

 <p>Rabbit Proof Fence - locations in Australia</p>	 <p>Rabbit-Proof Fence 3SAT Jan 6</p>	 <p>Doris Pilkington Garimara / Phillip Noyce</p>
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Background info at: <http://gho-englisch.de/Courses/2008-2009/E-10/E10b-2008.htm>

Review: While "Rabbit-Proof Fence" may be a somewhat simple tale, it is told beautifully, with majestic, powerful imagery and a rich score. Its acting is amazing, especially given the fact that the three leads are newcomers. The film opens in 1931 Australia, where Chief Protector of the Aborigine Populace, Mr. Neville (Kenneth Branagh) has decided that all of the children who are the offspring of a white parent and Aborigine parent will be taken into custody, and raised by a school system, with an intent to train them to be domestic servants or factory workers. They were taken, by force, from their parents and loved ones. // "Rabbit-Proof Fence" focuses on three children: Molly (Everlyn Sampi) is 14, Daisy (Tianna Sansbury) is 8 and Gracie (Laura Monaghan) is 10. Early in the film, there is a powerful and heartbreaking scene, as the three are wrestled away from their parents. They arrive at a school over a thousand miles away, but can't take the rules of the place and the fact that they've been separated from their loved ones. // After a while, the three finally make a successful escape attempt, deciding to follow the "rabbit-proof fence" that stretches 1,500 miles, and will - nine weeks later - lead them back to their home. Although they're being tracked by a local hunter (David Gulpilil, who also starred in "Walkabout") and the authorities, the girls survive on their instincts and help from others along the way. // Director Phillip Noyce, who gained fame from the small drama of "Dead Calm" and gained popularity from "Clear and Present Danger" and "Patriot Games", seems to enjoy returning to a minimalist style. At 94 minutes, the film is tight and well-paced, keeping its focus on the human story at its core rather than devoting much time to the surroundings (although we still get an idea of how sparse the land was and how harsh the conditions were). Noyce skillfully handles the tension and strongly portrays the danger the girls face from both their trackers and the environment they must journey across. There's no melodrama here, just the focus on a compelling and remarkable tale of three girls who survive on the hope that they will return home. // The three girls offer astonishing performances that are both powerful and remarkably convincing. They seem like experienced actors, even though they have never been in a film before. They are assisted not only by a good supporting cast, but by several other aspects; Phillip Noyce provides strong direction, Peter Gabriel provides a compelling, emotional score that never calls attention to himself and cinematographer Christopher Doyle provides some truly memorable images. // Overall, this is a terrific film, wonderfully portraying the bravery that these girls showed in their attempt to defy a terrible government system. The final scenes show that the horrors these strong, brave souls were had to face were not yet over - and that these Aboriginal people would never let their spirit be broken, and never give up their freedom.

Assignments: 1) Find words in the text which have a similar meaning to these words or phrases: take away, concentrate, follow, amazing, after some time **2)** On the basis of the review and your knowledge of the movie, make suggestions for 3 scenes we should analyse in detail in class. Give reasons for your choice.

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