

## SECONDARY GRADES 7–10

### Vegemite Sandwiches and Beach Days

How can you tell where a book is set? Make a list of how you would know a book is set in Australia. Think about language, dialogue, description of setting and any other cultural markers. Compare your list with others. Are there any similarities?

### Discuss: Own Voices Storytelling

“A story with grit, authenticity of voice and characters who show strength in identity and culture.”

—Anita Heiss on *My Spare Heart* by Jared Thomas

What do you think Own Voices storytelling is?

Jared Thomas draws on his own personal and cultural experiences in his writing. How does this make the book more authentic? Why is it important for some authors to use their own experiences in fiction?

### Reflect and Journal

“It was times like this that I wish I had a spare heart, one that I could insert until the pain passed over. One that could help me get through all of the fighting between Dad and Mum, all of the changes that were happening, without feeling like I was going to burst into tears at any moment. A heart that could help me feel strong again.”—P. 52, *My Spare Heart*

17-year-old Phoebe, the narrator of *My Spare Heart*, is going through a tough time. She often feels misunderstood and alone. Why does Phoebe think having ‘a spare heart’ might make things better?

What is the best advice you’ve received or given to someone else to help get through a challenging situation? Write a short journal entry that describes the circumstances and how the advice helped.

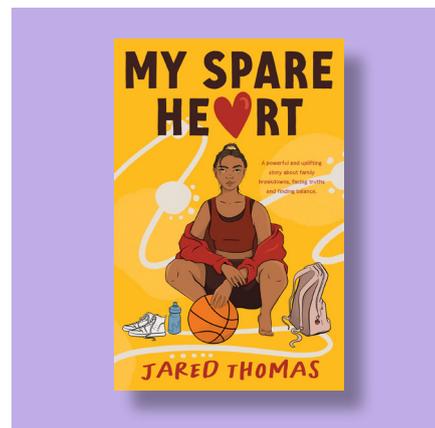
### Writing Activity: City vs. Country

Write a paragraph that describes a character walking down a busy city street. What do they hear, see, experience? Now write another paragraph about the same character walking through a small country town. What are the differences?

Do you personally prefer the city or the country? Why?



Jared Thomas



#### KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, civics and citizenship

Capabilities: ethical understanding, intercultural understanding, personal and social

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

## About the Author

Dr Jared Thomas is a Nukunu person of the Southern Flinders Ranges, Research Fellow, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Material Culture at the South Australian Museum and University of South Australia, and an Indigenous Literacy Foundation ambassador. His latest novel, *My Spare Heart*, was released in June 2022.