

# ALICE IN AUSTRALIA

## STORY NINE : A DAY AT THE RACES

### Improve Your Literacy – Suggested Activities

#### Setting the Scene

When telling a story, setting the scene is important for readers. Look closely at the first page, and think of the ways in which the scene has been set through words and pictures.

Write down what you know about Hong Kong from reading page one of the story. Now find out and write down three facts about Hong Kong from other sources.

#### Looking for Patterns

Study the whole story carefully again, and, with your partners, write down as many PATTERNS as you can find.

*NOTE: A pattern is something which is repeated i.e. it appears more than once. It can refer to a word, an image, a shape, a symbol, a colour etc.*

When you have done this, discuss why these patterns are important to the story.

Finally, look at the way Alice has 'represented' her mother's family. Now create a similar pattern to represent the members of your own family.

#### Research Topics

##### Horse Racing

Alice is taken to the racetrack in Hong Kong and places a bet on a horse called Tilly.

Unfortunately it doesn't win.

Find out as much as you can about the following - perhaps you could set some quiz questions for the rest of the class.

*How did horse racing originate?*

*What is the Melbourne Cup, and when does it take place?*

*How does betting actually work?*

*What are starting stalls, silks, handicaps, silks and furlongs?*

#### Debate/discussion

Some people believe that gambling is wrong. Do you agree with them?

#### Digital Literacy

Listen to the soundtrack to the story again. Now find a video recording of a race. Play the race without sound, give each horse a name and add your own commentary! You may even want to record yourself with the soundtrack in the background.

