

Jake jumped off the fence and knelt down. He dug his fingers deep into the red soil. Something in him echoed with the vibration of the earth. After a moment he dusted the dirt from his hand, stood up and slowly walked back to the house. The sounds of his family sitting down to dinner echoed from inside. "Don't eat yet, Pim. Wait for your brother," he heard his dad say.

"Hurry up, Jake!" Pim yelled out the door. "I'm so hungry!" Jake broke into a trot. There was no mention between them of adoption or being half-brothers and sister anymore. Jake finally felt he belonged to this family, and to this country.

As he ran to the house, Jake decided that tonight was the night he'd tell the whole family what the old men had said about Kyeema. He'd tell them how he truly believed she was the dingo. If that dingo hadn't stopped him, he would have run to the wrong hill. If he had made that mistake it would have taken him hours to get back to the road. The doctors said that delay would have cost Maritska's life. And Jake wouldn't worry if they laughed at him! Maybe they wouldn't believe it; perhaps they'd think it was all just a crazy story. But then Kyeema had said she wanted to change the world and be a person in a story.

Jake took a second to look at the evening sky before he went into the house. A bright star shone in the dusk. Jake suddenly realized that Kyeema had done what she had set out to do. She had changed their lives. He owed it to Kyeema to tell her story to anyone who would listen. He'd make sure the girl who went on a walkabout all those years ago would not be forgotten.

Kyeema's wish really had come true.

2 soil [soɪl] Erde • 4 dirt [dɜːt] Dreck, Schmutz • 11 to belong to sb [bi'ɪŋ] zu jmdm. gehören • 25 dusk [dʌsk] Dämmerung

While you read

1 A word search

Look at the German words below. They are all about the topic 'IT' and some are in chapter 1 and 2 of this reader. Find their English translations in this table. Some are two or three words written together.

A	J	I	T	M	K	T	E	R	A	B	Y	T	E
I	R	Z	T	O	S	T	O	R	E	E	V	C	Q
C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	G	A	M	E	H	D
H	N	S	F	S	D	C	L	P	E	R	O	B	T
T	J	R	M	E	U	H	X	G	O	W	U	P	O
O	D	O	X	B	Y	N	E	T	W	O	R	K	S
L	E	A	T	G	C	O	M	N	Q	B	Y	T	E
O	S	M	O	B	I	L	E	P	H	O	N	E	T
G	K	I	T	O	D	O	W	N	L	O	A	D	U
O	T	N	Y	S	I	G	N	A	L	S	F	V	P
N	O	G	P	K	E	Y	B	O	A	R	D	T	A
K	P	L	E	T	O	S	W	I	T	C	H	O	N

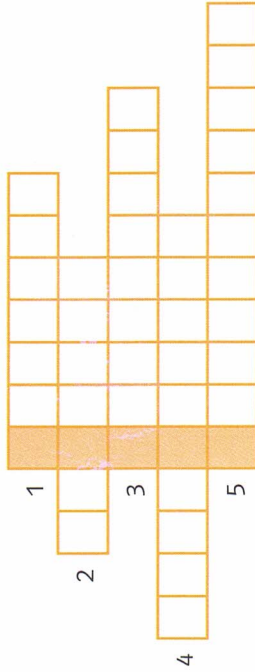
Computerspiel, Netzwerk, Terabyte, Byte, Signal, Mobiltelefon, Technologie, Roaming, Tastatur, Maus, Arbeitsplatz, einschalten, einloggen, einstellen, abspeichern, herunterladen, tippen

2 A word web

Make a word web about one of the following topics: plane, airport or entertainment. Use words from chapters 1 and 2.

3 A crossword puzzle

Complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS:

- The kids don't live with their ...
- They are from ...
- They are on their way to ...
- Their parents work as ...
- Pim is glad that there is ... on the farm.

DOWN:

In the beginning of the story, the kids are on a ...

4 The main characters

- Make a grid like this. Then describe Jake, Maritska and Pim. The words below will help you.

Jake	Maritska	Pim
...		

techno geek • fifteen • careless • cheeky • trustworthy • hair the colour of carrots • princess • cosmetics • lonely • bored • thoughtful • excited • tired • responsible • pretty • no sense of direction • long blonde hair • cough • twelve • melancholic • full of energy • curly black hair

- Add more information about each of the characters as you continue to read. How have the kids changed in the end?

5 True or false

When a plane crashes, passengers are told to get into the 'brace position'. Decide if the following statements are true or false.

- In the brace position you push back into your seat, tighten your seat-belt, and lean forward so that your head touches the seat in front of you. Your feet are flat on the floor.
- In the brace position you put your head on your knees, place your hands one on top of the other and on top of your head. Your fingers should not be interlocked. Your forearms are held against each side of your face.
- The brace position is recommended so that people's teeth will stay intact during a crash. This helps to later identify people who have not survived.
- It has not been proven that the brace position helps to prevent injuries.
- In an accident in the past, passengers were asleep on a plane that was about to crash into some trees. One passenger woke up and adopted the brace position. He was the only survivor.
- In over 70% of all airline accidents it is possible to survive.

6 Good news and bad news

Complete the table with information from chapter 3.

good news	bad news
...	

7 A mysterious girl

After reading chapter 4, collect information about the girl who saves the kids' lives by catching the snake. Who do you think she is?

8 Aboriginal culture

1. What do we learn about the culture, traditions, problems and conflicts of the Aborigines in chapters 5 and 6?
2. List the survival techniques given in the text.

9 The old world and the new world

"I love modern things, too, but I value the knowledge you've taught me. Surely there's a way the old world and the new can live side by side?"

1. What do you think about this statement? Can the old world and the new world live side by side? Do you know any examples where this is the case?
2. Are modern ways always better than the old ways? Think of mobile phones, computers, social networks, chat rooms, cars, industrial biology, fast food, etc.
3. What old or old-fashioned things do you, your parents, or your grandparents still use today?
4. Discuss the pros and cons, the advantages and disadvantages or the risks and dangers of modern and old ways.

10 Telling lies

Jake tells a lie in order to save their lives.

Is it all right to tell a lie in a situation like this? Are there any situations in which telling a lie is all right? Have you ever been in a situation in which you thought it was right to tell a lie? Why did you think it was right?

11 The outback

Describe what the outback looks like.

12 Jake and the lorry drivers

Work in groups of four. One of you is Jake and the others are the lorry drivers. Create a dialogue. What are the lorry drivers' questions and Jake's answers? Act out the scene.

Solutions

Before you read

Multiple choice

1. a; 2. c; 3. b; 4. b; 5. a

While you read

1 A word search

