an Express Media Membership visit [**expressmedia.org.au/membership**](https://expressmedia.org.au/membership)

We offer joint memberships with writers centres across Australia – find the membership suitable to you in your state via our website.



Voiceworks Subscription (4 issues)

\$60 per year

The best way to get involved with Voiceworks is to read it! Each issue is stuffed to the gills with a varied selection of work by remarkable young writers and artists. Over the past year, our pages have been filled with stories about moon-visiting dogs and hidden queer identities; essays about Maltese prickly pears and murderous kookaburras; poems about clones and teenage gorgons; and comics about intimacy and the Dutch Golden Age.

Sign up for an annual subscription to get four issues a year delivered straight to your door.

Add an Express Media Membership for just \$15!

To sign up for a Voiceworks Subscription visit [**expressmedia.org.au/subscribe-to-voiceworks**](https://expressmedia.org.au/subscribe-to-voiceworks)