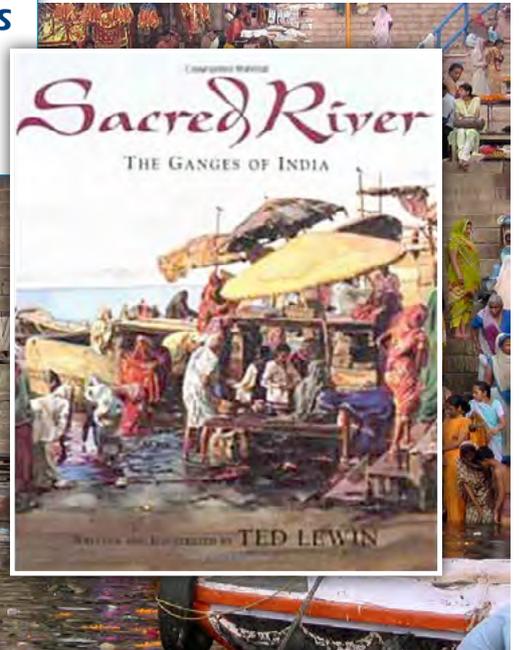




Global Education – Learning Emphases

- Interdependence and globalisation
- Identity and cultural diversity
- Social justice and human rights

Responding to text, including picture books and novels



A Stage 3 resource by Julie O 'Keeffe based on the book *Sacred River* by Ted Lewin

- Introduce students to this book by opening it wide so both front and back covers can be seen all together. Encourage students to think about where this river might be, what the people are doing, who the people could be, and possible names of the river.
- Discuss student understanding of the word 'sacred'. Share examples of places they have visited that are regarded as sacred. What was it about the place that made it sacred?
- Talk about how a river could be sacred.
- Open to the inside of the book and observe the map of India and the route of the Ganges River. Use an atlas for more detailed location of the Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal. Introduce geographical terminology such as delta and source when talking about the beginning and end of the river.
- Cover the written text on each page. Show students each page of the book, initially allowing them to see only the illustrations. Talk about and record their impressions of life along the river. What are people doing? What happens at different times of the day? Who is at the river? What kinds of buildings can be seen along the river?
- Comment on the illustrations, and the story they tell about people and the river.
- Allocate a page of the book to pairs or small groups of students to write their own text to go with the story told in the illustration. Re-read the book with students reading their text to go with the illustrations.
- Reveal and read Ted Lewin's text. Talk about his story of the river. Compare his story with the students' stories.
- Locate the metaphors and similes. Look at the illustrations and comment on their relationship to the text.
- Write the metaphors and similes onto individual cards. Discuss the effect they have on the reader and talk about why Ted Lewin has used so many in this story.
- Draw your own illustrations for one metaphor and one simile.



Ganges River boatman, Varanasi, India. Photo: J. Curtis

Responding to text, including picture books and novels

- Identify the adjectives, verbs and adverbs in the text. Talk about how they contribute to the mood created on the river
- Take on the role of the boatman. Develop a sequence of dialogue that could describe his experiences of a day on the river.
- Vocabulary — find the meanings of the following words, either from the text or from a dictionary: pilgrim, ghats, maharaja, pyre, monsoon, purify, offerings, minaret, gunwales, sari, submerge, cremation, faithful, salvation, pilgrimage.
- After studying the text and the illustrations, students talk about what they think the river means to the people who visit it.
- When students have shared their impressions and understandings about the Ganges, read the factual text at the beginning of the book. Use this factual information to complement student views.
- Discuss — ‘The Ganges fell from Heaven, and her fall was softened by the long locks of the god Shiva.’
- Link this thought with the idea of sacred.
- Talk about rivers students have visited in Australia. Compare the views of the river and the uses of

the rivers. Record the differences and similarities by creating artworks using pastels or water colour paints.

- Look at artworks representing rivers. Compare with Ted Lewin’s images of the Ganges. Google search images using the words ‘the Ganges River at Varanasi’.
- YouTube videos of the Ganges:
Ganges River, India by Vinh Nguyen – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYx3FUujRqY&feature=player_detailpage&x-yt-ts=1422579428&x-yt-cl=85114404
River of Faith: A film about the Kumbh Mela 2013 by Namit Arora – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQNoimABjMQ&x-yt-ts=1422579428&feature=player_detailpage&x-yt-cl=85114404#t=7

Note: Teachers need to be aware that some video clips available on YouTube may contain images of corpses.

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Sacred River by Ted Lewin. Clarion Books.
ISBN 0-395-69846-4



Saris drying on the ghat, Varanasi, India. Source: Wikimedia Commons