

SMALL TALK STUDENT EXAMPLES



At the face of death the figures cry, cry for salvation
At the end of their existence the figures search, search for refuge
At the awakening of starvation the figures turn, turn on each other
At the sight of the everlasting barren plain the figures lose, lose their spirit
Death is close.

Ella Grace Withers, age 12

We arrived at our supply point, but there was no one out in the dry and desolate land. Wills looks at each waypoint but saw nothing on the horizon except for the dead trees that were like skeletal figures. Burke sat in dead silence with his head bowed and I slumped down under a large ochre tree.
We knew we were alone.

Steven Gaitaneris, age 12



The sheep started to drink. More and more came, piling on top of one another. Bill ran straight into the middle of the herd. He tried to round 'em up while Russell was riding his horse in this hot, dry land. It was called Australia.

Rhys Manttan, age 9

A man riding a horse fast
Racing around the corner
Dust everywhere
Sheep drinking
Trees blowing
His hat falling off
Can't hold it
Dropped it
Sheep chasing the man
Angry that he lost his hat
Angry with the sheep

Zak Randall, age 8

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A part of me died when dad did. Mum couldn't work because a few hours later Tommy was born, my baby brother. He is so cold. He cries often because the cold air surrounds him. He never really met dad. I'm selling flowers. My brother is leaning against mum; they've both given up hope. I glance behind us. There is a policeman looking at us. Will he make us go away? I really hope he doesn't. It's raining hard. Oh, how did this happen?

Hannah McDonald, age 11

I watch my daughter
Trying to make money
Selling daffodils
Still so strong
When I have given up hope.

The concrete is so cold beneath me
I dare not put the baby down to rest my tired arms
My son leans against me
The coaches trundle past
It begins to rain.

Ella Lawry, age 10



It looks like a puzzle.
Taken out of a box.
The artist put it back together
In the most unusual way!
Looking upside-down, its like a face
Like a hand, an x-ray
and you're looking at the bones
but its not connected to an arm.

Jacob Priest, age 9

**Metal is a hard thing to shape
Every sory of scraphe could find!
The shape is twisted
A lot of cogs and wheels
Lead lines**

Jordan Poole, age 12

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The canoe floats across the lake,
Flames growing bigger,
Like a red flower.
The flames burn the water
Although it has no effect.

Soon the flames die down,
Now the canoe is charcoal black
Peacefully floating in the water.
It just floats on and on.
Will it ever stop?

Amber Kelly, age 9

It's beautiful and even now, all plain and unadorned, it leaves a sense of peace behind. I push it out onto the still river and watch it float away, smoke billowing out of the small, yet growing, flames. I see it begin to sink then stop as it fills with water. I look at it, black as charcoal. It looks beautiful.
Peaceful. Pure. Happy.

Grace Madigan, age 11



Having a great time
On holidays
Lying on the beach
In the sand knitting
Diving into the water
Across the seas at Mentone
Yawning when we go to sleep
Vili, age 10

The waves are calm. I imagine myself on the soft sand. The sun glistens on the oily waters of the beach. I hear the seagulls gliding high above with their wings spread freely. I see sailing boats in the distance waving from side to side like a giant hand.

Roland Deek, age 12

I really like this painting because the colours are bright and happy. This painting reminds me of Semaphore on a hot summer's day. Also the clothes that people wore were different compared to now where everyone's wearing bikinis. Again, I really like this painting because it is bright and brings back memories.

Louie Quilao, age 12

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This painting makes me think of honey ants and eating honey. In the desert this symbol ☉ sometimes means honey ants. This symbol 〰 sometimes means Aboriginal people sitting. If you sit in a sandpit and stand up very carefully the symbol for Aboriginal people sitting is the same that you will see on the sand. This symbol — sometimes means digging stick. Real living honey ants have their abdomens so fat that you will not believe it. The worker honey ants collect pollen from plants. How do they get honey from the honey ants? You chomp open their big fat abdomen!

Brandon Smart, age 7

Small Talk example images: Arrival at Coopers Creek I, II, III, 1968, Melbourne, Albert TUCKER, Australia, 1914-1999, Gift of Barbara Tucker 2001, © Barbara Tucker. Courtesy of Barbara Tucker, 2007; A break away!, 1891, Tom ROBERTS, Australia, 1856-1931, Elder Bequest Fund 1899; The pinch of poverty, 1889, London, Thomas Benjamin KENNINGTON, Britain, 1856-1916, Gift of Charles Drew 1889; Metal sculpture, c1974, Robert KLIPPEL, Australia, 1920-2001, South Australian Government Grant 1974; Allegory III, 1998, Toshikatsu ENDO, 1950, South Australian Government Grant 1991; A holiday at Mentone, 1888, Charles CONDER, Australia, 1868-1909, South Australian Government Grant with the assistance of Bond Corporation Holdings Limited through the Art Gallery of South Australia Foundation to mark the Gallery's Centenary 1981; Yuelamu honey ant dreaming, 1980, Papunya, Northern Territory, Clifford Possum TJAPALTJARRI, Australia, c1934-2002, South Australian Government Grant 1990