



The London lights are far abeam
Behind a bank of cloud,
Along the shore the gaslights gleam,
The gale is piping loud;
And down the Channel, groping blind,
We drive her through the haze
Towards the land we left behind—
The good old land of "never mind",
And old Australian ways.

The narrow ways of English folk
Are not for such as we;
They bear the long-accustomed yoke
Of staid conservancy:
But all our roads are new and strange,
And through our blood there runs
The vagabonding love of change
That drove us westward of the range
And westward of the suns.

The city folk go to and fro
Behind a prison's bars,
They never feel the breezes blow
And never see the stars;
They never hear in blossomed trees
The music low and sweet
Of wild birds making melodies,
Nor catch the little laughing breeze
That whispers in the wheat.

Our fathers came of roving stock
That could not fixed abide:
And we have followed field and flock
Since e'er we learnt to ride;
By miner's camp and shearing shed,
In land of heat and drought,
We followed where our fortunes led,
With fortune always on ahead
And always farther out.

The wind is in the barley-grass,
The wattles are in bloom;
The breezes greet us as they pass
With honey-sweet perfume;
The parakeets go screaming by
With flash of golden wing,
And from the swamp the wild-ducks cry
Their long-drawn note of revelry,
Rejoicing at the Spring.



OLD AUSTRALIAN WAYS (CONTINUED)

So throw the weary pen aside
And let the papers rest,
For we must saddle up and ride
Towards the blue hill's breast:
And we must travel far and fast
Across their rugged maze,
To find the Spring of Youth at last,
And call back from the buried past
The old Australian ways.

When Clancy took the drover's track
In years of long ago,
He drifted to the outer back
Beyond the Overflow;
By rolling plain and rocky shelf,
With stockwhip in his hand,
He reached at last (oh, lucky elf!)
The Town of Come-and-Help-Yourself
In Rough-and-Ready Land.

And if it be that you would know
The tracks he used to ride,
Then you must saddle up and go
Beyond the Queensland side,
Beyond the reach of rule or law,
To ride the long day through,
In Nature's homestead—filled with awe,
You then might see what Clancy saw
And know what Clancy knew.





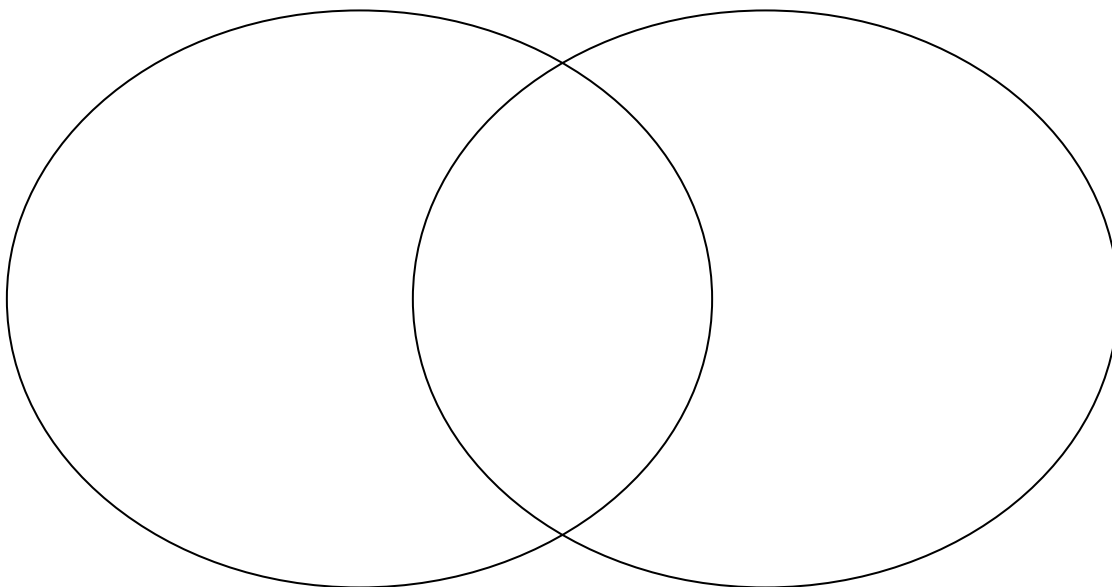
A. Vocabulary

1. In your own words, explain the meaning of the following words as they appear in the context of the poem:
 - a. Abeam
 - b. Yoke
 - c. Staid
 - d. Conservancy
 - e. Vagabonding
 - f. Abide
 - g. Revelry
 - h. Awe

2. Write the transcript of a conversation between an Englishman and an Australian using all of the above words.

B. Australia Vs England

1. How does the poet compare and contrast Australia and England? Use the poem's descriptions of the two countries and their people to complete the Venn diagram below.



- In the left hand circle, note the characteristics that only apply to Australia.
- In the right hand circle, note the characteristics that only apply to England.
- In the section where the circles overlap, note those features that are common to both countries.

B. Australia Vs England (continued)

2. Sensory language is language that appeals to the senses, i.e. taste, sight, hearing, smell and touch. For example the phrase “the gale is piping loud” is an example of sensory language that relates to hearing. Complete the following table for the poem Old Australian Ways. Identify all the examples of sensory language.

SENSE	EXAMPLE OF SENSORY LANGUAGE
SIGHT	
HEARING	
SMELL	
TOUCH	
TASTE	

3. Banjo Patterson uses a lot of personification in this poem. Identify all the examples of personification used.
4. What is Banjo Patterson’s purpose in using so much personification? What is its effect?
5. Imagine that England and Australia are actually people. Answer the questions in the table on the following page for each country.



OLD AUSTRALIAN WAYS WORKSHEET PAGE 3



B. Australia Vs England (continued)

	ENGLAND	AUSTRALIA
How old am I?		
List some of the words I use regularly in conversation.		
What are my hobbies?		
What kind of music do I like?		
How tall am I?		
What is my favourite food?		
What is my favourite season?		
What is my favourite sport?		
What is my complexion?		
What is my favourite colour?		
What is my occupation?		
Am I male or female?		
How strong am I?		
What kind of clothes do I wear?		
What is my favourite flower?		
What is my favourite animal?		



OLD AUSTRALIAN WAYS WORKSHEET PAGE 4



B. Australia Vs England (continued)

6. Use your responses and some other ideas of your own to write a personification poem that compares and contrasts England and Australia.

C. Extension Tasks

1. Imagine that you are Banjo Patterson on a visit to England. Write a letter to a friend in Australia outlining your experiences in England. You should include details of what you have seen and how you feel. Use the information in the poem as a basis for your letter.
2. Imagine that you are an English poet and that you have just read Banjo Patterson's poem Old Australian Ways. Write a poem in rebuttal outlining the positive aspects of England and the English, as well as the negative aspects of Australia and Australians.
3. Use the poem's description of Australia to design a promotional tourism campaign. Your advertisement can take the form of a poster or a television advertisement to be shown overseas.

