

Playing for Both Sides

Love Across the Tasman

Stephanie Johnson

Teacher Notes

BWB Texts

For novelist Stephanie Johnson, her relationship with Australia and Australians has been a complex one. She has lived there for periods of her life, and several of her books, including her first, a collection of short stories, have been published in Australia.

For Johnson, her longing to return has waxed and waned. 'Why don't I live there?' she often asks herself. She is a sixth generation New Zealander married to an Australian, with adult children living (at times) in Australia.

In this BWB Text, a leading New Zealand novelist explores her elusive and ambivalent feelings about the sunburnt country as she follows her singer/songwriter son Skyscraper Stan on tour in Australia.

2016 publication; 84 pages; includes sources.

THEMES

Identity; Australian New Zealanders; writing memoir; musicians; working in the arts; writers; being a New Zealander

SOME CONNECTIONS

- Stephanie Johnson's fiction, such as: *The Shag Incident* (2002); *Music From a Distant Room* (2004); *John Tomb's Head* (2006); and *The Writing Class* (2013)
- BWB Texts *On Coming Home* by Paula Morris and *Thorndon* by Kirsty Gunn

CURRICULUM AREAS

English; social studies

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