TEACHERS’ NOTES
AND
STUDY GUIDE

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TEACHERS’ NOTES

OVERVIEW

*Ned Kelly: The Man Behind The Mask* (NewSouth Publishing, 2016) is a historical graphic text by Hugh Dolan exploring the story of bushranger Ned Kelly, from the arrival in Victoria of his parents-to-be, to his death by hanging in 1880.

It is 78 pages in length, and follows the traditional comic-book layout with colour artwork in panels.

The narrative includes embedded extracts of primary source materials: newspaper articles, prison records, part of Ned’s Jerilderie Letter, and police reports. These documents appear in the artwork, but links in the Study Guide below take readers to the original sources.

The storyline also refers to all major Ned Kelly-related historical locations on the Victorian Heritage Database, and to the site of the Jerilderie bank robbery in New South Wales. There are hotlinks in the Study Guide to take the reader to these informative sites so that they can gain a greater understanding of the significant places.

The comic covers all major events in Ned’s life, and is based on the major historical references available. It acknowledges several areas where there is controversy, and seeks to provide readers with a comprehensive, detailed, balanced and engaging account of the life of this historic character, in graphic novel form.

It provides an accessible and non-traditional way of looking at the Kelly story, the social context of the time, and issues that are still passionately debated today about whether Ned was a vicious criminal or a self-sacrificing hero.

The comic or graphic text format makes the argument very accessible to students, but they still need to be guided through a complex and detailed series of stages to the argument.

This guide shows how to make most effective use of this graphic text in the history classroom so that students can know, understand and critically evaluate the ideas being put. It also offers a set of criteria for helping students evaluate this and other graphic texts.

**Student maps**

Before beginning the activities in the study guide, students will need a map of Kelly Country in north-eastern Victoria. There are several maps available in books and online, e.g. Google Maps’ interactive map, with links to key documents: https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=zHT15-KshHX0.kHqIm10syn6A&hl
CURRICULUM APPLICABILITY

The main curriculum relevance of *Ned Kelly: The Man Behind the Mask* is for Year 9 students studying *Australian History*.

Under the Australian Curriculum: History and the various State and Territory adaptations of it, Australian History is a compulsory area of study for all students in Australia at Year 9.

The emphasis is on analysing evidence to come to conclusions about significant historical events and people in colonial Australia. The text will therefore help students develop all the required historical skills:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chronology, terms and concepts</th>
<th>Use chronological sequencing to demonstrate the relationship between events and developments in different periods and places</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use historical terms and concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical questions and research</td>
<td>Identify and select different kinds of questions about the past to inform historical inquiry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluate and enhance these questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identify and locate relevant sources, using ICT and other methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis and use of sources</td>
<td>Identify the origin, purpose and context of primary and secondary sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Process and synthesise information from a range of sources for use as evidence in an historical argument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluate the reliability and usefulness of primary and secondary sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perspectives and interpretations</td>
<td>Identify and analyse the perspectives of people from the past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identify and analyse different historical interpretations (including their own)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation and communication</td>
<td>Develop texts, particularly descriptions and discussions that use evidence from a range of sources that are referenced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select and use a range of communication forms (oral, graphic, written) and digital technologies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The other key areas of curriculum relevance are for students of *Media Studies* and *English*, with a focus on the graphic novel as a form of communication, and on creating a biography. Both require students to investigate the form, and to evaluate its appropriateness for the audience.
BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Who are these men?

You are about to look at some photographs of famous figures in Australian history.

Don’t worry if you do not know who these people are.

_Your task_ is, in a group of three, for each member of the group to:

1. Look at ONE of the pictures A, B or C in Appendix 1 on pages 35–37 of this study guide.

2. Describe that person.

3. Say what you think about that person based on the photograph.

Each member of your group should look at a different picture. Then show the other members the picture, and what you have said about that picture.

For example, you might decide that the person looks ‘handsome’ or ‘trustworthy’ or ‘evil’ of ‘shifty’ or ‘vulnerable’ or ‘confident’ – or many other possibilities. Record all the words that you think fit the person you are looking at. Then give your opinion or thoughts about that person.
EXPLORING IDEAS AND ISSUES IN THE COMIC

Using this study guide

Did you realise that all three photographs that you looked at in the Who are these men? activity are of the same man: Ned Kelly?

Photograph A is Ned at age 15; photograph B was taken just before he was hanged in 1880, aged 26. Photograph C shows him on release from prison at age 19.

The three very different photographs probably provoked very different reactions in you – but all are of the same person. And that’s what the comic book is all about – finding the real Ned behind the famous helmet. The title of the comic book (or graphic biographical novel) is Ned Kelly: The Man Behind The Mask. If we add one word to the title, we can explain your main task: Discovering Ned Kelly: The Man Behind The Mask.

This means that you are about to read an account of Ned Kelly, the famous bushranger. You will discover many facts about his life, and use those facts and other information to try to understand what he was like as a person, and how we respond to him today.

There are two broad views of Ned:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ned the brutal murderer/terrorist</th>
<th>Ned the victim as hero</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Some historians and other writers believe that he was a brutal criminal, a killer. Yes, he had some fine qualities, but they were far less important than his record of brutal killings:  
  • three murders by his own hand  
  • the order to kill another person in cold blood  
  • the taking of hostages and putting them in the line of fire for his own protection (leading to the death of two of them during the siege)  
  • the plan to deliberately wreck a train carrying the crew, police, Indigenous trackers, journalists, other civilians and horses, and then deliberately execute any police or trackers who survived the crash.  
That would make him a terrorist and a murderer. | Other historians and writers believe that Kelly was a great leader – a brave, resourceful and skilled man; a polite and chivalrous man; a hero. Yes, they acknowledge that he killed people, but argue that he was forced into crime by:  
  • an unfair legal system  
  • social inequality that persecuted his class of struggling farmers  
  • brutal, vindictive and corrupt police.  
He did not choose to kill and rob, but was forced into it by this system. At the end he may even have been trying to set up a totally new way of government and social system in the north-east of Victoria.  
So, not a terrorist and murderer, but an oppressed freedom fighter who sacrificed himself for others. |

So, which was he: a murderer/terrorist or a victim/hero?
There is no way any of us can finally decide this for ourselves. The historians and writers know far more than we readers will, and they disagree about their conclusions. So we cannot come up with a final conclusion about who Kelly was.

But what we can do is to understand why it is that experts can have such different opinions. We can understand why some people see him as a hero and freedom fighter, and others see him as a murderer and terrorist.

We can look at the man behind the mask, and understand his complexity.

That is what you are being asked to do in this study guide: to understand how there can be two Ned Kellys of history.

In working through *Ned Kelly: The Man Behind The Mask* you should complete these five stages:

1. Read the comic and answer the questions that are provided for each stage of Ned’s life (study guide, pages 5–29). This will make sure you understand the facts of the story.
2. Identify the key places mentioned at each stage on your map. You should also create a short text box for each place that explains what this place has to do with the Kelly story. In this way you are creating your own annotated Kelly map.
3. Use the links for various primary source documents that are used in the comic to find out more about each significant stage of Kelly’s life.
4. After reading the comic, consider the set of final questions on page 30 of this study guide that draw together the key issues and aspects of Kelly’s life, and that will enable you to answer the key question: Why are there two Ned Kellys in history?
5. Critically analyse the comic as a representation of history, and as an example of the graphic novel genre. How good and reliable is it in getting the Kelly story across? (See pages 31–33 of this study guide.)
Here are the stages of Ned’s life as set out in the comic, and the accompanying questions in this study guide:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Comic pages</th>
<th>Study guide page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 1820–1849 Origins – Ned’s parents come to Australia</td>
<td>6–7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 1830–1854 The social context of the time</td>
<td>8–13</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 1849–1854 The Kelly family hopes and ambitions</td>
<td>8–11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 1854–1878 Ned’s boyhood, family influences, and criminal and non-criminal behaviour</td>
<td>14–19</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 1860–1871 At Greta</td>
<td>20–30</td>
<td>9–10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 1874–1877 Leading a straight life</td>
<td>31–37</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 1878 The Fitzpatrick incident</td>
<td>38–42</td>
<td>12–16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 1878 Stringybark Creek</td>
<td>43–50</td>
<td>17–20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 1878 Robbery at Euroa</td>
<td>51–54</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 1879 Robbery at Jerilderie</td>
<td>56–59</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 1879–1880 Making the armour, and killing Aaron Sherritt</td>
<td>60–63</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 1880 Siege at Glenrowan</td>
<td>63–71</td>
<td>24–28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 1880 Trial and execution</td>
<td>72–73</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is a summary of Ned Kelly’s police record that may help you follow his life, in Appendix 3 on pages 40–41 of this study guide.
EXPLORING THE KELLY STORY

1 1820–1849
Origins – Ned’s parents come to Australia

The first part of *Ned Kelly: The Man Behind the Mask* tells us about Red Kelly and Ellen Quinn, how they both came to be in Victoria, and how they met and had several children – including Ned.

Look at pages 6–7 and answer these questions:

**Understanding the story**

1.1 Where was Ned’s father born?
1.2 When did he arrive in Australia?
1.3 Why did he come to Australia?
1.4 Where was Ned’s mother born?
1.5 When did she arrive in Australia?
1.6 Why did she come to Australia?

**Locating key places**

1.7 A key place associated with this early phase of the Kelly family is Wallan.

Look at these historic Wallan sites:


Find Wallan on your map, and work out the brief annotation you would make about that place and its association with the Kelly story.

1.8 What are your main impressions of the Kelly parents-to-be?
2 1830–1854

The social context of the time

This part of the comic gives us some information about the type of society that Ned would be born into in 1854.

Look at pages 8–13 and answer these questions:

Understanding the story

2.1 What do we learn about these social and economic developments of the time?
   a  Potato famine in Ireland
   b  Killings and dispossession of Aboriginal people
   c  Discovery of gold in Victoria
   d  Eureka Rebellion
   e  Eight-hour day movement
   f  Separation of Victoria from New South Wales.

Locating key places

2.2 Here are some places associated with the social context of the Kelly family.
   • Eureka flag, Ballarat: http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/14135
   • Eight Hour Movement Monument, Melbourne: http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/13841

Find Ballarat and Melbourne on your map, and work out the brief annotation you would make about these places and their association with the Kelly story.
3 1849–1854
The Kelly family hopes and ambitions

We now start to learn about the hopes and ambitions of Red, and especially of Ellen. We also see the circumstances of their first few years together.

Look at pages 8–11 and answer these questions:

**Understanding the story**

3.1 How do Red and Ellen meet?
3.2 What does Red want from life?
3.3 What does Ellen want?
3.4 What problems exist for them in Beveridge?
3.5 How do they try to overcome them?
3.6 Why do they eventually move from Beveridge to Avenel?

**Locating key places**

3.7 Two places associated with this phase of the Kelly family story are Beveridge, and St Francis’ Church, Melbourne.


Find these places on your map, and work out the brief annotation you would make about them and their association with the Kelly story.

3.8 What is your main impression of the life shared by Red and Ellen?
4 1854–1878
Ned’s boyhood, family influences, and criminal and non-criminal behaviour

This section tells us about Ned’s early life, and especially the strong family influences on him.

Read pages 14–19 and answer these questions:

Understanding the story
4.1 Why has the Kelly family moved so often?
4.2 What do we learn about Ned as a boy?
4.3 What bravery does he show?
4.4 How does the Kelly family (including Ned) start to be involved in crimes?
4.5 What happens to Red Kelly?
4.6 How does this put economic pressure on the family?
4.7 Why does the family now move to Greta?
4.8 Why does Ned become involved with Harry Power?

Locating key places
4.9 One place associated with this phase of the Kelly family story is Avenel.
   Find Avenel on your map, and work out the brief annotation you would make about its association with the Kelly story.

4.10 What is your main impression of Ned as a boy?
5 1860–1871
At Greta

Ellen Kelly moves to Greta, where she can be supported by family members. She then becomes a selector on Eleven Mile Creek – that is, she has a legal claim to an area of land, which will become her own property if she fulfils certain conditions about developing it. The aim of this policy of selection was to settle people in the area who would develop the land and create productive communities. The land for this had to be taken from the original claimants, the squatters, who had simply moved into the area first and claimed it as their own.

Read pages 20–30 and answer the questions:

Understanding the story

5.1 Ellen Kelly takes up a selection – a lease of a block of land. What are the conditions of that lease?
5.2 How does that cause resentment from the ‘squatters’?
5.3 How does Ned become involved in more criminal activities?
5.4 Why?
5.5 What happens with Ned and Ah Fook?
5.6 What happens to Harry Power?
5.7 What happens between McCormack and Ned?
5.8 With what consequences?
5.9 What crimes does Ned commit when he comes out of prison?
5.10 What happens with Wild Wright’s horse?
5.11 How does Ned clash with the police over the horse?
5.12 With what consequences?

Locating key places

5.13 Two places associated with this phase of the Kelly family story are Eleven Mile Creek near Greta, and Kilmore police cells and court house.


Find these places on your map, and work out the brief annotation you would make about them and their association with the Kelly story.
**Considering the evidence**

Two documents are reproduced in the comic. You can see these documents at:


5.14 What do these two documents tell you about Ned?

5.15 What is your main impression of Ned at this time of his life?
6 1874–1877
Leading a straight life

Ned is released from prison in 1874, and for the next few years does not seem to have been engaged in crimes.

Read pages 31–37 and answer these questions:

Understanding the story

6.1 How does Ned ‘go straight’ for the next few years?
6.2 What jobs does he have?
6.3 Why does he revert to criminal activities?
6.4 What is the attitude of the squatters towards people like the Kellys?
6.5 What is the reaction of the police?
6.6 How is Ned involved in horse stealing?
6.7 What happens between Ned and the police at Benalla?

Locating key places

6.8 The place associated with this aspect of Ned’s life is Benalla.


Find Benalla on your map, and work out the brief annotation you would make about its association with the Kelly story.

6.9 What is your main impression of Ned at this time?
7 1878
The Fitzpatrick incident

The Fitzpatrick incident is one of the three most significant events in the Kelly story – together with the Stringybark Creek killings, and the siege at Glenrowan. It is the incident with Constable Fitzpatrick that leads to Kelly going on the run, and the gaoling of his mother with her newborn infant, an event that enrages Ned.

We know that Fitzpatrick went to the Kelly homestead to arrest Dan. While he was there something happened. He reported that Kelly family members Ned, Dan and Ellen, together with two others, Bricky and Skilling, had assaulted and tried to murder him. His version was challenged by the Kellys.

So, what really happened? And how can we know?

Read pages 38–42 and answer these questions:

Understanding the story

7.1 What do we know about Fitzpatrick? (See comic pages 34, 35–36, 37)

7.2 The comic gives us four versions of what happened. There is a fifth that you will also look at.

Read versions A, B, C and D in the comic, and summarise the key claims of each account about what happened.

To see the original documents that the writer used to create the comic’s text, click on the links for each source on pages 14–15 of this guide.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key facts</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why was Fitzpatrick there?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who else was there?</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What did he do?</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What happened to him?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What was Ned's role?</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How reliable is this evidence? (Consider who, when, why)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Considering the evidence

A  Ellen Kelly version

From a 1912 newspaper interview:

‘People blame my boys for all that has happened. They should blame the police. They were at the bottom of it all ... The trouble began over a young constable named Fitzpatrick. That was in April 1878. He came to our place over there and said he was going to arrest Dan. He started the trouble. He tried to kiss my daughter, Kate. He had no business there at all, they tell me – no warrant or anything. If he had, he should have done his business and gone.

‘Why did he want to interfere with my girl? He stayed there to make trouble; and there was trouble. It was said that I hit him. I never did. I never touched him. But they took me away – took me from my children and my home, and put me in prison... And for nothing – for nothing at all. Because I never touched that constable – his name was Fitzpatrick – at all. I had no part in his being hurt. That was all his own fault. I declare this to you know, declare it before the God I shall soon see, and by my hope of salvation after a life of dreadful trouble, that I did nothing to Fitzpatrick. It was all untrue...

‘I swear it again that I never hurt the man. I never hit him. I remember it all as if it were yesterday. He tried to kiss my daughter. She was a fine, good-looking girl, Kate: and the boys tried to stop him. He was a fool. They were only trying to protect their sister. He was drunk and they were sober. But his story was believed. If he’d been badly hurt he would have richly deserved it. But I never hurt him – before God I didn’t. They swore I hit him with a shovel. It was untrue.’

What happened, as far as she was able to see, was that his revolver went off accidentally and the bullet struck him in the arm or wrist. ‘And they swore that I hit him with a shovel,’ she wailed, again and again; ‘and they wrecked my life and brought me to this.’

See: www.ironoutlaw.com/keep-ya-powder-dry/the-fitzpatrick-conspiracy/

B  Kate Kelly version


C  Ned Kelly version


D  Constable Fitzpatrick version


7.3 Now look at this extract from the Jerilderie Letter and complete column E.
On the 15 of April Fitzpatrick came to the Eleven Mile Creek to arrest [Dan] he had some conversation with a horse dealer whom he swore was William Skillion ... who alone could have proved Fitzpatricks falsehood after leaving this man he went to the house asked was Dan in Dan came out.

I hear previous to this Fitzpatrick had some conversation with Williamson on the hill. he asked Dan to come to Greta with him as he had a warrant for him for stealing Whitty's horses Dan said all right they both went inside Dan was having something to eat his mother asked Fitzpatrick what he wanted Dan for. the trooper said he had a warrant for him Dan then asked him to produce it he said it was only a telegram sent from Chiltern but Sergeant Whelan ordered him to releive Steel at Greta and call and arrest Dan and take him into Wangaratta next morning and get him remanded

Dans mother said Dan need not go without a warrant unless he liked and that the trooper had no business on her premises without some Authority besides his own word The trooper pulled out his revolver and said he would blow her brains out if she interfered.

In the arrest she told him it was a good job for him Ned was not there or he would ram the revolver down his throat Dan looked out and said Ned is coming now, the trooper being off his guard looked out and when Dan got his attention drawn he dropped the knife and fork which showed he had no murderous intent and slapped heenans hug on him [a wrestling hold] took his revolver and kept him there until Skillion and Ryan came with horses which Dan sold that night. The trooper left and invented some scheme to say that he got shot which any man can see is false, he told Dan to clear out that Sergeant Steel and Detective Brown and Strachan would be there before morning …

Next day Williamson and my mother was arrested and Skillion the day after who was not there at all at the time of the row which can be proved by 8 or 9 witnesses And the Police got great credit and praise in the papers for arresting the mother of 12 children one an infant on her breast and those two quiet hard working innocent men who would not know the difference a revolver and a saucepan handle and kept them six months awaiting trial and then convicted them on the evidence of the meanest article that ever the sun shone on …

I heard nothing of this transaction until very close on the trial I being then over 400 miles from Greta when I heard I was outlawed and a hundred pound reward for me for shooting at a trooper in Victoria and a hundred pound for any man that could prove a conviction of horse-stealing against me.
7.4 Compare Ned’s two accounts (C and E). What are the main differences?

7.5 Why would Kelly give different accounts?

7.6 Which of the five accounts do you think is most believable? Why?

After Ned was wounded and arrested at Glenrowan, Senior Constable John Kelly spoke to him:

As Senior Constable John Kelly reported, he had discussed the matter with Ned at Benalla and during the conversation the bushranger had freely admitted that he had shot at the former constable. ‘Ned what about Fitzpatrick? Was his statement correct?’ the Policeman enquired. ‘Yes, it was I that fired at him’. To this, Senior Constable Kelly was prepared to swear under oath.


Does this influence or change your answer to question 7.6?

7.7 Is this evidence reliable? Discuss your ideas.

7.8 What do you think happened with Fitzpatrick and the Kellys on that day?

7.9 What were the consequences of the Fitzpatrick incident?

7.10 What is your main impression about Ned at the time of the Fitzpatrick incident?
8 1878
Stringybark Creek

The Fitzpatrick incident led to Ned being accused of attempted murder, and to his going on the run with his gang. This in turn led to police parties sent to arrest him, and to the killings at Stringybark Creek.

Read pages 43–50 and answer these questions:

Understanding the story

8.1 Who is in the police party at Stringybark Creek?

You can see previous mentions of them on pages 16, 23, 37 and 44 (Kennedy), and pages 35–36 (Lonigan). Kelly says that he initially believed some of them were other policemen with whom he had had unpleasant encounters – Hall (27–28) and Flood (30).

8.2 Which members of the Kelly gang are there?

8.3 What happens when the gang confront McIntyre?

8.4 Describe how Lonigan is killed.

8.5 How is Scanlan killed?

8.6 How is Kennedy killed?

8.7 What happens to McIntyre?

8.8 What is the result for the Kelly gang?

Locating key places

8.9 Two places associated with this event are the Stringybark Creek killing site, and Mansfield, where the murdered police came from.

  http://monumentaustralia.org.au/display/32095-constable-scanlan

Find Stringybark Creek and Mansfield on your map, and work out the brief annotation you would make about them and their association with the Kelly story.

During this period the gang had to hide out. The camp site they stayed at and from which they came to Stringybark Creek can be seen at:

Considering the evidence

There are several versions of what happened at Stringybark Creek. Some experts say that Kelly was justified in shooting men who had come to, he believe, kill him, not arrest him. Others say that Kelly chose to kill the men rather than escape, and that he murdered them.

Kelly and McIntyre were the only two people alive during Ned’s trial who knew what happened.

8.10 Look at their accounts of the killing of Lonigan – for which Ned was tried in 1880. Compare what each says happened, using this table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>What did Lonigan do?</th>
<th>What did Kelly do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A McIntyre’s statement, 27 October 1878

B Telegram, 27 October 1878

C Newspaper report on page 43

E Jerilderie Letter (spelling as it is in the letter)

I was not there long and on the 25 of October I came on Police tracks … I went to our camp and told my brother and his two mates me and my brother went and found their camp at the shingle hut about a mile from my brothers house saw they carried long firearms and we knew our doom was sealed if we could not beat those before the others would come

As I knew the other party of Police would soon join them and if they came on us at our camp they would shoot us down like dogs at our work as we had only two guns. we thought it best to try and bail those up take their fire-arms and ammunition and horses and we could stand a chance with the rest We approached … [and] saw two men at the logs … we thought there were more men in the tent asleep those being on sentry we could have shot those two men without speaking but not wishing to take their lives we waited …

McIntyre laid the gun against a stump and Lonigan sat on the log I advanced, my brother Dan keepin McIntyre covered which he took to be constable Flood and had he not obeyed my orders, or attempted to reach for the gun or draw his revolver he would have been shot dead but when I called on them to throw up their hands McIntyre obeyed and Lonigan ran some six or seven yards to a battery of logs insted of dropping behind the one he was sitting on, he had just got to the logs and put his head up to take aim when I shot him that instant or he would have shot me as I took him to be Strachan the man who said he would not ask me to stand he would shoot me first like a dog …

As soon as I shot Lonigan he jumped up and staggered some distance from the logs with his hands raised and then fell he surrendered but too late …

I asked McIntyre who was in the tent he replied no one. I advanced and took possession of their two revolvers and fowling-piece which I loaded with bullets instead of shot. I asked McIntyre where his mates was he said they had gone down the creek, and he did not expect them that night he asked me was I going to shoot him and his mates. I told him no.

See: http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks04/0400761.txt
8.11 What do you think happened?


8.12 What is your main impression of Ned Kelly at Stringybark Creek?
9 1878
Robbery at Euroa

The Kelly gang now rob the bank at Euroa.

Read pages 51–54 and answer these questions:

Understanding the story
9.1 What happens at Euroa?
9.2 How does the gang behave?
9.3 What is the letter that Kelly writes?
9.4 To whom?
9.5 Why?
9.6 What happens to the Euroa money?

Locating key places
9.7 Euroa is an important part of the Kelly story.

Euroa: www.thekellytrail.com/nedkelly/towns/town/euroa/8

Find Euroa on your map, and work out the brief annotation you would make about its association with the Kelly story.

Considering the evidence
Newspaper accounts of the Kellys’ behaviour at Faithfull’s Creek and Euroa are at:

Information on the Cameron Letter is at:

9.8 What is your main impression of Ned at Eureka?
Robbery at Jerilderie

The next bank robbery was at Jerilderie, where Ned left the famous Jerilderie Letter, his justification and explanation of his life, to be printed.

Read pages 56–59 and answer these questions:

**Understanding the story**

10.1 What happens at Jerilderie?
10.2 How does the gang behave?
10.3 What is the famous ‘Jerilderie Letter’ that Ned has published there?
10.4 Why does Ned want it published?
10.5 The gang are shown destroying mortgage books. Mortgage books are a record of how much money a person owes the bank on loans to purchase property. Why would they destroy these records?

**Locating key places**

10.6 **Jerilderie** is significant in the Kelly story because of the Jerilderie letter.

   Jerilderie:

   Find Jerilderie on your map, and work out the brief annotation you would make about its association with the Kelly story.

**Considering the evidence**

You can find the original Jerilderie letter manuscript and a page-by-page transcription of it at the State Library of Victoria site:


10.7 What is your impression of Ned at Jerilderie?
11 1879–1880
Making the armour, and killing Aaron Sherritt

The final stage in the hunt for the Kelly gang was the siege at Glenrowan. This siege was not supposed to have happened. The Kelly gang had a much bigger plan, and a key element in this was the killing of the supposed betrayer, Aaron Sherritt. This killing was planned to result in the gang being in a position to carry out a spectacular crime.

Read pages 60-63 and answer these questions:

Understanding the story

11.1 There is information in the comic about the role of Aaron Sherritt. Look at pages 33, 55 and 60 and explain his relationship to the gang.

11.2 Why do the Kellys make armour during the 16 months after Jerilderie?

11.3 Why do they want to kill Sherritt?

11.4 Who kills him?

11.5 What does Ned want to happen after this killing?

Considering the evidence


11.6 What is your impression of Ned at this time?
12 1880
Siege at Glenrowan

The gang now move to Glenrowan, expecting that the news of Sherritt’s murder will reveal to the police that the gang is back in the area, and will lead to large numbers of police and Aboriginal trackers being rushed by train from Melbourne to Benalla.

Read pages 63–71 and answer these questions:

Understanding the story

12.1 Why is the gang at Glenrowan?
12.2 What is their plan?
12.3 Could this plan be called ‘terrorism’?
12.4 Why does the plan begin to unravel?
12.5 Who manages to stop the train?
12.6 What happens after he stops the train?
12.7 What happens when Ned leaves the inn during the night?
12.8 Why do the police shoot at the hotel, even though they know there are hostages there?
12.9 What happens to the four members of the Kelly gang?

Locating key places

12.10 Glenrowan is significant in the Kelly story because of the siege, and it marks the end of the Kelly gang.


Find Glenrowan on your map, and work out the brief annotation you would make about its association with the Kelly story.

Considering the evidence


Was there to be a Republic of North-Eastern Victoria?

During the siege at Glenrowan Ned disappeared for several hours. One version has him injured at this time, lying under trees, and moving in and out of consciousness from loss of blood. Another version has him meeting supporters who were expecting to be called on to ride to Benalla, destroy police, rob banks, and set up a new system of government, a Republic of North-East Victoria. Certainly there were some armed Kelly supporters in the area, and two rockets were fired at one stage, presumably as some sort of message or warning – though nobody knows who fired them, or exactly why.
Did Ned plan a Republic of North-Eastern Victoria?

Here are two points of view. One is from Ian Jones, possibly the most knowledgeable expert on Ned Kelly and an admirer, and Doug Morrissey, a debunker of the Kelly Myth.

Read the evidence and the interpretations of it, and answer the questions below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence 1: Ned Kelly had a Declaration of a Republic for North-Eastern Victoria</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| **For – Jones**  
*Ned Kelly: A Short Life*, chapter 16 | **Against – Morrissey**  
*Ned Kelly: A Lawless Life*, chapter 9 |
| I first encountered the idea of the Republic in Max Brown's landmark *Australian Son* of 1948 in which he quoted a legend that the Declaration of the Republic had been found in Ned’s pocket at his capture. | There is no record of this document in all the official Kelly records. Another printed copy is said by Kelly enthusiasts to exist in private hands, kept with a few romantic letters and the famous handkerchief Ned wore around his neck the day before his execution. A document that can’t be viewed is no evidence at all. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence 2: Meetings about forming a republic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **For – Jones**  
*Ned Kelly: A Short Life*, chapter 16 | **Against – Morrissey**  
*Ned Kelly: A Lawless Life*, chapter 9 |
<p>| Tom [Lloyd, grandson of Kelly sympathiser Tom Lloyd] told me of the preservation of a copy of the Declaration and of the 'exercise books containing records of meetings'. | All of what Tom said was anecdotal without confirmation or acknowledgement from within the Kelly family or those of its principal sympathisers … [N]ever once did he raise the topic of secret meetings and exercise minute books in our discussions on the Kelly republic … He did say, however, that he once overheard his father Tom junior say something about a notebook which he assumed contained the names of those associated with the Glenrowan debacle. In whispers Tom junior had said: <em>those books should have been destroyed, because they incriminated too many people and were dangerous</em>. Beyond that old Tom commented no further on the incriminating notebook, except to say that in the Kelly books he was quoted <em>out of context</em> and he was not at all pleased about it. Tom occasionally talked of the Declaration of the Republic of North East Victoria, but only in general nonspecific terms, never mentioning a handwritten copy or who he thought might have written it. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Evidence 3: Archive copy of the Declaration</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In 1969, senior Melbourne journalist Leonard Radic told me that in the winter of 1962-3 he had come across a printed copy of the Declaration in the Public Records Office in London. While unable to remember detail of its contents, he clearly recalled its ‘quaint, mock-legalistic language’. The PRO denied the existence of the Declaration and, perhaps predictably, in the light of this denial, an intensive search in 1969 and 1970 (with the valued help of Barry Jones and Tony Richardson) failed to locate it. However, Radic was a trained and highly reputable reporter with no conceivable motive for imagining or inventing such a document.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why a ‘printed’ copy is not explained except by a later source who from hearsay alone talks of handbills. No one has managed to find the document Radic claimed to have seen and the Public Records Office denies ever having such a document in its possession. Another printed copy is said by Kelly enthusiasts to exist in private hands, kept with a few romantic letters and the famous handkerchief Ned wore around his neck the day before his execution. If Radic did see the document why didn't he copy and publish it? A document that can't be viewed is no evidence at all.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Evidence 4: Events during the siege – two rockets fired as signals, and Kelly sympathisers gathered and ready to ride

An interview with Tom Lloyd Jr on 4.1.1964 in which he first confided to me his father’s story of the Glenrowan campaign–the firing of the rockets, the gathering and dismissal of the sympathisers, and Ned’s attempts to rescue the other members of the Gang.

The siege of the pub went on for hours and attracted many onlookers and no doubt more sympathisers. But not every civilian carrying a gun was a Kelly sympathiser nor every Glenrowan rubbernecker a Kelly Gang spy. Estimates of a sympathiser army of 150 is much too high and however many sympathisers there were, they never looked like an army. It is notable that the four gang members remained the police’s only attackers; in the wide zone of the conflict no move was made by the sympathisers against the police either directly or indirectly. Not a single shot was fired by a sympathiser. But perhaps Kelly had told them he no longer wanted their assistance?

For two hours from 3 am and until 5 am Ned was absent from the besieged pub. Sometime after 5 am he again left the pub and was next seen behind the police lines at 7 am. There is much debate about what he was doing. On his own evidence, Ned tells us he spent much of this time lying in a semi-conscious state in the bush close to where he made his escape. He would later speak of overhearing policemen discussing the siege as he lay bleeding and occasionally fainting from blood loss within 100 yards of Jones’s pub. Upon regaining his senses and moving on, Ned left behind him the Spencer repeating rifle and his helmet’s skull-cap now completely soaked in blood from trying to staunch his wounds.

Ned was slowly and cautiously moving about the bush outside the police cordon. But in his bleeding and wounded condition exacerbated by too much alcohol, he was clearly experiencing difficulty in maintaining consciousness. Since he was physically weakened and psychologically disoriented, the suggestion that he held a prolonged council of war with his friends and relatives seems unlikely.
Evidence 5: Bulletin article, 9 June 1900

‘If certain statements contained in reports in the Victorian Police Department regarding the Kelly Gang, are to be believed, that crowd narrowly escaped making an apolitical landmark in Australian history. These reports indicated the existence of such a widespread state of disaffection in North East Victoria, owing to what was called the “remanding” as applied to persons guilty of being Kelly sympathisers that the Kellys had determined to take advantage of it for their own purposes. They had resolved it was said, after having upset the special train containing the police from Melbourne, to make a cut across country from Glenrowan to Benalla, destroying bridges and telegraph lines en route, and there to have proclaimed North East Victoria a republic with Benalla as capital. This move was stopped by the failure of the effort to destroy the train. But for this hitch, it is asserted, nothing could have averted the railway catastrophe as a prelude to the Presidency of Edward Kelly, Esq, supported by nine men out of every ten in the disaffected district.’

As far as I can ascertain, the first documented public reference to a Kelly republic appeared in the radical and republican Bulletin magazine on 9 June 1900. The Bulletin was no longer so firmly republican as in its wild youth in the 1880s, but in 1900, against the mass of Australian opinion, it was opposing the British empire for its war against the Boers in South Africa and colonial governments for supporting it and sending troops there to fight. It was the only mass circulation journal prepared to make a bit of mischief with a Kelly republic. Its report was no more than a paragraph appearing in the section ‘Aboriginalities’, which published odd-ball and quirky bits of news and information. It was unsigned and the police reports it referred to have not been found by anyone else.

12.12 Which side has the stronger case? Why?

12.13 What do you believe – was there an attempt to create a Republic of North-Eastern Victoria?

12.14 What would make you change your mind about whether there was to be a Republic or not?

12.15 What is your impression of Ned at Glenrowan?
13 1880

Trial and execution

The wounded Kelly was captured, imprisoned, charged with murder, and put on trial in Melbourne. He was only tried for the murder of Lonigan because that was the strongest case against him – the only one of the 3 killings at Stringybark Creek for which there was an eye witness, McIntyre.

Read pages 72–73 and answer these questions:

Understanding the story

13.1 Who is Kelly charged with murdering?
13.2 What is the result of Kelly’s trial?
13.3 What happens to Ned Kelly?

Locating key places

13.4 There are many places associated with Ned’s trial and execution:
   - Ned Kelly grave: http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=12694

Find these places on your map, and work out the brief annotation you would make about their association with the Kelly story.

Considering the evidence

You can see the full documents on page 72 online:

13.5 What is your impression of Ned Kelly the convicted murderer facing execution?
Conclusions

1 How important was the Kelly family in what happened to Ned? Did he ever have a chance of leading a normal life?

2 Did the police pick on the family unfairly, or were they just doing their job and focusing on a known and persistent family of criminals and thugs?

3 Why can some experts consider Ned a hero, while others, using exactly the same evidence, consider him as a brutal killer and terrorist?

4 If you could meet Ned what would you ask him?

5 Do you think Ned is still an important part of Australian history whom we should learn about today? Explain your ideas.

6 At the end the comic says ‘It is up to you whether you judge Ned Kelly and his gang as heroes or criminals’ (page 75). Does this comic help you to do this?
ANALYSING THE COMIC AS A GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF HISTORY

Every account of Ned Kelly that you read or see is a representation of the event – that is, it is somebody’s version of what happened. The person who created the account chose what to include, and what to exclude, what to emphasise, and what to play down. Every account is influenced by the creator’s own knowledge, understanding, values, attitudes and the messages or meanings he or she wants to get across.

The representation that is created also depends on the target audience (for example an account for Year 9 students will be different to one for Kelly historians), and there are also physical considerations – how much space does the creator have to deal with the topic. A text book history of Australian history from Aboriginal occupation to today will have far less space for Kelly than a book just on bushrangers.

It is also influenced by its method of presentation, in this case a graphic text, combining words and drawn images.

1 Look at this list of elements of a graphic representation of history. They will help you think about Ned Kelly: The Man Behind the Mask as a history text, as a graphic text, and as a work of visual art.

Write your answers and ideas in the space beside each of the criteria or elements.
**A graphic representation of history: analysis criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is it physically well-produced and effective?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the story clear and coherent?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the text easy to read, clear and not obscured by images?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the language clear and simple?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the art style (realistic, stylised)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Look at the versions from two other comics in Appendix 2 on page 38 of this study guide to help you answer this.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are the illustrations clear?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do the illustrations echo the words or add more ideas and meanings by themselves?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does it use graphic and language techniques well?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Look at the example of the siege at Glenrowan on pages 65–71 as a good case study – how does the artist try to get across the confusion, danger and uncertainty of that event?)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the comic seem to be factually accurate?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does it seem to be fair and balanced and acknowledge uncertainties?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Look at the example of Ah Fook’s story – what is your impression of Ned if you accept the version on page 21? What is your opinion if you accept the version on page 22?)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there good maps where needed?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there variety in the pages (number of frames, portrait and landscape boxes)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are the panels varied?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is colour used effectively?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2 Is the comic pro-Kelly, anti-Kelly or neutral? Give reasons to justify your answer.

3 *Ned Kelly: The Man Behind The Mask* is a representation of history. So are the accounts in the text books you use. Compare the representation in the comic with those in the text books you use.

4 Do you think *Ned Kelly: The Man Behind The Mask* is a fair and accurate representation of history? Explain your view.
SELECTED RESOURCES

Thomas McIntyre, A True Narrative of the Kelly Gang, 1900, 


The strength of feeling that still exists about the Kelly gang can be seen in the fierce debates that are carried on online between the pro-Kelly Iron Outlaw website, and the critical Ned Kelly: Death of the Legend blog:

- Iron Outlaw: www.ironoutlaw.com
APPENDIX 1:
RESPONDING TO PHOTOGRAPHS ACTIVITY

A
APPENDIX 2:
OTHER GRAPHIC REPRESENTATIONS OF NED KELLY

Monty Wedd

Alec Brierley

# APPENDIX 3: NED KELLY TIMELINE AND POLICE RECORD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1841 | Quinn family arrive in Victoria as assisted immigrants.  
Red Kelly transported to Van Diemen’s Land. |
| 1848 | Red Kelly set free after serving 6 years. |
| 1850 | Red Kelly and Ellen Quinn marry. |
| 1854 | Ned Kelly born at Beveridge. |
| 1866 | Red Kelly dies. |
| 1869 | Ned Kelly charged with assault with violence and robbery of Ah Fook. Charge is dismissed after Kelly has been in gaol for 10 days. |
| 1870 | Arrested for highway robbery as accomplice of bushranger Harry Power. Released after 6 weeks in Kyneton gaol.  
Convicted of assault and indecent behaviour. Given three months’ imprisonment on each charge. |
| 1871 | Convicted of receiving a stolen horse. Sentenced to 3 years’ gaol. |
| 1874–1877 | Ned Kelly released, works at various jobs |
| 1877 | Convicted of drunkenness, riding on a footpath and resisting arrest. Fined.  
Ned Kelly and George King operate a horse-stealing racket. |
| 1878 | 15 April  
Constable Fitzpatrick accuses Ned Kelly, Dan Kelly, Ellen Kelly, Brickie Williamson and Skilling of attempting to murder him while he was trying to arrest Dan Kelly.  
12 October  
Ellen sentenced to 3 years with hard labour.  
26 October  
Sergeant Kennedy, and Constables Lonigan and Scanlan are killed at Stringybark Creek by the Kelly gang.  
31 October  
The Kelly gang declared outlaws by the Victorian Government.  
13 December  
The gang captures the Faithfull’s Creek homestead.  
14 December  
The gang hold up the National Australasian Bank at Euroa. Kelly sends off the Cameron Letter. |
| 1879 | 8 February  
The gang capture the Bank of new South Wales at Jerilderie. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 June</td>
<td>Aaron Sherritt murdered by Joe Byrne.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 June</td>
<td>The Kelly gang goes to Glenrowan, and tear up railway tracks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 June</td>
<td>Thomas Curnow stops the train, and the battle at the Glenrowan Inn takes place. Joe Byrne is shot dead, Ned Kelly is wounded and captured, Dan Kelly and Steve Hart commit suicide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 August</td>
<td>Ned Kelly is committed at Beechworth Court to stand trial for the murder of Constable Lonigan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 October</td>
<td>Ned Kelly found guilty at the Supreme Court, Melbourne, of murder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 November</td>
<td>Ned Kelly hanged at Old Melbourne Gaol.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>