

# Between Two Worlds

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## Summary

Joanna is a nurse for a Flying Doctor in north Australia. She accompanies a sick baby to Sydney and there she's offered a job at a hospital. At first she likes the idea, but finally she decides to go back home.

**Pages 1–7:** Joanna is Dr Mill's nurse. He is a Flying Doctor. One day they go to Woomara to see a baby who has a heart condition. The baby has to go to hospital. His mother can't go with her, so Joanna offers to accompany the baby to Sydney, because she'll be on holiday. At the hospital, Paul Griffin, the doctor, invites her to go to his house and take a rest. Joanna is at the hospital with the baby for three days.

**Pages 8–15:** Mary is OK so Joanna has to go back home. Sister Clark needs a nurse at the hospital and she and Dr Griffin offer her a job. Joanna doesn't know what to do. But she sees a painting of her hometown and she realises she wants to go back home.

## Background and themes

**Generosity:** Joanna prefers not to go on holiday and help Jane.

**Life in the city and life in far-away places:** Though there aren't so many facilities in far-away places, life can be simpler and easier. People living in small places do not always long for life in a big city.

**Openness:** Joanna's surname and skin colour show she is an aborigine, like the family she and the doctors help. The doctor in Sydney sees that Joanna is alone and welcomes her as his guest. He has an open attitude towards people of different races from different parts of the country.

**Cooperation:** When the doctor gets to Woomara, there are people waiting for him and Joanna and they take them to Jane's house.

## Discussion activities

Pages 1–7

### Before reading

#### 1 Discussion: Two worlds

Have students discuss life in a small town and in a big city. *What can you do in a city? What can't you do? What about life in a small town? What can you do and what can't you do there?*

**2 Predict:** Ask students to look at the cover and the title. *What can you see? Where is the plane flying? Who is on the plane? What are the two worlds? Is this a happy story?* Have students take down notes of their predictions so that they can go back to them once they finish reading.

### While reading

**3 Guess:** Ask students to look at the picture on page 1. *Who can you see? What does the man do? What about the girl? Is she the man's daughter?*

**4 Read carefully and write about the people in the story.**

name	job	home	job-place	other info

### After reading

#### 5 Role play: Joanna and the doctor's wife

Ask students to role play the conversation between Joanna and Paul's wife on page 6.

Pages 8–15

### Before reading

**6 Predict:** Ask students to look at the picture on page 8. *Who can you see? How's Joanna feeling? Why?* Have students take down notes of their predictions.

### While reading

**7 Check:** Students read page 8 and check their predictions.

### After reading

**8 Check:** Have students go back to their predictions before they read the book. Were they right?

**9 Write:** Ask students to make a list of important words in the story. Then they write the story in no more than 100 words.