

RANDOM HOUSE TEACHERS' RESOURCE KIT

Finder's Shore

Anna Mackenzie

'Mackenzie has a terrific feeling for dramatic pace, and for the emotional and physical landscape her beleaguered teens inhabit.' — Margie Thompson

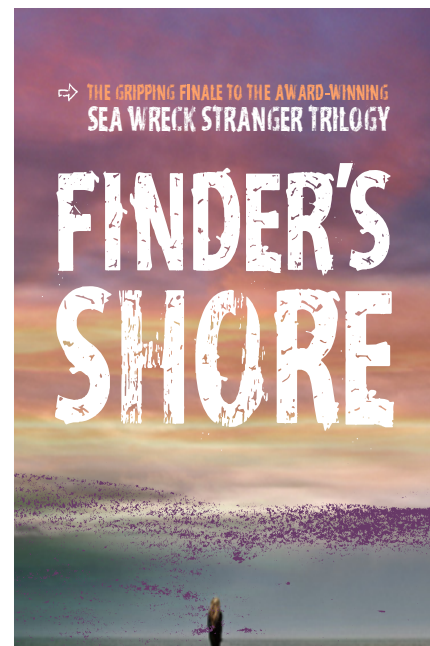
A year on from the aggressive attacks against them, the farming community at Ebony Hill still shows the cracks. Everyone is uneasy — workers watch their backs when out in the fields. When it becomes clear the paramilitaries aren't about to give up, hard decisions must be made. The attention of Vidya's governors turns to the ocean, and the islands.

Can our heroine Ness risk going back to the Island of Dunnett, the home she narrowly escaped? If she does, what will she find? How will she deal with the legacy of her defection and the scars it has left on those she loves? The ties of blood that bind Ness threaten to tear her apart, while new currents drag at her, shifting her course.

The final book in the *Sea-wreck Stranger* trilogy is a haunting exploration of belonging, of Ness's attempts to make whole the tangled threads of her heart, of the stark and unsettling reality of ambition and greed.



Anna Mackenzie lives with her husband and children on a farm in Hawke's Bay where she avoids farmwork, grows an excess of vegetables, and fills her time with words. *Finder's Shore* is her sixth novel and sequel to *The Sea-wreck Stranger* and *Ebony Hill*.



SPECIFICATIONS

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Extent: 224pp
Readership: 13+

RESOURCE KIT CONTAINS

- Before reading
- Language
- Characters
- Themes
- Comprehension
- Creative responses

Price (GST inclusive) and author details are correct at the time of writing but are subject to change without notice. Visit www.randomhouse.co.nz for up-to-date information.

Before reading

1. What does the cover picture indicate that the book is about?
2. When and where might the story be set?
3. What does the title suggest to you?
4. This novel is part of a trilogy. Write a one-page summary of each of the previous books to explain to readers what they are about.
5. Choose another trilogy from literature. Write a description of the books or an author study.
6. Read the author's dedication (p. 5). If you wrote a book, who would you dedicate it to and what would the dedication say?

Language

1. Figurative language is used to convey ideas that might otherwise be difficult to express. Two examples of figurative language are metaphors and similes. Examples of these are, 'slender as a thread of light beneath a door' (p. 15) and 'Silence pools around us, clotted with memories' (p. 18). Find more examples of each type of figurative language in the book.
2. What do you think the genre of this book is? List the aspects that are indicative of this genre.
3. The story is told in the first person narrative. Why do you think the author chose to do this? Is it effective? Choose a passage from the book and rewrite it in the third person narrative. Which type of narrative do you prefer and why?
4. The author uses symbolism in the book. What might the phrases 'nettle-tongued wife' (p. 96) and 'she-cat' (p. 133) symbolise? Think of some other examples of symbolism.
5. The author uses personification to help describe inanimate objects, for example, 'The shriek of a siren' (p. 23). Write a sentence using personification to describe some inanimate objects found around your school.
6. The author uses animal imagery in similes, for example, 'I'm still flapping like a beached fish' (p. 16) and 'I tug at the dinghy's rope and lead it bucking like a pony' (p. 70). Find two more examples of animal imagery in the book. Think of ten other animals and create a simile for each.
7. The author uses food imagery in similes, for example, 'Brenon's smile sits like a slice of lemon on his face' (p. 14) and 'The dark feels thick as treacle' (p. 69). Think of ten other types of food and create a simile for each.
8. What figure of speech might the words 'eager and diffident' (p. 16) and 'plea and defiance' (p. 179) represent? Think of some more examples of this figure of speech. Write a poem using the words you have chosen as a title or within the body of the poem.
9. 'There's an old saying about not putting your eggs in one basket lest they're all broken at once' (p. 52) and 'Can't make a cake without cracking a few eggs' (p. 148).

What do these sayings mean? Where do they come from? Are they the same as a proverb? Think of five other common sayings or proverbs and research the same questions.

10. 'Threadbare' is an example of a blend or portmanteau word (p. 149). What does this mean? Who invented the figure of speech 'portmanteau'? Find examples of some more blend words.
11. 'An island without boats seems an anomaly suddenly' (p. 152). What is an anomaly? Think of some other examples.
12. There are many episodes in the book that are full of suspense and tension.

Find an example from the book. What techniques does the author use to heighten the suspense? Write your own description of a suspenseful event.

13. Find definitions for the following words which are taken from the novel and write one sentence for each.
 - chastened (p. 31)
 - prosaic (p. 37)
 - litany (p. 44),
 - cavalier (p. 53)
 - carapace (p. 84)
 - credence (p. 96)
 - quiescent' (p. 156)
 - feral (p. 158)
 - garrulous (p. 202)
 - tangent (p. 214)

Characters

1. Think of five adjectives to describe Ness.
2. Do you think Ness is a realistic character? Why or why not?
3. Ness describes herself at one point as reverting to her childhood traits of being 'stubborn and mutinous' (p. 82). What other personality traits do you think Ness has? Find examples of when she displays each of the traits.
4. How has Ness changed and developed by the end of the book?
5. What are the different pressures on Ness throughout the novel? What factors lead to the decisions she makes and how does she cope with the situations she finds herself in?
6. What do you think Ness learns in this book?
7. How does Ness and Ronan's relationship change throughout the novel? When is the turning point in their relationship? How does their relationship compare to Lara and Devdan's?
8. Choose an important event from the novel and describe Ness's reaction to it.
9. Draw a picture of one of these characters based on their physical descriptions.
 - Brenon (p. 14)
 - Dev (p. 54)
 - Kush (p. 67)
 - Sophie (p. 75)
 - Ely (p. 165)
 - Yan (p. 204).
10. Jofeia is described as 'slender and sloe-eyed' (p. 12). Pick two adjectives to describe yourself.
11. Truso's laugh is one of the things Ness remembers most clearly about him (p. 13). Write down one characteristic for five people you know and explain why you have chosen it.
12. Write a character study of Kush, Farra, Ty, Willum, Sophie, Lara or Jiordo.
13. Which character do you most identify with and why?

Themes

1. Discuss the following themes and find examples from the book which illustrate each.
 - Immigration and colonisation
 - The future of our planet
 - Environmental sustainability
 - Government control

Comprehension

1. Why does Ness wrap her arm around herself when she sees Ronan (p. 9)?
2. Jofeia and Brenon both want Ness to join the Scouts (p. 15). What are their reasons for wanting her to join? At this point in the novel do you think Ness would chose to join the Scouts? Why or why not?
3. Why do they have to keep Flet in the shed (p. 27)? Do you think the reasons for this decision are justified? Why or why not?
4. What does the child's skepticism of Ness tell us about the prejudices or knowledge of Vidya's citizens with regard to the islands (p. 39)?
5. How has Ness 'lost half a day' (p. 50)?
6. Why would Colm be the biggest opponent to Marta's plan (p. 58)? List the main elements of the plan that he would oppose.
7. Ness realises that her feelings for Devdan are different from Lara's (p. 66). Why are her feelings different and how is Ness dealing with this realisation?
8. Why do you think Sophie tells Ness to go even after she has been so resentful (p. 78)? How does Ness react?
9. Why has Ronan only mentioned his brother two times in three years (p. 88)?
10. Why is Ness sure that Merryn's reminder of the help she has given to the Shehans over the years is intentional (p. 95)? Do you agree or disagree?
11. How does Ness help Ronan (p. 108)?
12. Why does Ness feel guilty (p. 114)? Do you think her feelings are justified?
13. Why does the stranger help Ness to find Wilum's house (p. 121)?
14. Why does Ty hesitate before boarding the dinghy (p. 142)?
15. Why does Ness ask Lara to call at the headland on the way to Tarbet (p. 152)?
16. What does Ness feel remorseful about (p. 160)?
17. What is Farra's reaction to Ton's accusation of murder (p. 171)? Do you agree with him? Why or why not?
18. Why won't Dev let Ness help him row the dinghy (p. 181)?
19. Why does Ness continue changing the dressing on Ronan's hand (p. 188)?
20. What does Dev think they might be over-reacting to (p. 202)? Do you agree or disagree with his opinion?
21. What does 'devil's advocate' mean (p. 213)?
22. Why is Mika's baby important for Ister (p. 216)?

Creative responses

Chapter One

1. The first two sentences of the novel are about blood and memories binding Ness to Ebony Hill (p. 7). Write a descriptive paragraph or poem about the ties that bind you to a place that is significant to you.
2. Ness states that she 'can see at a glance why the first settlers came here' (p. 9). Who were the early settlers in your area of New Zealand? Where did they come from and why did they leave their home country? Where, when and how did they arrive? What conditions did they face upon arrival? What did they do when they arrived? Imagine you are a settler. Where would you settle and why?
3. Ronan tells Ness they have sentries posted (p. 10). Imagine you are a sentry and write a sentry's report to present to Truso. If you had to protect your school, where would you place sentries and why?
4. There are new fortifications at Ebony Hill (p. 10). Draw an illustration of the fortifications. Research another method of fortification from New Zealand's past. Explore ideas such as how the fortifications were built, who they protected the inhabitants from, and what this type of fortification tells us about the society that used to inhabit the fortified area. Present your findings to the class.
5. Ness feels that 'Even a few days at Home Farm have unlocked the knots of tension' (p. 11). Write a descriptive paragraph or a poem about a place that does the same for you.
6. Ness has finished her apprenticeship (p. 12). Choose a vocation that interests you and find out what an apprenticeship in this vocation involves. Write a report for someone who may be interested in an apprenticeship.
7. Truso tells Ness that the protocols at Ebony Hill

are more rigorous than those at Home Farm (p. 13). Imagine and write a list of the protocols for the Ebony Hill community. In a group, imagine you have set up a new community. Create your own protocols.

8. Some of Vidya's citizens are unhappy about the farm patrols (p. 13). Find out about the protocols of public meetings. In a group, imagine you are the citizens and authorities of Vidya and act out a public meeting about this issue.

Chapter Two

9. Amar makes speeches 'about the greater good and making a difference on a large scale' (p. 17). Write out a speech Amar might make to Ness and present it to your class.
10. Ness mentions that Marta is her mentor (p. 18). What is the role of a mentor? Choose a mentor. Write a description of them and the reasons you have chosen them.
11. Tino doesn't allow women in the field crews (p. 19). Do you agree or disagree with sexual equality in the workplace? Why or why not?
12. Tino's niece took her own life rather than live with the memory of what happened to her (p. 19). What support is available for friends and family of the victims of suicide? Find out if there is a support organisation based in New Zealand.
13. Truso states that 'They trawled for dregs when they resettled this place' (p. 21). Find an historical rogue from among the early settlers in New Zealand and write a character description about them.

Chapter Three

14. Hetti has been missing for a year (p. 25). Create a missing person profile or poster.

15. Hetti's human rights were abused when she was captured (pp 32–33). Find out about others whose human rights have been or are being abused. How are they being helped? What agencies have been set up to help them? How can you help? Set up and design a charity campaign to help and think about things like the marketing techniques you would use.
16. Ness wonders if Hetti's testimony about Flet will protect him (p. 34). Imagine and write out Hetti's testimony.

Chapter Four

17. 'Hetti's story has spread outwards in ripples of fear' (p. 35). Imagine you are a journalist and Hetti's story has been leaked. Write a newspaper report on it and the effect it is having on Vidya and the farm communities.
18. Ness tells the child on the jigger about the islands off the mainland (p. 39). Choose and research an island off the coast of New Zealand. Find out about things like the location, geology, population and wildlife.
19. Farra gives a 'fanciful description' of Vidya (p. 40). Write a fanciful description of your local area.
20. Farra tells of the 'tiny little people who live in the rubble' (p. 40). Use this as a starting point to write and illustrate a children's picture book based on the rubble people.
21. Ness wonders where the first stories came from (p. 41). Find a traditional children's story or nursery rhyme and research its origin and meaning.
22. The jigger Ness is riding is caught in a rock fall (pp 42–43). Write an eyewitness account of the rock fall from another passenger's point of view, such as the mother or child.

Chapter Five

23. Ness wonders how it would feel to be the last family left like Ronan's was on Ister (p. 50).

Imagine that yours is the last family left in your local area. Write a diary entry about what event caused you to be the only one left. What did you do to survive? How did you feel?

Chapter Six

24. Marta reminds Ness that the governors are obliged to consider the well-being of the Vidya community (p. 53). Find out who protects the well-being of your community and write a formal letter to them about a community issue that concerns you. Research the procedures involved in lobbying against a decision that has been made for your community that you disagree with.
25. Ronan and Ness discuss the city's food supply (p. 57). Discover where the food you eat comes from. For example, is it local, imported, organic, ethical?
26. Ness states that the Dunnett 'islanders' prejudices are too ingrained' (p. 59). Research the psychology behind, and list the main components of, successful brain washing. Give an example from history when this has been used to create prejudices against strangers, as in the novel.
27. Ness believes that the mainland and Dunnett could be successful trading partners (p. 61). Imagine you have to set up an information booth for your local area or for New Zealand at an international trade fair advertising what New Zealand has on offer to trade. What would your booth look like and what information would it contain?

Chapter Seven

28. From the ship, Ness only sees the clouds around the island's hills (p. 64). What is the Maori name for New Zealand and its English translation? Find out the English translations of some other countries' names.
29. Ness has a premonition of disaster (p. 67). Do you believe in premonitions? Research Nostradamus and his premonitions.

Chapter Eight

30. Ness says it is the smells of 'kelp and brine and damp, sandy earth — telling me where I am' (p. 73). Write a 'smell-description' of different areas of your school.
31. Ness describes her cousin Sophie (p. 75). Write a physical description of a member of your family.
32. Sophie mentions the trial that was held by the Council (p. 77). Write a script for how this trial might have proceeded and act it out.
33. Sophie interrupts Ness's description of the mainland (p. 77). Imagine that she was not interrupted and continue the description.

Chapter Nine

34. Ness's eyes follow a kittiwake (p. 82). Find out the names of three other sea birds. Research and write an illustrated report on their habitats, food, calls and mating rituals.
35. Ronan answers Ness's question with the lift of an eyebrow (p. 83). Think of some other examples of non-verbal communication.
36. Ness sketches an outline of the last three years to Merryn (pp 91–92). Write a summary or timeline of the events that have taken place for Ness or yourself over the last three years.

Chapter Ten

37. Merryn states that she knows Abelton 'only by reputation' (p. 98). Choose a figure you know only by reputation. Write a character description of them.
38. Colm was going to lay a charge of treason against Ty and Sophie (p. 98). Find out the legal definition of treason. Find five other terms from legal language and their definitions.
39. Ness must memorise the names and addresses Merryn gives her (p. 99). Research

some memorisation tools and techniques and test them on your classmates.

Chapter Eleven

40. Ness and Ronan's escape from Dunnett Island is a suspense-filled action sequence (pp 102–110). Write your own suspense-filled action sequence.

Chapter Twelve

41. Ness states that 'The Council will do whatever Colm says, out of fear. He isn't popular, just powerful' (p. 115). Research another powerful dictator from history who ruled by fear.
42. Ness thinks Malik's accent will be a problem when they go to Dunnett Island (p. 116). What is the name of someone who studies language? Find out the name for people who study the following things.
 - rocks
 - lichen
 - words
 - insects
 - maps
43. Lara is using an old map (p. 116). From memory draw and label a map of your school, local area or country.
44. Ness lists some of the herbs found in Merryn's medicine (p. 118). Research the use of plants for natural remedies. What plants are accessible in your local area that could be useful for medicinal purposes?

Chapter Thirteen

45. Malik and Ness steal some clothes to wear in order to blend in on Dunnett Island (p. 120). Design a Dunnett Island fashion collection using only natural materials.
46. Ness stares around Wilum's room (pp 123–124). Draw his room. Describe a place familiar to you and get a classmate to draw it based on your description.

47. Ty is working as an apprentice tanner (p. 127). What does this job entail?

48. Ness pays the barmaid with a local coin (p. 129). Design the Dunnett Island currency. Research the people found on the New Zealand currency.

Chapter Fourteen

49. Ness and Ty rest at a mausoleum (p. 137). Research the history of mausoleums.

50. Wilum tells Ness that Malik was 'like a bull with his nose freshly ringed' (p. 141) What does this suggest about his personality and actions? What animal would be symbolic of you, your personality and actions?

Chapter Fifteen

51. Wilum mentions Colm's 'fiefdom' (p. 148). What is a fiefdom? What period of history was it usually found in? Research the social conditions of this time.

52. Ness's mind is 'a whirl of images' (p. 149). Choose one of the images and write a detailed description of it.

Chapter Sixteen

53. Ness cradles the pot of Merryn's salve 'as if it's a talisman' (p. 157). What is a talisman? What are other examples of talismans?

54. The images of the prisoners tortured at Ebony Hill burn behind Ness's eyes (p. 160). Investigate the human rights of prisoners of war. What organisations have been set up to draw attention to this issue?

Chapter Seventeen

55. The author describes the first rays of sun (p. 163). Write a haiku poem describing either a sunrise or a sunset.

56. The few horses found on Dunnett Island are mostly reserved for pulling carts (p. 164). Research a modern-day community that

shuns automobiles and other technologies. Would you want to live in such a community? Why or why not?

57. Colm wants to save Ness for the 'Cleansing Day fires' (p. 165). Research another period in history when people were sentenced to death by burning. Who was chosen for this punishment and why? Do you think it was deserved?

58. What is a 'banshee wail' (p. 166)? Where did this term originate? Think of ten other mythical creatures.

59. Abelton states that Ty is his property (p. 173). Research the history of slavery from a period and place of your choosing.

60. Wilum says that he will give his testimony happily (p. 173). Write out Wilum's testimony.

Chapter Eighteen

61. Ness did not have time to gather any mementos of her past when she left Skellap Bay three years ago (p. 178). If you had to gather some mementos to place in a time capsule, what would they be and where would you bury the capsule? Research a time capsule that has been found. What was inside it? Why do you think these items were chosen?

62. Farra says Sophie will be in shock (p. 179). What are the symptoms of shock and how do you treat them?

63. Farra says men like Colm 'leave a legacy' (p. 180). Choose an historical figure who has left a legacy and write an obituary.

Chapter Nineteen

64. Ness tells Ty about her life (p. 183). Choose one of the events she mentions and write a description of it from Ness's point of view.

65. Ness cooks to help her feel less redundant (p. 186). What do you do in your spare time?

66. Ness lists the meals she has prepared from the fish (p. 186). Choose a fish dish and write out the recipe for it.

Chapter Twenty

67. Lara wants to take a catch from the southern limit of the safe fishing zone (p. 192). Where are the fishing areas around New Zealand? What are the laws and regulations surrounding them? Which species of fish are allowed to be fished and which methods are permitted?
68. Ronan describes the Ister headland as a 'peak shaped like a fist' (p. 195). Choose a prominent landmark from your local area and describe it.
69. Ronan and Ness walk past an old play area (p. 197). Either design a new playground for children in your local area, or investigate an existing playground and make some improvements. Create a presentation of your new design or improvements for your local council.
70. Mika suffers from 'chronic oedema' (p. 205). Research this disease. List the symptoms and possible cures.

Chapter Twenty-One

71. The survivors came from a ship called Nemo (p. 210). Which literary character could this ship possibly be named after? Write a character, book or author study based on your findings.
72. Farra and Ty discuss which jobs they could do in the new settlement (p. 213). Take a poll of what jobs you and your classmates could do if you were settlers on Ister.
73. Ness feels that her whole life has been transformed in less than four days on Ister (p. 214). Write a description of an event or time in your life that has transformed your world.

Chapter Twenty-Two

74. Ness and Ronan walk past the huge windmills (p. 215). What methods of creating electricity are used for your local area? Do you think windmills are a worthwhile method for producing electricity? Why or why not?
75. Ness hears the 'island's song' (p. 217). Imagine you are commissioned to write Ister's official anthem or song. Write the lyrics.

General Questions

76. Design a health and safety or instructional pamphlet on an issue that is mentioned in the book, such as:
- Food poisoning (p. 20)
 - Sea safety (p. 69)
 - Rock-climbing (p. 87)
 - First aid techniques (p. 108)
 - Self-defence (p. 130)
77. Divide into teams and choose one of the following quotes from the novel to debate.
- 'Fear's not always a bad thing.' (p. 57)
 - 'I regret the need to steal, even for a good cause.' (p. 120)
 - 'We've all the right to judge right from wrong.' (p. 170)
 - 'There's nothing wrong with wanting all the world to be at peace.' (p. 180)
78. Imagine that you are Ness. Write a letter to Marta about all that has happened to you on Ister.
79. Imagine that you are Lara. Write a report about the sea expedition to Dunnett and Ister islands.
80. Write a diary entry about one of the main events in the book from the point of view of one of the following characters.
- Ness
 - Ty
 - Ronan
 - Wilum
 - Kush
 - Malik
 - Merryn

81. Write a dramatic monologue from Sophie's point of view imagining the experiences she's had since Ness left Dunnett Island. Include the trial, her decision to marry Colm, and her reaction to the way he treated her. Perform it for the class.
82. Rewrite one of the climactic scenes as a film script. If your school has filming equipment, produce your scene.
83. Do you think the novel could be made into a dramatic film or TV programme? Write a letter in support of the film for possible investors and design a poster advertising the film or TV version of the novel. Think about which actors you would like to use to portray the book characters. Why would you choose these actors?
84. Design your own front cover and write your own version of the back cover blurb for the novel.
85. Write a review of the book, aiming it at the readership of your favourite magazine or newspaper.