

## ENDORSEMENTS for the IN MY POCKET Project:

The students at schools where we have delivered incursions were asked afterwards for their Reflections. They were asked what the story meant to them and why they painted their calico pockets in the way they did. Teachers who were present in the classrooms were also asked if the goals were achieved.

These responses are the specific results of the broader outcomes the In My Pocket project aims to achieve.

We have included a Facebook post, a newspaper article, a school's newsletter report and the Ballajura library thank-you.

There are photos of incursions.

Here are some examples:

Year 6 teacher, Tuart Hill PS:

Hello Jill and Eli,

On behalf of all the year 6 students and teachers I would like to sincerely thank you for the wonderful experience you gave our students. Jill, your reading of the book was so inspiring to all of us. The students were all thoroughly engaged and loved the book and its messages of kindness and inclusivity. Thanks so much for the generosity of your resources, but more importantly your valuable time.

We will certainly remember you and we wish you both well.

*Associate Principal, Secret Harbour Primary School:*

Thank you so much for providing such a worthwhile and thoughtful, cultural art and literature experience, In My Pocket, for our children at Secret Harbour PS. I love and appreciate the work that has gone into creating such a positive opportunity to develop empathy, kindness and inclusivity for our students, (and many other children across multicultural Australia.) You are amazing and I wish you all the best in the future with your project. I will certainly pass on the website to other schools, with my warmest recommendations.

Book Week literary incursion: IN MY POCKET:

Class 5 at West Coast Steiner School was extremely fortunate to enjoy a Book Week literary incursion from the We are Here! Foundation. We studied an autobiographical story written by Dorrith Sim, one of ten thousand Jewish children rescued from Germany by the Kindertransport charity before World War Two broke out. Dorrith's inspiring story, "In my Pocket" described her experience as a seven year old travelling to her adoptive family in Scotland, the inclusivity and belonging extended to her by strangers, and the strategies she used to learn the English language where she would store each new word in a "pocket" in her memory.

After discussing the story and illustrations, the children designed and painted their own pockets containing those things most precious to each of them. They then wrote thank you cards for the organisers, Jill and Eli Rabinowitz. Please enjoy a glimpse into the children's insights from their thank you reflections.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Jill and Eli for providing such an engaging, thought-provoking and heart-warming incursion for the children.

"I learned that you can find light even in the darkest of places." – Liam

"I think what people can learn is simple but beautiful: people who haven't been through it can learn to support others, while people who have been through it can let it out and relate to others." – Nalina

"One of the ways you can learn is that you have to be respectful of people because of their history and backgrounds, they might be carrying sadness about it." – Matilda

"I think that Dorrith felt like children should know what is happening in the world, and I agree." – Harriet

"The story tells people that kindness from strangers can really save a life...Dorrith used her "pocket" to store precious memories while focusing on the present." – Norah

"I think it's important for people to learn about how refugees might be feeling and how they can help." – Austin

"Nothing is impossible if I try! I think the story started out sad, but had a happy ending. I love happy endings!" – Eduarda

Youth Services Librarian, City of Bayswater:

The *In My Pocket* workshop is a wonderful opportunity for children to go along on a journey where they can gain insight into the experiences of a refugee child and imagine themselves in their shoes. Jill lead a discussion that provoked thoughtful responses from the children and helped them to understand the context of the story. The children were able to be creative and express themselves in the design of their pockets which reflected their thoughts about the themes of kindness and acceptance and produced some amazing pieces!

Teacher, Year 5/6, South Perth PS:

This afternoon, Room 10 welcomed some guests, Jill and Eli, into our classroom to host an incursion. It ran for two hours, which allowed time for reading and discussing the short story, 'In My Pocket', and then the art component, designing and painting calico pockets.

This activity links with our HASS units that focus on migration, as well as with themes of multiculturalism and diversity in our community. The kids all enjoyed hearing the story, discussing different aspects of it and they *really* enjoyed the painting at the end.

The session helped develop a greater sense of empathy for people displaced from their homes by war or natural disasters.

Each child received their own mini version of the book and a certificate.

Our pockets are drying at school, but here is a sneak peek. I think they look amazing!

Teacher, Year 6, Maylands Peninsula PS:

Jill had some great questions that required them to think critically about the text and also analyse the images in the book. I loved the theme of kindness and spotting the acts of compassion along the way.

## Student, Year 5:

What did you decide to draw on your pocket? Why?

I decided to paint a red broken heart because when she put her parents' note in her pocket and read it every day it resembled love and faith. It also meant that her heart was half in her homeland and half in her new life. I also drew a note because it was from Dorrieth's parents and was very meaningful to her. She wanted to keep her precious memories of her Mutti and Vati safe in her pocket, which is a metaphor for her memory. I think that was very brave of her. It taught me how people from other countries need kindness to help them feel that they belong.  
Linda, Attadale Primary School.



BEACONSFIELD  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Term 1 | 15 March | Issue 3

# The Beacon

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## 'In My Pocket' Workshops

On Tuesday and Wednesday of Week 5, Year 5s and 6s welcomed guests, Jill and Eli, into our classrooms to host a special workshop for three groups of students. They ran for two hours, which allowed time for reading and discussing the historical fiction picture book, 'In My Pocket' by Dorrith Sim, and then designing and painting calico pockets- symbolic of the story. 'In My Pocket' is an uplifting true story of rescue and survival in the context of WW2 which also speaks to the current situation of refugees and displaced children around the globe.

This workshop linked with student learnings about migration as well as with themes of multiculturalism and diversity that are covered throughout the Humanities and Social Science Curriculum,



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as well as the critical reading and reflection relevant to English.

The students all enjoyed hearing the story and Jill had some challenging questions that required them to think critically about the text and the illustrations. Jill also highlighted the theme of kindness, and guided students to spot the acts of compassion that occurred throughout the story as Dorrith fled Germany. In terms of the focus on inclusivity in our diverse community at Beacy, this workshop delivers! The session helped develop a greater sense of empathy for people displaced from their homes by war, discrimination and other causes. The kids enjoyed thoughtfully painting the pockets with designs that were inspired by the story. Each child received a mini version of the book that they will hopefully share with their family at home.

A huge thanks again to Jill and Eli for volunteering their time, and to all who helped with the workshops.

Ms Geller





As part of the *In My Pocket* workshop series, the Year 6 students delved into a powerful learning experience centred around child refugees and individuals displaced from overseas. Encouraging the students to embody the role of upstanders rather than bystanders, the workshop featured a special visit from Jill Reitstein Rabinowitz and Eli Rabinowitz, who presented the #InMyPocket workshop on behalf of the WE ARE HERE! Foundation. The students participated in a session about the kindertransport with Morah Galanti prior to the workshop, so they were well prepared for the incursion.

During the session, Jill engaged the students by reading *In My Pocket*, a compelling book written by Dorrieth Oppenheim Sim. This true story, set in 1939, narrates Dorrieth's journey as she escapes Germany to embark on a new life in another country. The students answered questions in a deep and meaningful way and impressed Jill with their thoughtful contributions. Captivated by the narrative, the children channelled their creativity by painting on their pockets, drawing inspiration from the themes explored in the book.

The Carmel School community is proud to stand behind and support this impactful project, strengthening the students' awareness and commitment to making a positive difference.

'IN MY POCKET' EDUCATION PROJECT

# Kindertransport-inspired lessons expand to WA

AJN STAFF

THE *In My Pocket* Project, based on the autobiography of the late Dorrieth Sim (nee Oppenheim) – a Jewish German girl saved by the Kindertransport in 1939 and adopted by a Scottish family – reached a new milestone last month when it ran its first two educational workshops in Western Australian public schools.

The free two-hour book reading and creative art sessions were delivered to year 5 and 6 students at South Perth Primary School, and Maylands Peninsula Primary School, also in Perth.

They were led by Jill Rabinowitz, and produced such positive impacts, that both schools have already booked the We Are Here! Foundation's educator and co-founder for repeat workshops next year. There are also bookings for more WA government and private schools, as well as at public libraries and museums.

The project, coordinated and founded by Eli and Jill Rabinowitz, is already being run by all five



Jill Rabinowitz running an *In My Pocket* project workshop at South Perth Primary School.

Jewish day schools in Sydney, at Perth's Jewish Carmel School, and at West Coast Steiner schools in Perth, and now has a Melbourne-based representative too.

*In My Pocket* Project workshops are designed to fit into the humanities and social sciences curriculum, which has units focusing on migration, and themes of inclusivity, diversity and multiculturalism.

Once she was safely in Scotland,

Sim used to learn the English language by storing each new word in a "pocket" in her memory, as she described it.

Feedback about the workshop from West Coast Steiner School year 5 students included, "I learned that you can find light even in the darkest of places", "I think that Dorrieth felt like children should know what is happening in the world, and I agree", that Sim's story "tells people that



Maylands Peninsula Primary School students showing their artworks done during an *In My Pocket* project workshop.

kindness from strangers can really save a life", and, "It's important for people to learn about how refugees might be feeling and how they can help."

A South Perth Primary School teacher said, "The session helped develop a greater sense of empathy for people displaced from their homes by war, discrimination and natural disasters.

"Jill had some challenging questions that required them to

think critically about the text and the illustrations.

"I loved the theme of kindness and spotting the acts of compassion along the way."

With the continuing success of the project across Australia, it is set to expand to Cape Town in South Africa later this year.

To find out more about the We Are Here! Foundation's *In My Pocket* project, or to make a donation, visit <https://elirab.au>



Class groups with their pockets - 2024



Jill presenting the incursion











In My Pocket



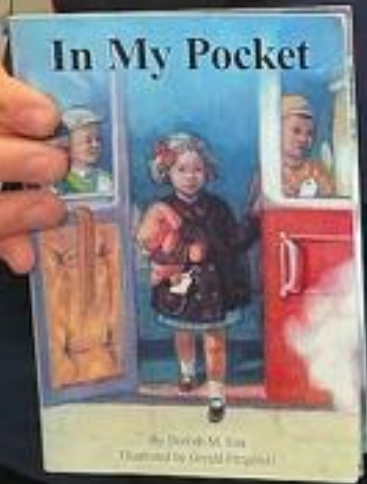








Name: Sophia  
Gender: Female  
Date of Birth: 29/05/2012  
Place of Birth: Western Australia  
Where you live now: Australia  
Parent Guardian's Name: Patrick  
Choose an Identity Number: 41620





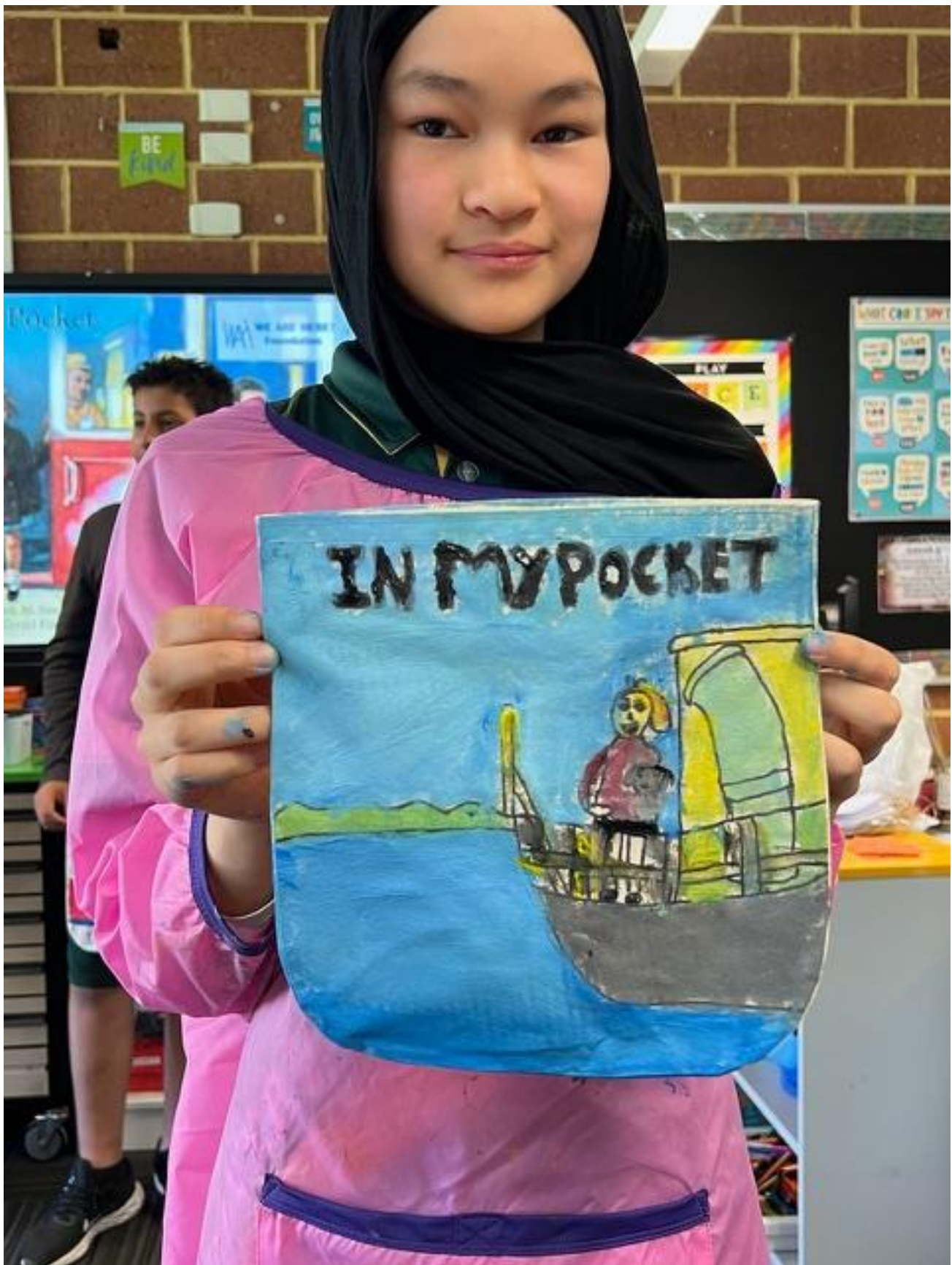














Hi Jill and Eli,

Thank you for all the time, effort and passion you put into your incursion. We had a wonderful time yesterday and the children enjoyed learning something new. I have attached a photo of some of their reflections. Thank you for sharing all of the photos. If you would like me to write a review somewhere, please let me know.

Kind regards,

*Katerina Blazevska*  
*Year 5 Classroom Teacher*  
*Rivervale Primary school*



**REFLECTION:  
ARTIST'S STATEMENT**

I learned on 2nd week I  
was in story and learnt about the  
love hours of the war I learnt  
about Kindertransport. I had a  
wonderful time with it and it  
and I hope to meet soon  
everywhere I was. The story is  
my Pocket was a very good story

**REFLECTION:  
ARTIST'S STATEMENT**

I learned that kindness is everywhere  
even in a book and I enjoyed painting  
with my friends. I really enjoy the  
in my pocket art project it was really  
fun  
I think that everybody enjoyed it  
to

**REFLECTION:  
ARTIST'S STATEMENT**

Yesterday on the project the reason  
I painted the boat is because  
without the boat the whole  
Kindertransport would of been  
a failure because they wouldn't  
be able to get the children across  
and they all would of died. @

**REFLECTION:  
ARTIST'S STATEMENT**

It was very interesting to  
hear the story of Dorrit  
and her adventure. I would never  
be brave enough to leave my  
own parents and take that  
journey. I painted the picture  
of the field they stayed at  
because it was a bright and  
happy place. It was one of  
the only places that showed  
Dorrit happy and I wanted  
to be reminded that change  
can sometimes be good.

**REFLECTION:  
ARTIST'S STATEMENT**

I learned about WWII &  
how the Kindertransport. How  
many kids from Germany  
were saved. How they were  
saved. How long did it  
take to rescue them. That  
The Netherlands were called  
Holland. How many kids  
refugees lost their wa-  
own beloved parents due to  
some silly war.

**REFLECTION:  
ARTIST'S STATEMENT**

Nazis were being racist to  
Jewish people and kids had  
to evacuate and go on a train  
Kindertransport. And I learnt  
that they were named after  
their necks to make them easier  
to find. I also couldn't believe  
that no parents were allowed in so  
I felt really bad for those kids  
because not all families came back  
alive so I felt really bad.