



## TUMBLAGOODA TEACHING NOTES

### Themes

- Western Australian history
- Western Australian geography
- Ancient landscapes
- Family
- Friendship
- Loss
- Alienation
- Bio-diversity

### For class discussions

- 1) In chapter “Proof!” scene three, an historical re-enactment takes place in Mirmouth in 1979 to celebrate the establishment of the town and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Western Australia. What incident(s) happen that make this re-enactment ‘a problem’ by today’s standards? What do you think could have happened instead to demonstrate respect between different cultures or peoples?
- 2) How does The Creature (Tumblagooda) try to communicate with George and Mac? Why is communication so important between different living things? What forms of communication, other than language, are there in your opinion? Have you tried to communicate with another living creature that was not human? Give an example...what happened?
- 3) The creature (Tumblagooda) is desperate to find out where she truly belongs. Have you ever been somewhere you have felt out of place? Describe where it was, how it felt and what you did. Did you share your feelings with someone else? Describe how the situation resolved itself.
- 4) What other books have you read, or shows have you seen on television, where one of the main characters has been alienated from the other characters? What did this alienation look like, and what happened to resolve the situation?
- 5) Have you ever found or seen a fossil in real life? Describe what it looked like and where you saw it. If you haven’t yet found a fossil, where might you go to try and find one – and what would you do with it then?
- 6) Discuss why it might be important to try and understand local geography and local environment(s). Describe your own local environment (e.g. it can be your own back garden, a nearby park or a beach) and the creatures and the things that are in it. How do you think everything manages to co-exist there or not?

- 7) On the school field trip, Jed Ostler tries to intimidate George and befriend Mac. Have you ever been in a situation where you've been bullied, or seen someone bullied? Can you describe how it felt and what you did. Did you tell anyone and did telling someone help or not?
- 8) Use a Venn diagram to show the differences in character between George and The Creature (Tumblagooda). Use the middle section to show the similarities between them.
- 9) Why is Seamus so concerned about George's friendship with The Creature (Tumblagooda)? If you were George's dad, what would you do to try and stop George seeing her? Have you ever found yourself in a situation that your parent(s) did not approve? What happened?
- 10) Describe what is a simile and what is a metaphor? Find two examples of each in *Tumblagooda*. How, in your opinion, does figurative language add to deeper understanding of the characters and story?

### Creative Writing & Illustration Activities

- 1) Imagine an ancient creature has suddenly come to life. Give it a name. What would it look like, what could it do? Draw or describe your own imaginary super creature and how it interacts with the world.
- 2) Imagine you are going on a day-long bicycle ride to the beach. Write a list of all the things you will have to remember to bring and all the things you are going to do when you get there? Then, either draw six of the things on your list; or write a short story in which you cannot find one of the things on your list? Remember to give your story an engaging opening, create conflict and turnings points towards a satisfying resolution.
- 3) Write a short story that opens with one of the following quotes from Tumblagooda:
  - a) *You would be flattened if one of those fell on you!*
  - b) 'That's a really cool set of teeth you have.'
  - c) 'And then it suddenly went. Just disappeared... like a ghost!'
  - d) 'Don't believe me if you don't want to, but it was me that saved him!'

### Learning Areas

- English
- Humanities and Social Sciences