

Wild Pork & Watercress

by Barry Crump



Name: _____

Class: _____



Barry Crump

1. Where and when was he born?

2. Where and when did he die?

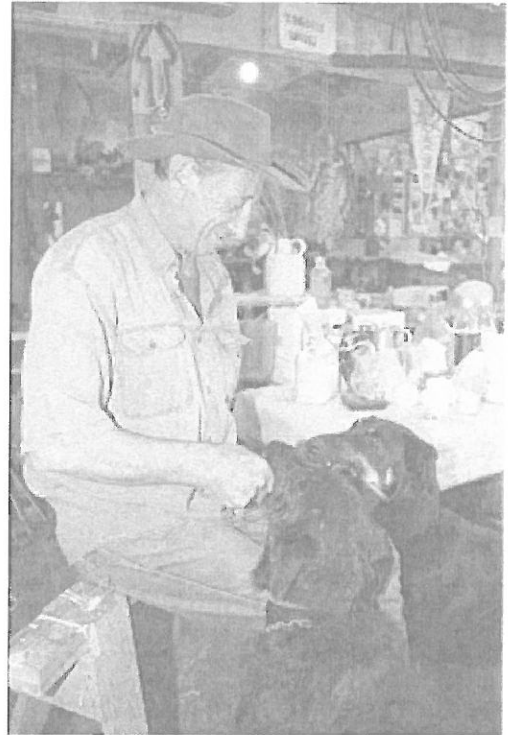
3. How many times was he married?

4. How many children did he have?

5. What was he like as a husband and father?

6. What jobs did he do?

7. How many books has he written?



You can find information to answer these questions at

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/6c2/crump-barry> - Te Ara - Encyclopedia of New Zealand
– Dictionary of New Zealand Biography.

Personal Response

Title: Wild Pork & Watercress

Text Type: Novel

Author: Barry Crump

Publication details: Beckett Publishing, Auckland, New Zealand (1986)

This book is about a young Maori boy, Ricky Baker, who gets into trouble with Social Welfare and is placed in the care of his Uncle Hec and Auntie Bella on a farm near Matawai, outside of Gisborne. When Auntie Bella unexpectedly dies of a stroke, Hec takes Ricky into the bush because he doesn't want to go back into Welfare care. They face many hardships and adventures while trying to evade capture by the authorities. Ricky grows and matures, learning lots about the bush and himself as his relationship with Hec develops.

I thought it was very suspenseful when Willy and Zag are faced with a fierce wild boar. The fight between the pig and the dogs was vividly described. The boar sounded ferocious and unstoppable: "I just had to stand and watch. Willy was a helpless yowling mess of blood, with Zag hopelessly tugging at one of the boar's back legs. Uncle Hec kept shooting – crack – crack – crack – and not making any difference either." (p 136)

I also thought that Chapter 11 was really effective because it let us hear some of the story from an outside person's point of view. Robby describes the time he first met Hec and Ricky and it brought home to the reader the extent of hardships they had faced. For example, Robby says when they first appeared "it was all I could do to keep the shock off my face." He describes the rags they were wearing, the bruises, scratches and scabs on their legs and arms and says "Their boots were falling to pieces and by all rights should have crippled them." Hec was "gaunt and stringy...with sunken, piercing eyes." Ricky's hair "stuck out in tufts from his head" and his hands and face were "streaked with inground dirt." But the most overwhelming thing about them is "...they stank. Badly. Both of them." This all makes sense when you think that Hec and Ricky had been walking huge distances during their two years' in the bush and there were not many opportunities for them to get clean other than in rivers or one time at the hot pool.

This novel made me think about the importance of loyalty and friendship. For example, Uncle Hec takes care of Ricky even though we find out later that he'd hoped that Ricky might have found it too tough and taken off. Ricky looks out for Hec when he breaks his foot and also when they try to find their way back to Kokako Bluffs. The book also made me think about the beauty and excitement of the New Zealand bush and how we should all learn more about it and spend more time exploring it.

I would recommend this book to a wide range of readers – it doesn't matter if you are a high school student or an adult – it is still a ripping yarn.

Wild Pork & Watercress – Barry Crump

Chapter 1: The Wife's Sister's Boy

1. What is Ricky's proper name?
2. What does he look like?
3. What could Ricky do well at school?
4. How good was he at sports?
5. Put the following events into the correct order:
 - *Ricky's parents get divorced.*
 - *Ricky is put in a health camp when he is nine years old.*
 - *Ricky runs away from the health camp*
 - *Ricky is put into a social welfare home.*
 - *Ricky runs away from the social welfare home after three nights.*
 - *Ricky's mother re-marries*
 - *Ricky goes back to the social welfare home less than a year later after shoplifting a bag of potato chips*
 - *Ricky steals a ten-speed bike*
 - *Ricky runs away again and lives in a burnt-out bus in Taupo*
 - *Ricky gets locked up in the cells*
 - *Ricky's last chance is to go and be fostered by his Uncle Hec and Aunt Bella Faulkner.*
6. What was the Faulkner's farm like?

7. What was Aunt Bella like?

8. Label the following True or False (T/F):

- Hec is over 50
- He's a bushman
- He's a good-natured old guy
- He's short and fat
- He only has bottom teeth

9. What sort of kai did they have for breakfast?

10. What food did they have for dinner?

11. How was Ricky keeping up with his education?

12. What did Ricky do in his spare time?

13. Write a paragraph describing a holiday you have had with relatives on a farm (or a camping trip you have had):

- How old were you?
- When did you stay there?
- Where was it?
- What was the farm like? What did you do?
- Who was there with you?

Chapter 2: A Dog Like Zag

14. What was the name of Uncle Hec's dog?

15. How do you think the dog got his name?

16. How did Zag get the pig?

17. What is **singeing**?

18. What advice did Uncle Hec give to Ricky about how to find a good pig-dog?

19. How did Uncle Hec fix Ricky's cut?

20. Why did Uncle Hec "flatten" Ricky?

21. How did Ricky get to be a good shot with the .22?

22. True or false?

Ricky's pup, Willy, was a brown and white Alsatian/Labrador cross?

23. How do you train a dog not to worry sheep or stock?

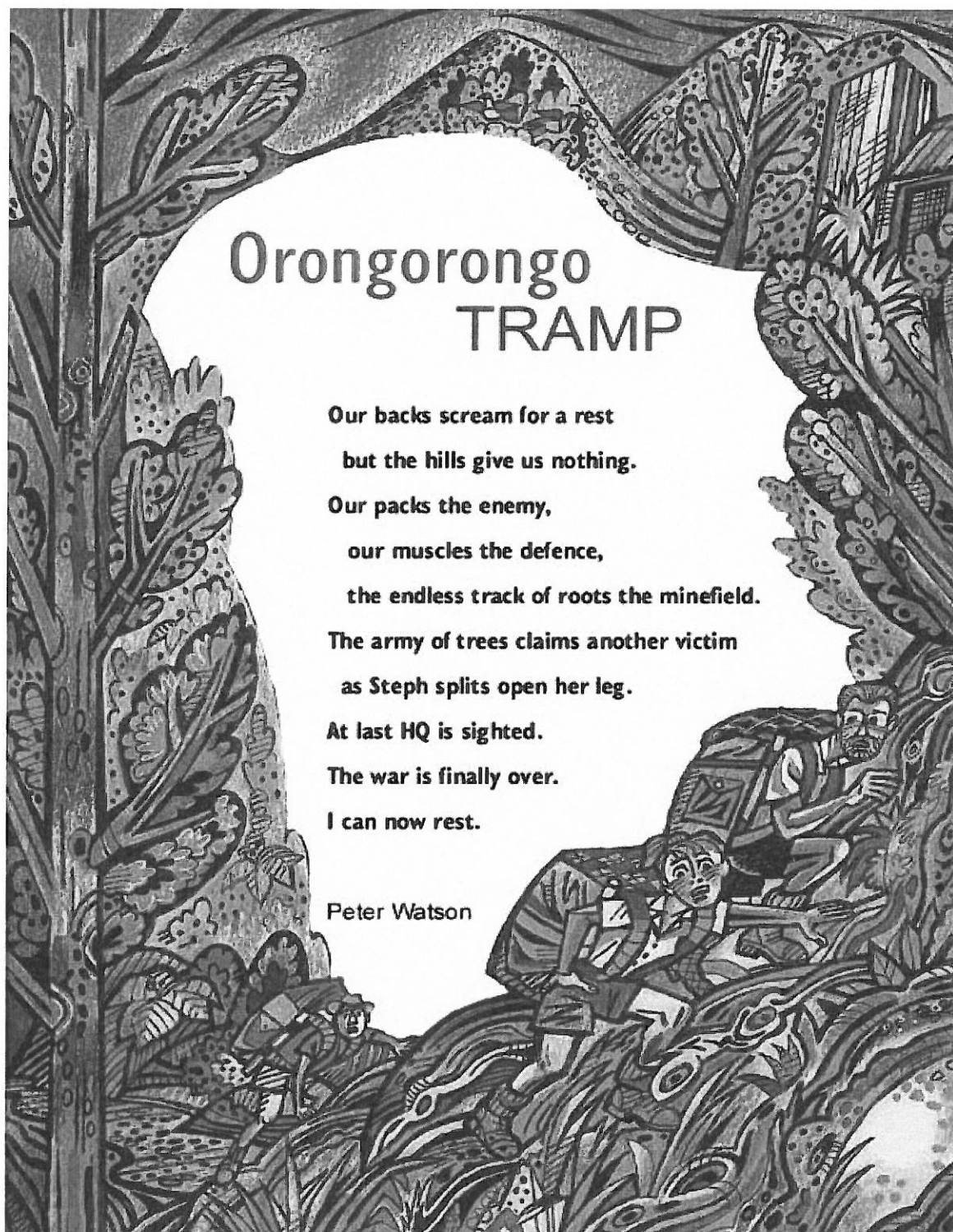
Chapter 3: Other People

24. How did Uncle Hec and Aunty Bella get on with each other?
25. What happens to Aunty Bella?
26. What is going to happen to the farm?
27. What does Ricky do when the letter comes from Social Welfare?
28. What does Ricky persuade Uncle Hec to do? What is their plan?
29. What did they do for food?
30. How did they make bread?

Chapter 4: A Tin of Peaches

31. Complete the following sentence:
'We weren't eating for the taste of it any more, we were eating for _____ to get to the next ____.'
32. List the four types of food which were the 'rarest and best finds' as they travelled from hut to hut.

33. Write out the description of the boar when Ricky first sees it.
34. Why did Uncle Hec not want to go after this boar?
35. Why was Uncle Hec going to let the razorback sow go?
Why did he change his mind? What do you think about what he did?
36. What were Uncle Hec's rules about using the huts?
37. What does Ricky do when his boots finally 'pack in'?
38. In your own words, describe how Log-jamb Creek got its name:
39. What does it mean in the newspaper article when it says "relatives were concerned **about his state of mind** since the recent loss of his wife."? What is being suggested here?
40. Why is this chapter called "A Tin of Peaches"?



Orongorongo TRAMP

Our backs scream for a rest
but the hills give us nothing.
Our packs the enemy,
our muscles the defence,
the endless track of roots the minefield.
The army of trees claims another victim
as Steph splits open her leg.
At last HQ is sighted.
The war is finally over.
I can now rest.

Peter Watson

Source: *School Journal*, Part 4, No. 1, 1996, Learning Media.
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Orongorongo tramp

This task is about interpreting the use of metaphor.

Read the poem 'Orongorongo tramp' School Journal, Part 4, No. 1, 1996, then answer the following questions.

- a) "Our backs scream for a rest
but the hills give us nothing."

What could the hills give the trampers?

- b) Why could packs be seen as the enemy?

- c) In what two ways could the roots be a minefield?

i) _____

ii) _____

- d) What is the HQ?

- e) This poem uses an extended metaphor of tramping as war. Identify three words other than "war", "enemy" and "minefield" that develop this metaphor throughout the poem.

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____

- f) What line has the same structure as "our packs the enemy"?

- g) What is the best word to add to "our packs the enemy" to make this into a complete sentence?

- (A) is
(B) on
(C) are
(D) for

Wild Pork & Watercress

KLQTPKSWZTBXWDS
TKAISRADHUIANEL
FOQWEMUSSOPIVTA
GQSGYPGHKCARTCS
GKNYYEMZEAWEZUH
SAYHPARGOTOHPDE
RERHNEOUGVAEBBR
XOVSTKAUNSSNLAH
YTHIALLC SYGIUKU
FIAKTLILHFOVFDT
PZOEYIEFHEDAFXW
PKZDWSGWJJSRPET
TIEMVSJUCHOPPER
PIGEONWFFSXALCX
SJIFBCKRWGGHUKJ

ABDUCTED
BLUFF
BUSHMANSHIP
CHOPPER
DOGS
FILTHY
FUGITIVES
GOAT
GULLY
HASSLES
HUIA
HUT
KOKAKO
LAWYER
PEACHES
PHOTOGRAPHY
PIG
PIGEON
POSSUM
RANGERS
RAVINE
SLASHER
SWEAT
TRACK

What Ricky learned

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
				25	1		18						20						21			26			

W E ' E T F E W H E N
 26 25 4 25 7 14 21 9 1 25 26 18 9 12 12 16 25 12 13 14 6 11 20 7
T W E N H N E T H E .
 23 10 15 23 21 26 25 13 9 20 18 9 20 22 16 25 21 18 25 6
W E ' E N W .
 26 25 24 25 14 5 9 19 20 14 26