



## Literature Landscapes - Teacher's Notes

Australia is such a large country that it contains a vast array of landscapes, environments and weather patterns. Sometimes these weather patterns lead to natural disasters, like droughts and floods, that have a huge impact on our way of life.

Australian writers and poets have written about these differences since colonial times with one of the most famous examples being the poem *My Country* by Dorothea Mackellar, first published in 1908. A well-known excerpt from this poem is:

*I love a sunburnt country,  
A land of sweeping plains,  
Of ragged mountain ranges,  
Of droughts and flooding rains.  
I love her far horizons,  
I love her jewel sea,  
Her beauty and her terror -  
The wide brown land for me!*

Students might like to find some other poetry or stories relating to droughts and floods, or even create their own.

