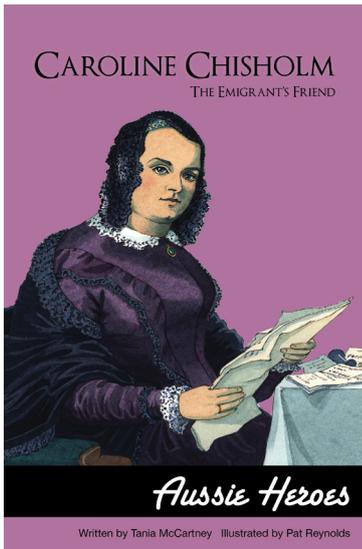


TEACHERS' NOTES

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Caroline Chisholm: The Emigrant's Friend

Written by Tania McCartney

Illustrated by Pat Reynolds

Synopsis

Caroline Chisholm was born in England in 1808 to a well-to-do farmer and landowner, William Jones, and his wife Sarah. Caroline was the youngest of twelve children, all of whom were raised to respect and aid those less fortunate than themselves. William Jones was a fine humanitarian, and readily made room in his family home for people in need, including victims of war and a condemned French Catholic priest, whom Caroline grew particularly fond of.

When Caroline was just six years old, her father died. Sarah's mother hired a governess to ensure her children were well-educated, and Caroline did particularly well in literature, French and music.

Caroline grew up in a time when immigration to far-flung places like Canada and Australia was on the rise. Coupled with tales of foreign lands from the visitors who frequented the Jones family household, Caroline became enchanted by the notion of living and working overseas.

When she was just 22, Caroline married Archibald Chisholm, a Scottish captain ten years her senior. Three years later, Caroline moved to Madras, India, where Archibald was posted for several years. Here, Caroline began the first of her philanthropic work, setting up a school for the young daughters of officers of the British Army, ensuring they were educated and well-looked after.

In 1838, the Captain was long overdue some recreational leave. Caroline convinced Archibald to travel (along with their young sons) to Sydney where Caroline soon became involved with the plight of young female immigrants, who often arrived in Australia with no work, nowhere to live and no one to support them. In 1841, she opened the Female Immigrants' Home, the forerunner to decades of work in support of women and their families.

Caroline went on to undertake a long list of astonishing initiatives that helped shape Australia's social infrastructure, and pave the way for the success of its national multicultural community, including migration



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reforms, safe and comfortable passage for immigrants, reuniting families, creating safer passage to the goldfields, unlocking the land for families to settle and establish farms and small businesses, and the hugely successful Family Colonization Loan Society, which allowed families the financial means to emigrate to Australia.

Despite her extraordinary, selfless way of living, Caroline Chisholm died poor and unwell in England in 1877. She left behind a legacy that will forever shape immigration.

Henry Parkes once said Caroline Chisholm alone was responsible for the successful colonisation of Australia (Henry Parkes's Empire newspaper, 15 August 1859). Indeed, she set in place the philanthropic mechanisms that put family, children, health, housing and education at the forefront of the Australian way of life.

Themes

Caroline Chisholm: The Emigrant's Friend is the fifth book in the Aussie Heroes series.

The Aussie Heroes series introduces primary-aged children to heroes who have made a contribution to Australian society. Each hero has helped others and in turn shaped history.

This series gives children an insight into the fascinating lives of great Australians. Each book is written as a narrative, with coloured illustrations throughout.

History

- Historical people and events.
- Knowledge of the past and the impact it has had on Australian society.
- Event chronology.
- Timelines. At the end of the book there is a chronological timeline representing the important events in Caroline's life. Students can go back through the text to pick out the events in the timeline.

Geography and Early Immigration

Caroline either visited, lived or worked in several different countries, and was a great advocate for multiculturalism. Caroline also traversed large tracts of land in the new colonies of Australia, and was instrumental in settling families and groups of people into new towns and areas such as Shellharbour on the New South Wales south coast. Children can explore the places Caroline lived, worked and visited in her lifetime.

Ethical Behaviour and Philanthropy

Caroline Chisholm was a model of Philanthropy—offering support to the downtrodden, to women, children and families. She firmly believed everyone had the right to love, food and shelter, and made it her life's work to effect changes that would change the lives of countless people for the better. Students can explore the various reform initiatives Caroline embarked upon. They can also provide commentary on which of Caroline's philanthropic undertakings resonated with them the most.

English/Literacy

This is a narrative that evokes emotion and empathy, and can be read aloud in a classroom setting. Students



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can participate in text discussion, illustrations and timelines.

Students can use the internet to look up current material on Caroline Chisholm, our country's long and detailed immigration system, the countries of origin for immigrants to Australia at various times in history, as well as the transport options available during Caroline's lifetime.

Caroline spent considerable time and effort upgrading the appalling shipping conditions for families bound for Australia, and children will find it fascinating to learn how atrocious these conditions were before Caroline helped enforce positive change.

Writing Style

The text reads as a narrative rather than a traditional biography. Parts of the story have been fictionalised and include dialogue in order to bring Caroline closer to students and make her story come alive. More complicated components like legislation and reform concepts have been simplified for a younger audience, and coloured illustrations throughout will encourage visual interest.

Author/Illustrator Background

Tania McCartney is an author of both children's and adult books. She is also a copy editor, proofreader, magazine and website editor, freelance writer, photographer, book publisher and book designer. She has photographed, laid out, typeset or otherwise directly worked on production for several of her own books, including her popular Riley the Little Aviator travel series. An ACT Ambassador for the National Year of Reading (2012), Tania is passionate about literacy and has spent many years, presenting and speaking on reading, books and writing. Tania's website, Kids' Book Review, is one of the most respected children's literature sites on the web, and her personal passion is picture books and history books for children. Tania will soon have 15 books in publication. She loves books, photography and travel, and currently lives in Canberra with her family.

Pat Reynolds has illustrated over 200 children's primary educational and trade books (colour and black and white) and made many contributions to anthologies, poetry books and school magazines. Her watercolour illustrations beautifully enhance *Caroline Chisholm: The Emigrant's Friend*. She has also illustrated two other Aussie Heroes books, *Professor Fred Hollows* and *Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop*.

Editorial Comment

Caroline Chisholm has been thoroughly researched.

Research by Tania McCartney, with insights and advice from Caroline Chisholm expert and biographer, Rodney Stinson, webmaster of www.mrschisholm.com.

TEACHER ACTIVITIES/NOTES

1. Create project-based activities where students read/listen to a class reading of the book, then research facts and experiment with presenting in varied formats, e.g. create a map showing where Caroline Chisholm lived, travelled and worked, or devise a short play of her life.
2. Create questions for a quiz on Caroline Chisholm and give points for the most answers by fellow classmates:



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- Biographical facts about Caroline Chisholm e.g. where was she born?
- Immigration to Australia during the 19th century
- Transportation from England to Australia by ship
- Conditions on the goldfields during the Gold Rush
- Transport options in Australia during the 1850s
- The organisations/sites named after Caroline

3. **Facts:** Research 10 facts on one of these points and create a visual poster to share with the class.

- Immigration to Australia during the 19th century
- Ships used to transport immigrants to Australia
- Life on the goldfields
- London in the 1850s
- Unlocking the land for farmers and small business
- Sydney Harbour during the 1830s
- The settling of families in Shellharbour

4. **Speech:** You've been invited to give a 10-minute computerised presentation on the work and legacy of Caroline Chisholm in countries other than Australia. You may use maps, visuals and text in any medium. The audience will be people your own age.

5. **Immigration Poster:** Have the students design a poster promoting immigration to Australia. What might they include on their poster that might encourage new immigrants to leave their country behind and start anew?

6. **Research:** Have students research and report some detailed information on the following questions:

Which town was Caroline born in? What was life once like in this part of the world?

Why did so many immigrants choose to come to Australia during Caroline's time? Which other countries were taking UK immigrants at that time?

In what way did Caroline change conditions for those wishing to travel by sea from England to Australia?

How many children did Caroline have? What happened to them?

Where and when did Caroline die? How did she die?

How many places, sites and monuments have been named after Caroline? Where are they?

7. **Q & A:** Often you are asked a question and expected to give an answer. This is the other way around. If each of these is the answer, what might the question have been?

- Caroline Chisholm
- Sydney
- Immigration
- The Goldfields
- London



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8. **Famous Associations:** Caroline Chisholm met and dealt with some very famous and influential people in her lifetime. How would these associations have helped or developed her work? In what ways did they benefit her mission?

9. **Role Models:** What is a 'role model'? In what way did Caroline inspire others in her life? What are some of the actions which you found most inspiring in Caroline's story, and why?

10. Have students create a fictionalised story of one part of Caroline's life (perhaps her childhood), writing a narrative on what might have occurred. This could also be a first-person diary entry.



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