

## SECONDARY GRADES 7–10

### Reflect: Identity

Rhiannon Wilde writes about identity and belonging in her young adult novels. What kinds of things shape a person's identity when they're growing up?

### A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Find three photographs that you think express who you are and what is important to you. They could be of yourself, your loved ones, happy memories, or favourite activities. Share them with your classmates and describe why you chose those three images.

### Initial Impressions

Where You Left Us is a mystery-coming-of-age-romance ... about sisters, mental health, love and hate, history, and ghosts; think Wuthering Heights meets Sherlock Holmes, if Kristen Stewart played Heathcliff and Holmes and Watson were teenagers with social anxiety – all set on the beach. —Rhiannon Wilde

What are your initial impressions of Rhiannon Wilde's new novel Where You Left Us based on her own description? Does this blurb entice the reader? Can you think of any other books that combine mystery and romance?

### Writing Activity: What's in your Bag?

"Beside her she has:

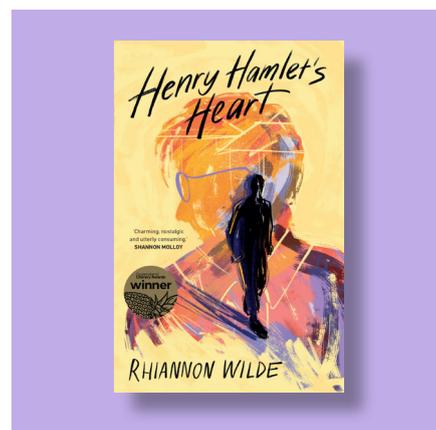
- one bottle of water, still slightly cold, purchased from the vending machine before she left
- one foil packet of paracetamol, in case of sudden headache that could potentially cause nausea
- ginger tablets, in case of nausea (she's never actually been travel sick, but you never know)
- an apple, in case of low blood sugar (which could cause both headache and nausea)
- her iPhone, currently playing a soothing podcast by the BBC about British queens
- a copy of Pride and Prejudice, orange and worn, which she brings most places in case she has to sit or wait and doesn't know what to do with herself."

—P. 9, Where You Left Us

Imagine you've found someone's bag on a train. It could be a purse, a backpack, or a suitcase. You open it and find six objects. List the objects. Use your imagination. Now, swap your list with a friend and write a paragraph describing the person who lost this bag. What do the contents of their bag say about them? Who are they?



Rhiannon Wilde



#### KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, health and physical education

Capabilities: ethical understanding, personal and social

## About the Author

Rhiannon Wilde is a writer and former English teacher from Brisbane. Her first novel *Henry Hamlet's Heart* won the Queensland Literary Awards Emerging Author Award in 2019, and was an Indie Book Award nominee in 2021. Her second YA novel *Where You Left Us* will be released in August 2022.