**Historical: (The Berlin Wall)**

After World War II the country of Germany ended up dividing into two separate countries: East Germany and West Germany. As the people of East Germany began to realise they did not want to live under the rule of the Soviet Union (where citizens had limited freedom) they started to leave the eastern part of the country and move to the west. They called these people, ‘defectors’. Over time more and more people left, in 1960 alone around 230,000 people ‘defected’. In an attempt to stop people from defecting, the East German leaders built a wall around Berlin to prevent people from leaving. At first the wall was just a barbed wire fence, but it soon developed into a concrete wall which stood 12 feet high and four feet wide. In the 28 years of its existence, between 125 and 206 people were killed when trying to cross the Berlin Wall. At least 800 more people were killed outside Berlin, trying to cross from East Germany to the west. Official demolition of the Berlin Wall began in the summer of 1990. More than 40,000 wall sections were recycled and used for German reconstruction projects.

Here is an example of an Allegory based on the Berlin wall. Use this for inspiration: <https://storybird.com/books/the-riveran-allegory-of-the-berlin-wall/>

For more information: <https://www.ducksters.com/history/cold_war/berlin_wall.php>

**(The Gold Rush)**

The Australian gold rush was a large number of gold discoveries in Australia. Thousands of people came to Australia in the hope of finding a lot of gold and becoming rich. The rush started in 1851 when gold was found near Bathurst, New South Wales and ended with the last rush in 1893 to Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. At each place gold was easily found in rivers and creeks. This was known as alluvial gold and could be found by individual miners using very basic equipment such as a spade and a dish. In most places this alluvial gold was taken in the first few months. To get at the gold that was buried deeper in the ground meant that miners needed to work together and dig tunnels. Eventually large companies were started to raise money so that deep gold mines could be built.

The gold rushes happened when alluvial gold was found. Miners would quickly move there in the hope of being the first to find the surface gold. For example, miners rushing to Clunes, Victoria in August 1851, quickly changed their minds and went to Buninyong when they heard of a new gold discovery. Weeks later gold was found at Ballarat a few miles to the north and within six weeks there were more than 10,000 people digging. But by 1852 most miners had left Ballarat and rushed to the new goldfields at Bendigo. After, the eureka stockade started it was when the miners burned there licences and raised the Eureka stockade flag for respect. After fighting for all of the gold **lots of people died**. The gold rush finished in the 1850s.

To find out more about the gold rush: <https://www.historytoday.com/richard-cavendish/australian-gold-rush-begins>

**Political: (Plastic Pollution)**

Plastic pollution is killing Australia’s marine wildlife. According to the World Wildlife Fund, 80 per cent of marine pollution is generated by land-based activities and its having a devastating effect on our oceans. Approximately 10 million plastic bags are used a day in Australia and are one of the deadliest types of plastic pollution. They are the most problematic for marine animals as they can become caught in them and they often mistaken them for food – particularly jellyfish as they are so alarmingly alike. Once in their stomach, the space for normal food is reduced, feeding behaviour is altered and energy levels drop, often resulting in starvation. The complete ban of shopping bags in Victoria is now being implemented as you would have noticed around Geelong.

Write an Allegory which includes a moral and base it on the events of plastic pollution.

To learn more about plastic pollution in Australia: <https://www.marineconservation.org.au/pages/ban-the-bag.html>

**Social: (Marriage Equality)**

As we looked at in ‘The Sneetches’ it is very important not to discriminate against, or judge people for the way they look. Similarly, it is important not to judge people based on their sexuality. For generations, same-sex (a relationship between two people of the same sex) couples have been banned from marrying the person that they love. In 2016 the Australian Cencus counted for just under 46,800 same-sex couples living together, but not having the right to marry. The Australian Human Rights Commission considers that the fundamental human rights principle of equality means that civil marriage should be available, without discrimination, to all couples, regardless of sex, sexual orientation or gender identity. In 2017, after a lengthy voting process the Parliament amended the marriage law and joined over two dozen countries around the world in legislating for marriage equality.

To learn more about marriage equality in Australia: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/news/media-releases/human-rights-landmark-australia-legalises-marriage-equality>