



Jean Dreams of Flying

Teachers' Resource Kit by Raymond Huber

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Jean Dreams of Flying

By Dreydon Sobanja

Illustrated by Terry Fitzgibbon

Jean was just a normal New Zealand girl who dreamed that she was a bird that could fly high, high up in the sky and far, far away.

Most people thought Jean's daydreams were silly. But one day she met someone who showed her the most fantastical machine, and Jean's dreams took flight.

Follow the inspiring journey of Jean Batten from a normal kiwi girl all the way through to being the first woman to fly all the way from England to Australia and back again.

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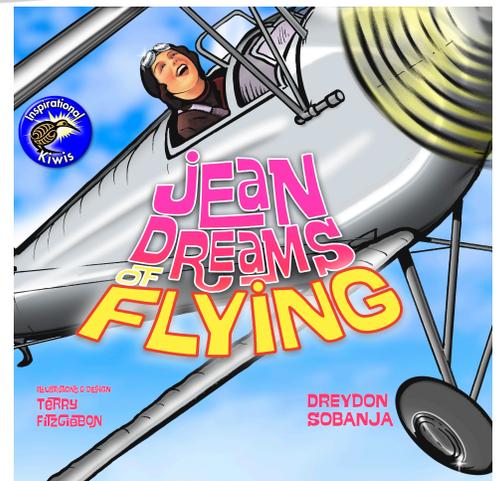
ISBN: 978-0-473-22784-5

RRP: \$19.99

Extent: 32pp

Readership: 4+

Format: Paperback



Contents

- Reading Questions
- Jean Batten
- Flight
- Illustrations
- Goals and Dreams

The Inspirational Kiwis series of books are written for young readers but will inspire children and adults alike.



Reading Questions

Cover:

1. Who is Jean?
2. What kind of plane is she flying?
3. What do you know about the real life Jean Batten?

Pages 1 and 3:

1. What do the planes, the car and the clothes tell you about the time in history when this story is based?

Page 5:

1. What is Jean's big dream?
2. What is the difference between a daydream and a night dream?

Pages 6 and 7:

1. Why do you think her brother is annoying her?
2. What does 'gazing' mean?

Page 8:

1. Why did Jean think her brother might laugh?
2. Is there anything wrong with daydreaming?
3. What does 'humming' and 'harrang' sound like?

Pages 11 and 12:

1. Is Jean's brother right? Can a person fly without wings?
2. Why does he flap his arms?

Page 13:

1. Why is Jean unsure if she can fly?

Page 15:

1. How did Jean stick with her dream of flying?

Page 16:

1. How does a bird 'glide'?

Page 18:

1. What do you think of the way her friends treated her?

Page 21:

1. What clue tells you the city Grandad lives in?

Pages 22 and 23:

1. Why do you think Jean is now sure her dream will come true?
2. Why doesn't Grandad think it is a 'silly dream'?

Pages 24 and 25:

1. What does the word 'wise' mean to you?
2. How do you think Jean coped with people who laughed at her dream?

Page 26:

1. Why would an aeroplane seem amazing to people in those days?

Page 27:

1. What is the famous plane in the pictures?
2. Why didn't Jean take a passenger plane to England?

Page 28:

1. What two big steps did Jean take to make her dream finally come true?

Page 31:

1. What was one of Jean's world records?

- Jean Batten (1909–1982) was a world famous pilot. She was so popular that thousands of people would greet her when she landed, like a movie star. Her Maori nickname was *Hine o te Rangi* – find out the English translation of this Maori name. Her other nickname was *Garbo of the Skies* – who was Greta Garbo? Find a photo of Jean.
- Jean was determined to show that a woman could be a great pilot. In 1934 she flew a small biplane from England to Australia. It took Jean 14 days to make the trip – how long does it take a plane to fly to England today? Draw some of Jean's flight routes (p.31) on a world map.
- Find out what the word 'aviatrix' means (p.31).
- Draw a detailed picture of a biplane like the Gypsy Moth that Jean flew.
- There were very few planes in the world when Jean was born. Find out where the first planes were invented and who made the first flights.
- In the 1920s and 1930s, flying was quite a dangerous job. Why was that? How have planes become safer today?
- In the early days of flight, almost all planes were flown by men. Why do you think this was?
- Jean was inspired by her hero, Sir Charles Kingsford Smith (p.26), who was the first person ever to fly a plane between New Zealand and Australia (something that now happens many times a day). Find out the other records that Kingsford Smith set.
- Write a short poem about flying like a bird. Include sensory words that describe feelings, sounds, smells, and colours.

- The illustrator, Terry Fitzgibbon, has included many New Zealand flying creatures in the pictures. Find the following birds in the book;
 - Kotuku
 - Seagull
 - Swallow
 - Hawk
 - Tern
 - Gannet
 - Albatross
 - Oystercatcher
 - Choose one bird that you like and illustrate a poster showing where it lives, what it eats, how it flies, and any special facts.
 - Find these butterflies in the book; red admiral, common blue butterfly, and yellow butterfly. Create a picture of a butterfly in flight using dye and water effects.
 - The pictures in the book are a mixture of realistic images and drawn images. How do you think Fitzgibbon created them? Make a collage using pictures of flying things cut from magazines; and create a background using bold pastel colours.
- Jean tried out many activities as a child including learning piano, swimming and ballet dancing. In the end she settled on flying. What happens when you try out different things? How does it help you find your special dream? Jean was a 'persistent' child. What does this mean? How can it help you to reach a goal?
 - Jean's dream of flying like a bird must have sounded crazy in those days when ordinary people did not travel in planes. List some of your dreams, even if they sound impossible. Choose one dream and write a story about it coming true in the future.
 - What are the steps needed to make your dream happen? (For Jean it started with flying lessons). Write the steps on pieces of card and look at them often.
 - In the story, other children teased Jean, but it helped to talk to her Grandad because she respected what he said. When it feels difficult to hold onto your dream, talk to someone who cares for you.
 - What does 'inspire' mean? As a child, Jean read about people who inspired her, such as Florence Nightingale. Who has inspired you and made you feel excited about having dreams?