

Lisa Fuller: Own Voices Storytelling

Secondary School, Years 8–10

- 'I don't know why you bother with the white man's education, sista, what they gotta teach us in ere isn't real life. We gotta fight the system, not take part in it...And what's education ever done but lifted one of us above the others? You've never been that selfish, Tace.' (*Ghost Bird*, page 15)

Discussion Point: Read the above quote. Why do you think Laney feels this way? What do you think she is saying?

- Fire is the centre of our world. It's where everything happens: cooking, playing, laughing, family, story. Fire means so much more than just a bunch of burning carbon. (*Ghost Bird*, page 1)

Research: Why is fire important in Aboriginal culture? What role does it play?

- 'In my family we do the silent treatment like an Olympic sport.' (*Ghost Bird*, page 81)

Writing Prompt: What is 'the silent treatment'? Have you experienced this in your family or with a friend? Write about what happened and how it made you feel.

Key Curriculum Areas

Learning Areas: English

General Capabilities: Intercultural Understanding, Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capability

Cross-curriculum Priorities: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures

About the Session

Young adult fiction is often used as a conduit to explore complex and difficult topics, and **Lisa Fuller's** prize-winning debut novel *Ghost Bird* is no different. She discusses how she uses the tale of a young Aboriginal girl's disappearance in a small Queensland town as a launchpad to explore questions of colonisation, inter-generational trauma and injustice, and how writing her novel was a corrective to the popular retelling of colonial history in Australia.

Fuller writes the book she wished she'd had in her youth and discusses the power in First Nations Australians seeing themselves and their age-old culture between the pages.

About the Author

Lisa Fuller is a Murri woman doing her PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Canberra. She is an award-winning writer. Her debut novel, *Ghost Bird*, won the Readings 2020 YA Book Prize and has been short-listed for the 2020 OBCAs Older Reader Book of the Year and the 2019 Aurealis Awards.

