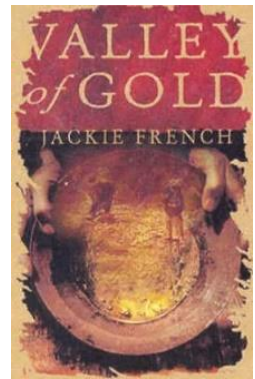


Valley of Gold – Jackie French

Weekly Post-Guided Activities



Week 2- Making predictions and building background knowledge.

- Look at the front cover
- What might you expect will happen in the story?
- Read blurb – Are your predictions correct?
- 'One valley's stories of gold through the ages', what does this mean?

- Author – Jackie French
- Setting - The setting for 'Valley of Gold' is French's own 'territory'. Braidwood lies in the Araluen valley, off the edge of the table and in southern New South Wales. Halfway between Canberra and Bateman's Bay, it is close to national parks and rich in early Australian history.

Braidwood is where Jackie French has lived since her later childhood [see 'Hippy Gold, p.76]. It is her 'safe place', a place where the trees, the streams and the animals are a part of her life. 'Valley of Gold' provides a sequence of stories dated from 35000 years before the coming of English settlers (BCE) to the present day. The stories are based loosely in history and tightly in the lived experience of their author. In French's hands, however, they are more than a set of loosely connected stories and reminiscences for readers growing into their readership but out of their childhood.

Instead, 'Valley of Gold' offers, more challengingly, the chance to explore how history is made while establishing what history is.

...sometimes stories can give you more of an idea of how people thought and lived than pages from a history book.

- 'Faction' - This story is a collection of many events that might have happened