



ONLY THE TOUGHEST

BY AVA HAWKINS | RICHMOND BRANCH

OUTBACK AUSTRALIA

My name is Ava Hawkins, I am 13 years old, and I live on a cattle station called Malakoff Downs, between Hughenden and Winton in Queensland. I wrote this poem, Outback Australia, for a writing task through Mount Isa School of the Air in year 6. I am currently a Grade 8 boarder at Fairholme College, Toowoomba, which is quite far from my home, but by reading this poem I can remember my home easily.



Ava Hawkins (foreground) with her sister Olivia Hawkins (background) at their home, Malakoff Downs

*The drought had begun,
Being signalled by the hot, red sun.
Beating down on the dry land,
Everyone trying to lend a helping hand.*

*This is the way of the Australian outback,
The life of those who live off the beaten track.
It can be hard to live here when times are dry,
But be patient as one day drops will fall from the blue sky.*

*When the clouds start brewing,
Everyone knows what the weather is doing.
But the answer everyone is chasing,
Is when will the drought be breaking.*

*It comes and goes year to year,
And everyone discusses it over the occasional beer.
There's nothing quite like a summer storm,
To see the earth being reborn.*

*The weather rules the Australian outback,
It determines the grass being green or black.
Some days you can look across the horizon,
And forget the times when everything is bleak and dyin'.*

*Only the toughest people live out here,
That is certainly clear.
It does not matter if it is wet or dry,
Our hearts belong where the earth meets the sky.*