

## 12.

*Is that you Ruthie?*

## Creative writing activity sheet

1. Use the table below to identify some of the characters in the story. Make notes about what happens to them during the story and their relationship to Ruthie.

Character	Relationship to Ruthie
Make notes on the characters you have identified and what happens to them during the story.	How is this character related to Ruthie? How do their actions affect Ruthie?

2. In *Is that you Ruthie?* Ruth Hegarty tells her story from her own personal perspective. Through her we learn about what happen at the Cherbourg Aboriginal Mission and how she felt about it. However the other people in the story also have a point of view.
- a. Using the information through your reading and your character comparisons, write your own version of one of the following events from the text. Your version should show the same event, but with a different viewpoint. (*You will need additional paper*)
- Use evidence from the text (shown below) to make your writing credible.
- b. Share your writing with others and discuss the decisions you have made.

## Scene 1 – Ruby and Ruthie are separated:

When it finally came, Mum was not ready for the separation. How could she be? No mother would willingly give up her child, but mothers were powerless when Matron made these decisions. I was anxious to start school so I'd be with my friends. I did not know that this would also mean I would be taken away from my mother. Mum said I could barely get to sleep that night I was so excited.

From *Is that you Ruthie?* by Ruth Hegarty. P. 26.

### Points of view:

- Adopt Ruby's (Ruthie's mum) perspective. What was it like to be separated from your child? How did you feel?
- Adopt the Matron's perspective. Why have you decided to send Ruthie to school? Why do you believe separating Ruthie from her mother will be good for her? For Ruby? For the community?

## Scene 2 – Ruthie finds out that she will be sent out to work as a domestic:

Matron ordered, "You're to go over to the office, Ruth. Eric will take you over" I was glad the policeman taking me over to the office was my favourite uncle, Eric. We walked over not saying much, I was hoping I wouldn't be sent away before the kids came home from school. "Please," I said to myself. "Don't send me today." Mr Smith, the clerk in charge of issuing instructions when we went to work, called me into his office and informed me that the time had come for me to be sent out to work.

I was glad when he told me I was not to go for a couple of days. As he talked he completed the paper work and, even before I left his office, I was given a lecture about how to conduct myself when out working.

From *Is that you Ruthie?* by Ruth Hegarty. Pg. 97.

### Points of view:

- Adopt Uncle Eric's point of view. How do you feel about seeing another member of your family sent out to work as a domestic servant?
- Adopt Mr Smith's perspective. Why have you made the decision to send Ruthie out to work? Why do you think this will be good for Ruthie? For the community? For the government?

