

Year 8 'Bone Sparrow' Knowledge Organiser

Assessments:

1. A persuasive speech.
2. How does Fraillon present hope in The Bone Sparrow?

Brief Summary:

- Subhi lives in an Australian detention centre with his mother, Maá, and sister, Queeny. He has never experienced life outside the detention centre.
- Subhi meets Jimmie, a girl who lives outside the camp.
- Jimmie secretly visits Subhi, and they become close friends.
- They share stories about their families, experiences and dreams.
- Subhi learns more about the persecution his family escaped from in Myanmar.
- Conditions in the detention centre become increasingly harsh and violent.
- The refugees protest against their treatment.
- Maá dies, leaving Subhi heartbroken.
- Subhi struggles with grief but continues to find comfort in his friendship with Jimmie.
- The story ends with Subhi still holding onto hope for freedom and a better future.

Historical Context:

- The Rohingya are a mainly Muslim ethnic group from Myanmar.
- They have faced discrimination and persecution for many years.
- In 1982, many Rohingya were denied citizenship, making them stateless.
- They have faced restrictions on where they can live, work, study and travel.
- Violence has forced many Rohingya to leave their homes and become refugees.
- In 2017, more than 700,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh.
- Many now live in crowded refugee camps.
- Rohingya people have experienced violence, loss of homes and separation from their families.

Social context:

- The book reflects debates around Australia's policy of detaining asylum seekers, particularly people who arrive by boat.

Key Characters:

Subhi: The main character. A young Rohingya refugee who was born in an Australian detention centre. He is imaginative, kind and hopeful, and dreams of freedom.

Jimmie: A girl who lives outside the detention centre. She becomes Subhi's close friend and visits him secretly. She has difficulties in her own family life and understands what it feels like to experience loss.

Queeny: Subhi's older sister. She lives with him in the detention centre and helps protect and care for him. She is strong and protective of her family.

Maá: Subhi's mother. She tells Subhi stories about their homeland and their past. She is an important source of love, hope and cultural identity for Subhi.

Harvey – Jimmie's father. He is aggressive and abusive towards Jimmie, creating a difficult and frightening home life for her.

Eli: A refugee in the detention centre who becomes an important figure in Subhi's life. He represents some of the older refugees' experiences and struggles.

Jonah – Another refugee in the detention centre who is connected to Subhi and the wider refugee community.

Key Vocabulary:

Asylum seeker	Someone who leaves their country and asks another country for protection.
Belonging	Feeling accepted, safe and connected to a person or place.
Courage	The ability to face fear or difficulty.
Detention	Being kept in a place and not allowed to leave freely.
Discrimination	Treating someone unfairly because of their identity or background.
Displacement	Being forced to leave your home or country.
Empathy	Understanding and sharing another person's feelings.
Freedom	The ability to live and make choices without being controlled or imprisoned.
Hope	Believing that things can improve in the future.
Human rights	Basic rights and freedoms that every person should have.
Identity	The qualities and experiences that make someone who they are.
Injustice	A situation where someone is treated unfairly.
Oppression	Cruel or unfair control over a group of people.
Persecution	Cruel or unfair treatment because of who you are.
Refugee	Someone who leaves their country to escape danger or persecution.
Resilience	The ability to recover and keep going after difficult experiences.
Trauma	Deep emotional suffering caused by frightening or painful experiences.

Themes:

Freedom: Subhi dreams of being free from the detention centre and living a normal life.
Friendship: Subhi and Jimmie's friendship helps them cope with difficult experiences.
Family: Family is important to Subhi, especially his mother and sister.
Hope: Even when life is difficult, Subhi continues to hope for a better future.
Refugees and displacement: The novel shows the struggles refugees face after being forced to leave their homes.
Loss and grief: Several characters experience the loss of loved ones and have to deal with grief.
Injustice: The story highlights the unfair treatment of refugees in detention.
Storytelling and imagination: Stories help Subhi escape from his difficult reality and stay connected to his culture and family.
Courage and resilience: Subhi and the other refugees continue to survive despite hardship and fear.

Literary Techniques and Terms:

Symbolism	When an object, character or event represents a deeper idea. The bone sparrow represents freedom, hope and Subhi's desire to escape the detention centre.
Imagery	Descriptive language that helps the reader create a picture in their mind. Fraillon uses detailed descriptions of the detention centre, nature and the characters' surroundings to help readers understand their experiences.
First-person perspective	Much of the story is told through Subhi's perspective, allowing readers to understand his thoughts, feelings and fears.
Contrast	The novel contrasts Subhi's life inside the detention centre with Jimmie's life outside it, showing that both characters experience different forms of suffering.
Flashbacks	Stories and memories of the past reveal Subhi's family history and the persecution of the Rohingya.
Foreshadowing	Early events and descriptions give hints about later tragedies and conflicts.
Metaphor	Fraillon uses figurative language to represent ideas such as freedom, fear and hope.
Motif	An idea, image or symbol that appears repeatedly in a story. Birds, stories and water appear repeatedly throughout the novel and reinforce ideas of freedom, imagination and escape.
Dialogue	Conversations between characters reveal their personalities, relationships and experiences.
Characterisation	Fraillon develops characters such as Subhi and Jimmie to show the effects of loss, discrimination and difficult circumstances.
Juxtaposition	The experiences of refugees and people living outside the detention centre are placed side by side to highlight inequality and different forms of suffering.
Narrative structure	The story follows Subhi and Jimmie's separate lives before bringing them together, showing how their friendship changes both characters.

