

Waiting For Rain

Teaching Notes and ICT Activities

Issues

Drought

Family

Drought

Ask your students to define the word 'drought'. How is a drought measured? Ask them to list the consequences of a drought, not only for the owners of a farm, but the community, the state, the country.

How has climate change influenced changing weather patterns?

What is El Nino and La Nina?

<http://www.science.org.au/nova/028/028key.htm>

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/water-issues/el-nino-dry-times-ahead-20090710-dg2x.html>

<http://www.theweatherchannelkids.com/weather-ed/weather-encyclopedia/enso/what-is-el-nino/>

Look at the Water Cycle

<http://www.kidzone.ws/water/>

<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/water/cycle.htm>

Play the water cycle game at

http://apps.southeastwater.com.au/games/education_kidsroom_wcactivity.asp

Ellie and her parents run a thoroughbred horse farm. What is another name for this?

Look at a couple of horse studs online:

[Willow Park Stud](#) (the farm featured in the story)

Can you find others?

The mares are slow to give birth (or 'foal'). What does Ellie's father say about this?

Can your students find their local area's current rainfall on the [Bureau of Meteorology](#) site, like Ellie did?

What is the 'rattles' in horses and why is it particularly bad for thoroughbreds?

<http://www.rirdc.gov.au/news-&-events/news-display.cfm?article=7E3D46A6-F1FE-4F78-A660-5302C8D0D27B>

Why would the pregnant mares wear an alarm?

Horse Activities

How well do your students know the parts of a horse?

<http://www.angelfire.com/tx4/horselovers/index.html>

Horse crafts to make

<http://www.artistshelpingchildren.org/horsescraftsideasactivitieskids.html>

Writing Techniques

How do you know the farm is experiencing drought? Ask your students to locate two descriptions within the story that show this.

Ask your students to find examples of similies in the story.

Ask your students to write a description of one of the paddocks affected by drought. Get them to think of the sound the dry grass would make under their feet, how hot the sun would feel on the back of your neck or top of your head, being so thirsty, or your mouth so dry.

Then ask them to describe the rain falling on Ellie's face at the end of the story.

Using [photopeach](#) ask your students to create a captioned slideshow featuring images/drawings of drought.