

GARY LONESBOROUGH: THE BOY FROM THE MISH

SECONDARY YEARS 7-10

About the event

Yuin writer **Gary Lonesborough** explores themes of sexuality, identity and the importance of community in his debut *The Boy from the Mish*, a moving YA novel speckled with a good dose of humour and heart.

In this event, Lonesborough discusses the inspiration behind his book, exploring his own intersecting identities through writing, and the extraordinary power of believing in yourself and your community when faced with the biggest questions of all: who am I? And where do I belong?

Read and discuss

Writing is more than writing. Writing is also thinking, planning, surrounding yourself with nature, listening to the birds and the trees and watching the clouds as they roll over you... Writing is the time you spend letting the ideas come to you, thinking them over and trying to make sense of the story that is forming in your mind.

– Gary Lonesborough

Are you surprised by these words? Do you agree with what Gary says? What is your experience of writing?

Think and write

A funny and heartwarming queer Indigenous YA novel, set in a rural Australian community, about seventeen-year-old Jackson finding the courage to explore who he is, even if it scares him. – The Boy from the Mish (blurb)

What are some reasons that a person might need courage to explore who they are? Why might it be scary?

Deep dive and write: identity

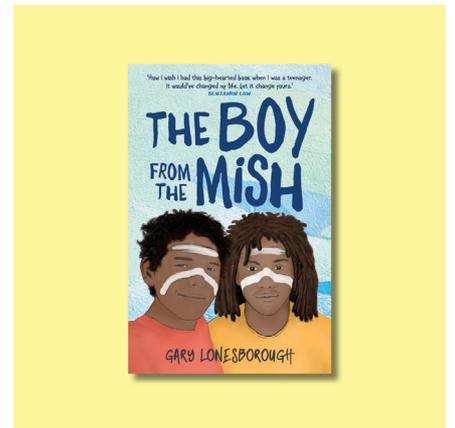
The Boy from the Mish is about identity. The main character asks himself: Who am I? Where do I belong?

Finding out what you stand for is part of finding your identity. If you had to choose an object that represents part of you, what might it be? Why?

Your opinions and how you react to different topics also reflect your identity. What are three topics or activities that you feel passionate about and why?



Gary Lonesborough



KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, visual arts

Capabilities: ethical understanding, intercultural understanding, personal and social

About the author

Gary Lonesborough is a Yuin man, who grew up on the Far South Coast of NSW as part of a large and proud Aboriginal family. He was Bega Valley Shire Council Young Citizen of the Year, won the Patrick White Young Indigenous Writers Award and has received a Copyright Agency First Nations Fellowship. *The Boy from the Mish* is Lonesborough's debut YA novel.