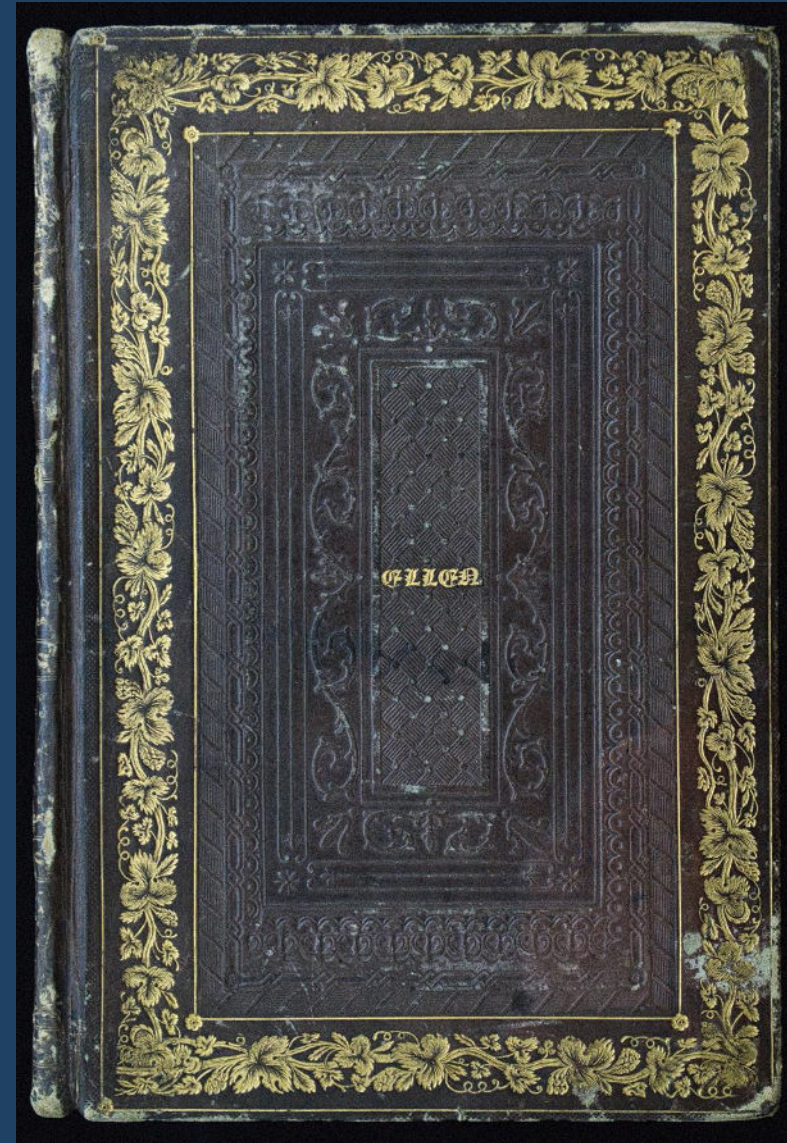


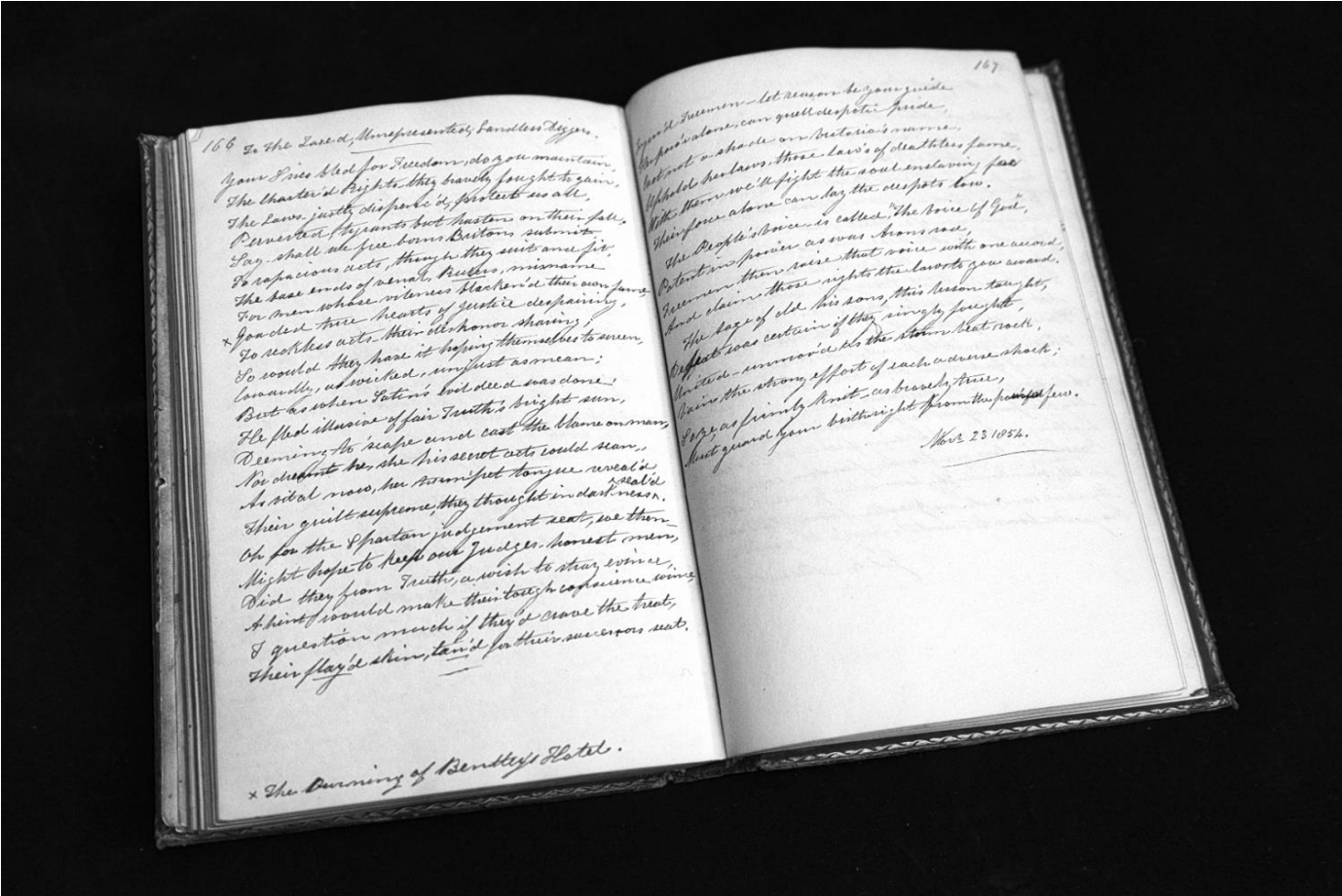
# POEMS FROM THE BALLARAT POETESS

## ELLEN YOUNG ON THE GOLDFIELDS



Ellen Young,  
Untitled Notebook,  
Donated to Ballarat East  
Library, 1911  
Australian Research  
Collection,  
City of Ballarat.

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Untitled Notebook,  
Donated to Ballarat East  
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THIS IS A PAGE FROM A BOOK  
OF POETRY BY ELLEN YOUNG.

WHO WAS ELLEN YOUNG?

- An Englishwoman
- Lived on the Ballarat Goldfields
- Wrote poems about her life

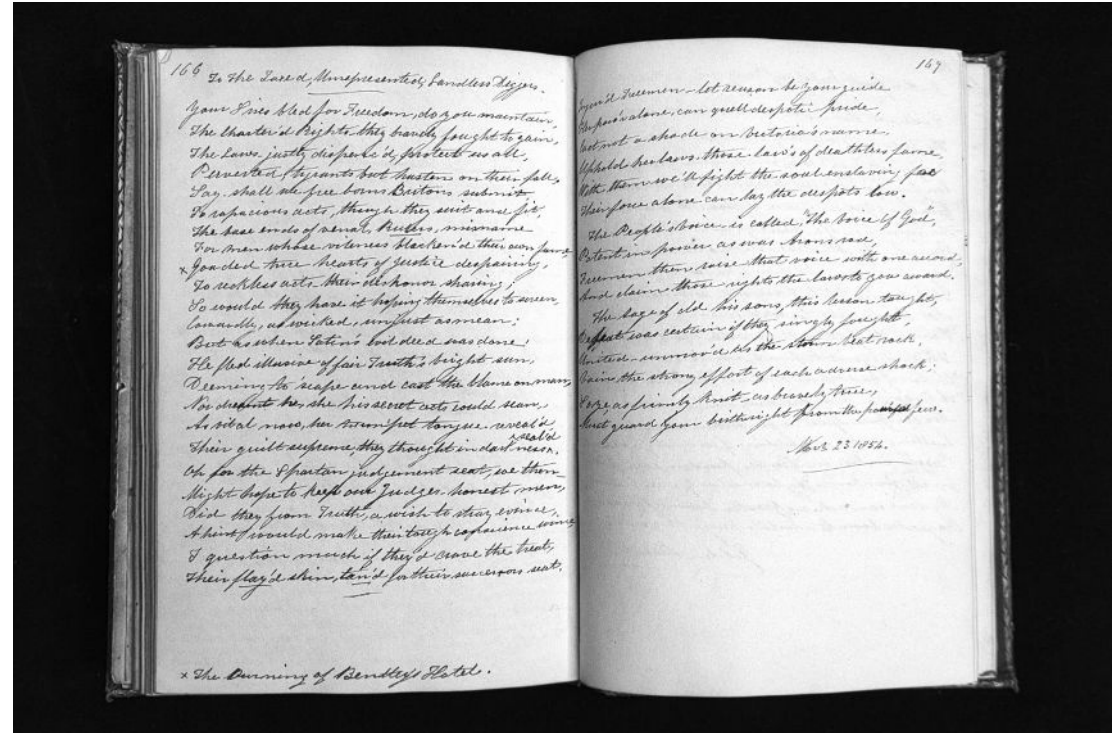
DISCUSSION TOPIC

Why are objects like this book of poetry useful when studying history?



# Ellen Young sent poems to the newspaper

The Ballarat Times  
1 January 1855



Ellen Young,  
Untitled Notebook,  
Donated to Ballarat  
East Library, 1911  
Australian  
Research  
Collection,  
City of Ballarat.

She also wrote her poems in a book and gave it to the Ballarat Library

What are some of the differences between the two documents?

Click to listen  
to the poem



## TRANSCRIPTION

If you've not been to Ballarat,  
Then stay away from there;  
I would not have my worst foe's cat  
To have such sorry fare.

For sorry fare is what you'll get,  
From butcher, baker, store,  
And all your just complaints are met  
With threats to have no more.

## DISCUSSION TOPIC



Does Ellen like living in Ballarat?  
How do you know?

### **BALLARAT.**

If you've not been to Ballarat,  
Then stay away from there;  
I would not have my worst foe's cat  
To have such sorry fare.

For sorry fare is what you'll get,  
From butcher, baker, store,  
And all your just complaints are met  
With threats to have no more.

Ellen Young  
*Ballarat*  
Geelong Advertiser and  
Intelligencer  
01 June 1854, p5

## ACTIVITY



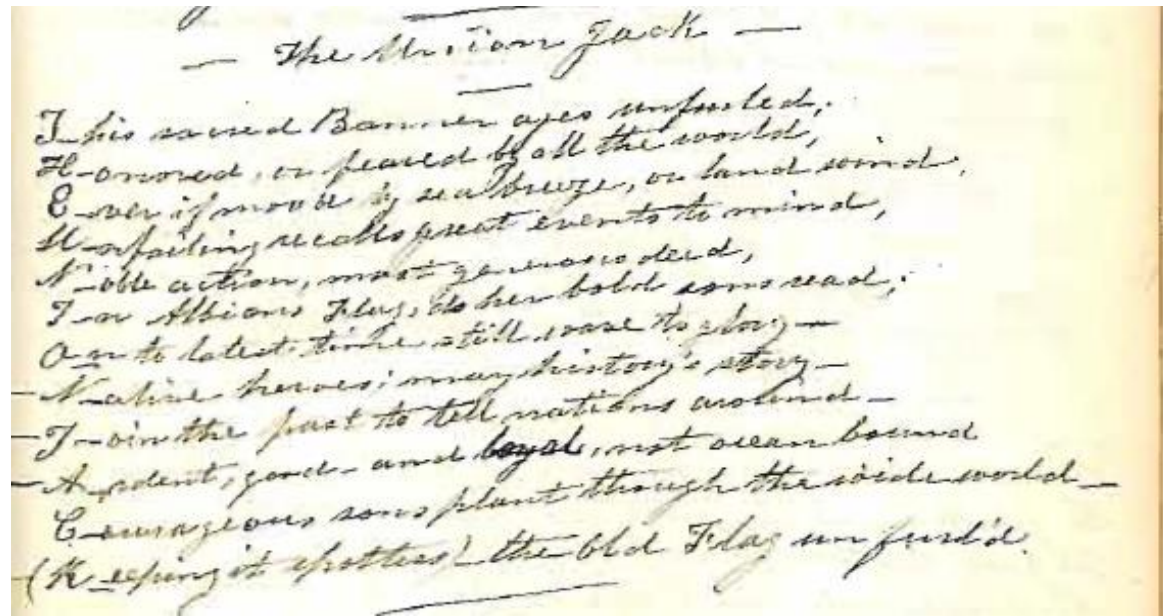
Some of the words Ellen uses are not very common any more. Have a look at the definitions below and then write down the meaning of the poem in your own words.

Foe: enemy

Fare: food

Just: reasonable





## ACTIVITY

This is an acrostic poem. That means that the first letter of each line spells out the subject of the poem. Acrostic poems can be about anything: people, animals, or even objects! Ellen Young was from England and wrote about the English (British) flag.

Choose something that reminds you of Australia from the list below (or come up with your own) and write an acrostic poem:

- Eucalyptus
- Vegemite
- Kangaroo
- Bunyip

## TRANSCRIPTION

### The Union Jack

T-his sacred Banner ages unfurled;  
H-onoured or feared by all the world,  
E-ver if moved by sea breeze, or land wind  
U-nfailing recalls great events to mind  
N-oble action, most glorious deed  
I-n Albion Flag do her bold sons read;  
O-n to latest time still arose to glory  
N-ative heroes; may history's story  
J-oin the past to tell nations around  
A-rdent good and loyal, not ocean bound  
C-ourageous son's plant through the wide world  
(K-eeing it spotless) the Old Flag unfurled

## DISCUSSION TOPIC

What are some of the difficulties in studying hand-written documents?

**EUREKA  
CENTRE**  
BALLARAT

CITY OF  
**BALLARAT** 



Education  
and Training