



# PETAA

PRIMARY ENGLISH TEACHING  
ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA  
CONTINUAL PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

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INFORMATION  
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## Tell me your story

*Confirming identity and engaging writers in the middle years*

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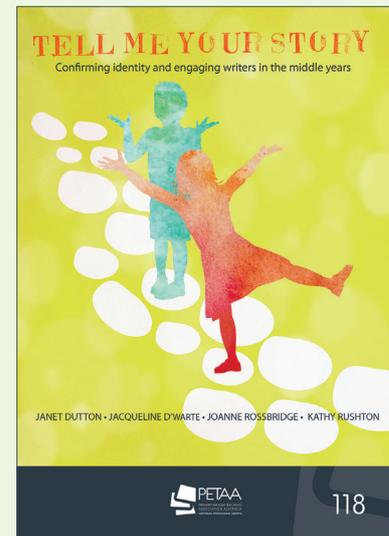
*"Valuing the linguistic and cultural heritage of students is an important way to develop inclusivity and connectedness and to promote wellbeing and engagement with learning. By fostering an inclusive creative pedagogy, teachers can meet the needs of students from a range of linguistic, cultural and social backgrounds."*

The concept of Identity Texts (Cummins, J., Hu, S., Markus, P. & Montero K., 2015) has been successfully used to support the development of language and literacy and especially writing. Student engagement is pursued through the collaborative creation of texts using both the students' home languages and stories and English. Practical teaching strategies and suggestions for confirming identity and making links between schools and communities are explained and demonstrated.

The chapters provide a range of pedagogical approaches that focus on engagement and the affirmation of student identities. Each chapter has a particular focus and readers can choose the chapter or chapters that reflect their preferred approach to negotiating and affirming student identity in their own classrooms. The chapters provide a range of suggestions for working with students in the middle years and many examples of how different approaches can be implemented in classrooms.

Much of the book stems from research projects into identity and literacy conducted by the authors in contemporary Australian classrooms.

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- Chapter 1** Placing student identity at the centre of classroom literacy
- Chapter 2** Affirming identity through drama pedagogy
- Chapter 3** Exploring linguistic repertoires: language mapping as a tool for teaching and learning
- Chapter 4** Using a student's first language in the classroom
- Chapter 5** Composing identity texts with recently arrived refugee students
- Chapter 6** Creative strategies for writing
- Chapter 7** Meeting high challenge with high support in the middle years
- Chapter 8** Identity and wellbeing: making connections to the community

The Primary English Teaching Association Australia (PETAA), founded in 1972, is a national professional association supporting primary school educators in the teaching and learning of English and literacies across the curriculum. For information on how to join and to view professional learning resources, visit the PETAA website.



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