

A film study designed with Year 11 English students in mind

This material is designed as a starting point for a film study, rather than as a package to be copied and used without reference to particular students, times and places. Please consider your local context, your students' interests and needs and the broader curriculum in your school and select, delete and modify accordingly. For example, *One Night the Moon* might be better suited to Year 12 or Year 10 students in your school depending on their interests, experiences, local context and cross-curricular links in your school. On the other hand, you might adapt some of the ideas and activities here to use with other film texts. If you do use this film or any of the ideas described here, please let me know with a view to sharing your experiences with other teachers.

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Contents

In designing this film study, I have used <u>Green's 3D model of literacy as</u> my starting point. Beginning here has allowed me to really focus on the text itself and the connections I can make between the text and students. In addition, this approach ensures that the study will lead students to explore the text in its complexity and bring together the technical and operational aspects of filmmaking with the social, cultural and political readings made available through the text.

Synopsis and production details

<u>Rationale</u>

Green's 3D Model and Film Studies

Green's 3D Model and textual analysis Using the 3D Model for planning

A range of possible classroom approaches and tasks

- This Land is Mine

- Flashbacks

- The Landscape

Some further activities

<u>Resources</u>

One Night the Moon Synopsis

"The Australian Outback. 1932. Entranced by the moon, a young girl steps out of her bedroom window. When her parents check on her, she is gone. The police suggest aboriginal tracker, Albert Yang, lead the search, but the father revolts – insisting there's to be "No blacks on my land." Instead, he gathers as many white men as he can find and conducts a line search across the desolate plains. Albert watches helplessly as every trace of the child is stamped to dust. Sometime later, with her daughter still missing, the mother makes a decision to act against the will of her husband and reconcile the loss of her child. She goes to find Albert......" (from the DVD Dust Jacket) This is based on a true story and the documentary made of these events, Black Tracker.

Production details

Director: Dir: Rachel Perkins; Sc: John Romeril **Music** composed by Kev Carmody, Paul Kelly, Maireed Hannah.

Cast: Kaarin Fairfax, Paul Kelly, Memphis Kelly, Kelton Pell, Ruby Hunter

Released 8.11.01 Country of Origin: Australia Language: English Genre Drama

Duration (mins.): 57 **Classification**: M 15+ Consumer advice: Adult themes

This film is readily available on DVD, and available from Tape Services. It was screened on ABC TV in late 2002 and in June 2003.

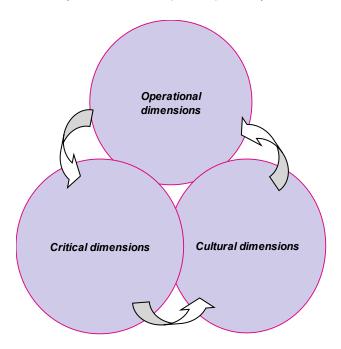
DVC Features include: Director's/cinematographer's commentaries as optional audio for the flim, Interviews, Scrapbook.

Rationale: Why this film study for these students at this time?

If you can't answer this question convincingly, then this is possibly not the right text for your class at this time. I chose this film for consideration because it touches on important social and political issues (racism, land rights, family). Although it is unlikely that many students would select this film for themselves in their out-of-school lives, I think it is important to give students a broad experience of film genres and styles. This is a short text that makes accessible a discussion of film technique, and particularly in relation to music, dialogue and setting. This film would connect on many levels with issues students will encounter across the curriculum, and particularly in Religious Education and Studies of Society and Environment.

What is Green's 3D Model of Literacy? How does it fit with film studies?

Green's 3D Model was developed as a framework for examining and planning teaching and learning that would take account of literacy as a socio-cultural practice, and particularly so in relation to ICTs. Put simply, the model brings together 3 dimensions of literacy practice: the operational (or "how to" of language), the cultural (meaning and social practice) and the critical (context, history and power).



The 3D model supports teaching and learning to address the complexity of the construction and consumption of texts. The 3D model moves us beyond a simplistic approach to support us in exploring and articulating the interrelationship between the operational aspects of language and texts, and the cultural, social and political constructions and nuances made available within texts. For example, in relation to One Night the Moon, discussion of relationships between characters would touch on

- how the filmmakers have depicted relationships through devices such as editing, music or camerawork (the operational dimension)
- our understandings and experiences of how relationships work, and the social construction and meaning associated with relationships (the *cultural* dimension)
- how we are positioned to regard relationships depicted in the film and the implications of such positioning (the *critical* dimension).

We should use our judgment to determine which of these 3 dimension is the best entry point for our students, but it becomes clear that a discussion of the text which addresses only one of these dot points above is rather limited, and that the richest, most complete discussions are those that move between and draw connections between the 3 dimensions.

Before designing classroom activities and assessment tasks, it is useful to read/view/analyse the text using the 3D model. Such analysis of the film text provides greater clarity for teachers in preparation for the design and delivery of balanced teaching and learning activities tasks. On the next page, I have documented the notes I made as I previewed (and reviewed) the film text. Although pen and paper are perfectly adequate, I like the ease and flexibility of the software programme, Inspiration which is available in many schools. (Click here for details re downloading a trial if this application is not available in your school.)

Using Green's
3D Model as a
tool for textual
analysis –an
important
step in
designing this
film study

(For electronic viewing, click on 'View' in the toolbar and zoom to 125%)

Operational dimensions: the "mechanics" and "how to" of film making

Some possible questions that begin here and connect with the cultural and critical dimensions:

What is it that makes this film a "musical"?
How is dialogue used?
Whywere these characters cast in these roles?
What is the setting, and why were these locations chosen?
Whyare some scenes shot showing characters alone and others shot with groups?

Why are some scenes snot showing characters alone and others shot with gloups?

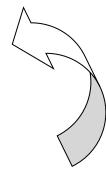
How have the filmmakers contrasted happier family times with the strain of the relationship after the daughter is lost?

When is the moon used and how is it filmed?
When is the films peed slowed down and for what effect?

Why are some camera locations and angles chosen over others (above the character, distant from or close to the character, panning or moving with the action)?

What factors were taken into account when they selected the homes for the tracker and the farmer? What do you notice about the first and last scenes of the film?

What musical mood and syles are evident in this film?



Critical: context, history and power relations within and around the film texs

Some possible questions that beg in here and connect with the operation all and cultural dimensions:

Who was involved in the making of this film and what can you learn of their culture and politics?

Whym ight this film have been made now, and what impact might the film makers and financiers be hoping for?

Whymight some viewers sympathise with Albert and condemn Jim?
Whywould some viewers feel sympathy for Jim?
Where do your sympathies lie, and why is that?

What do you think the film makers wanted us to feel for Albert, Jim and Rose? What aspects of the film convince you of that?

Consider the song This Land is Mine, and make note of which words change as we move from Albert's bo Jim's verses. What cortrast are we being made aware of during this song?

What symbols of material and political power are evident?

What symbols of spiritual power and integrity are evident?
What single images or words most powerfully convey to you a) injustice
b) griff c) resentment and who are the victims?

What images or words most powerfully convey to you a) greed b) intolerance c) stubbolmness and who victimises others with these?

Cultural Dimensions: the cultural knowledge, practices and meanings within the film text

Some possible questions that beg in here and connect with the operation al and critical dimensions:

What signals are there that this is an historical piece?
Would the story and characters ring true if the setting was now?
Why i snace so important in this film?

What clues are we given that this family was a happy one, and what are the signal sthat the marriage is in tatters after the child's disappearance?

How are radist thoughts, dispositions, comments or undertones conveyed in this film?

How do we know which characters are (or are not) racist?

What cultural information is provided through the songs, and especially in This land is mine?

Compare the homes of the tracker and faming families? Whatdo the physical as pects of these homes suggest to us?

What appear to be the roles of the men and women?

What is the significance of the scene showing the indigenous families gathered and singing?

How is the relationship between Rose and Albert developed?

How do the landscape and the weather contribute to our understanding of the narrative, the characters and this world?

Using the 3D model for planning

The questions I have developed for this film are not the only questions that might be asked, however, for my purposes and my interest in selecting this film, they are a good starting point. The model ensures that as I plan, I move students beyond a literal or superficial reading of the film and support a more critical reading of the film to take account of the social and political positions made available by the filmmakers. These skills of deconstruction are not only rewarded in senior years assessment of English but are necessary tools for students in their ongoing critique and evaluation of the diversity of texts they will continue to encounter and construct in their lives beyond school.

Operational dimensions of flashbacks When do the flashbacks occur, and how do you know they are flashbacks? What do you notice about the speed of film and music? Who and what are the subjects of these scenes? What precedes or follows on from these flashbacks? Critical dimensions of the flashbacks Cultural dimensions of the flashbacks How do the flashbacks direct our In these flashbacks what aspects of sympathies? childhood are highlighted? How would our reading of the film differ if What relationships are pivotal to these there were no flashbacks or if the flashbacks? flashbacks were only of the father and How do the flashbacks contribute to our child? understanding of the story and Can you think of an additional flashback characters? scene that you could insert that would How are these flashbacks similar to or change our reading of one of the different from flashbacks you may have characters? seen in other films?

This graphic illustrates how the 3D model can be used to develop ideas and responses in relation to one aspect of the film, that is, the use of flashbacks. While the 3D model has been designed with educators in mind, I believe that articulating the model and using it as a framework for discussion and writing may be a useful scaffold for students as they work to deconstruct texts.

Consider the limited response invited by a question that addresses only one of the dimensions:

- How does the filmmaker signal flashbacks to the viewer? (predominantly operational)
- From the flashbacks, what do we learn about the missing child? (predominantly cultural)
- Who are we directed to sympathise through the use of flashbacks? (predominantly critical)

In contrast, a more complex question and discussion can be supported when students are invited to engage in all 3 dimensions:

- Describe how flashbacks are used to convey relationships, narrative and direct our sympathies.
- If the flashbacks had been edited out of this movie, how might our understanding of and response to the film be altered?
- Consider one flashback and altering only one or two operational aspects, describe how a viewers understanding of characters and their situations might be transformed.

For each of the approaches I describe in this document, I begin with the 3D model, and so this graphic (left) is repeated in the *Flashbacks* section.

A range of possible teaching and learning approaches and tasks

The following approaches have been designed with SACE Stage 1 English in mind, and they are referenced to English Scope, Standards and Outcomes later in this paper.

My intention has not been to create a comprehensive list of activities to satisfy every teacher or every possible reading of the film. Instead, I have designed some approaches focusing on particular aspects of the film to demonstrate how the 3D model can be used to support and enhance film studies in the classroom. While the 3 Dimensions are not explicitly referred to, I hope that a reader can make connections and recognise how using the 3D model as starting point and ongoing reference has led to the development of rich literacy/English activities.

It is not my intention that each activity be undertaken in sequence by every student in a class. I do hope though that some activities might be useful as they stand, or that they might inspire similar approaches or adaptations given the needs and interests of particular students, teachers or classes.

The approaches are developed in relation to

- <u>This Land is Mine</u> (Scene/Chapter 3)
- <u>Flashbacks</u> (throughout film)
- The Landscape (Scene/Chapter 8)
- Additional activities

This Land is Mine (page 1 of 4)

This Land is Mine is a key song and pivotal scene in this film.

Before designing particular activities or tasks, I began by mapping out notes using the 3D Model, and I want to acknowledge that such a map is incomplete and might continue to grow as a result of discussion, student input and subsequent viewings of the film. For my purposes though, this map has given me sufficient material to begin to design activities that will lead and support students to construct critical readings taking account of operational and cultural dimensions of the construction and their reading/viewing of the text.

Using this as a starting point, I have designed the activities to follow

Operational dimensions of 'This Land is Mine'

There is more dialogue in this scene than in any other. Why might this be so?
Consider close ups and long shots: when and why might these be used?
Compare the shots used to film Albert and Jim as they sing? What are the effects of similarities or differences you notice?
Why is a song chosen to convey narrative development and meaning?



Critical dimensions of 'This Land is Mine'

Whose voices do we hear in this scene, and are they represented equally? Who is shown as having a relationship wth the land, and who is represented as separate? What is the effect?

Who do you think the filmmakers wants us to sympathise with? What leads you to that conclusion?

What are the sources and material effects of power in this scene?

Imagine that Rose or a government surveyor also had verses to sing: what might be their refrain?

Cultural dimensions of 'This Land is Mine'

How is tension is conveyed verbally and non-verbally in these scenes?
What is the "chain of command" here?
What knowledge of our indigenous and non-indigenous history is useful?
Who is rendered speechless or powerless and what differences would you expect if this was a contemporary setting?
Who are the relative threats to Jim and Albert?

This Land is Mine (page 2 of 4)

As you view the scene, pay particular attention to the lyrics of the song. If you like, work in pairs so that you can focus on either the character of Jim or Albert. We will watch this scene twice, and during the first viewing the lyrics of the song, 'This Land is Mine' will be the focus. Make note of key words or phrases for either or both characters, and consider the discussion points below.

	Jim	Albert
Key words or phrases that are distinctive for this character		
Key words or phrases used by both characters		

- Focussing only on the words sung, what are the key differences between the two versions of this song? Who are "they" for Albert, and who are "they" for Jim?
- View this scene again (perhaps without sound) and consider similarities and/or differences in camera angles, lighting, distance and so on. These similarities and differences have been consciously determined by the filmmakers. In your opinion, what response are they attempting to elicit? Have they been successful in your view?
- Consider the initial shots of Rose, and the two subsequent window scenes. What are the effects of the camera placement and Rose's movements in both window shots? Why do you think these shots were inserted into this scene, and what is their impact on your reading of the film?

This Land is Mine (page 3 of 4)

Activities

Imagine that the director now wants Rose to have her own chorus within this song. What refrain might she use to highlight her relationship with "this land"?

Write her refrain to fit within the song and to reveal her relationship with the land.

(Reference back to the table above might be useful.)

Listen to the Director's Commentary for this scene on the DVD. Write a brief response to the commentary, using these questions below as a guide:

- What aspects of the commentary were a surprise to you or have enhanced your understanding of the film?
- Do you think that the director and cinematographer achieved what they set out to do? Provide examples for the film to support your view.
- What unanswered questions or doubts about the direction of the film do you still have?

Builds on previous activity:

Now view another short scene/take from the film (no longer than 2 or 3 minutes). You should not listen to the director's commentary.

With a partner create a commentary where one of you takes on the role of the director and the other the role of the cinematographer. Include comments on the craft of filmmaking, the setting, the acting, music, lighting, camera work and anything else that seems relevant.

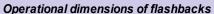
When these are ready, we will play the scene without sound, for the class to view as we listen to your commentary. You should be prepared to field questions after the screening.

This Land is Mine (page 4 of 4)

SACSA English in the Senior Years: Key ideas/outcomes	SSABSA SACE Stage 1 English
	The discussion/group work and design and presentation of
Texts and Contexts (Reading and Viewing) Outcome 5.3	commentary incorporate all 5 Learning Outcomes at Stage 1 English
Views a text containing challenging ideas and issues and multiple views and examines relationships between texts, contexts, readers/viewers	Within this scope, these activities could be incorporated within
and producers of texts.	Written expression - Text Response : Students should submit their commentary, or their responses to Task 1 and/or Task 2.
Language (Reading and Viewing)	
Outcome 5.7 Identifies and critically appraises combinations of features within the text	Oral expression : Presenting their commentary to the class with soundless vision as their prompt. Particularly effective if the scene is projected on large screen with data projector.
Strategies (Speaking and listening) Outcomes 5.9 & 5.10 Uses and critically reflects on strategies to listen analytically to diverse perspectives and manipulates strategies for planning, composing, presenting and evaluating spoken texts.	

Flashbacks (page 1 of 3)

What precedes or follows on from these flashbacks?



When do the flashbacks occur, and how do you know they are flashbacks? What do you notice about the speed of film and music? Who and what are the subjects of these scenes?

Critical dimensions of the flashbacks

How do the flashbacks direct our sympathies?

How would our reading of the film differ if there were no flashbacks or if the flashbacks were only of the father and child?

Can you think of an additional flashback scene that you could insert that would change our reading of one of the characters?

Cultural dimensions of the flashbacks

In these flashbacks what aspects of childhood are highlighted? What relationships are pivotal to these

flashbacks? How do the flashbacks contribute to our understanding of the story and characters?

How are these flashbacks similar to or different from flashbacks you may have seen in other films?

The recurrence of flashbacks within this film are important in relation to each of the 3 Dimensions.

Consider the following flashbacks:

1st: Scene/Chapter 4 (17 minutes into film) Rose chasing Emily

2nd: Scene/Chapter 4 (25 minutes into film) Emily in kitchen with Rose

3rd: Scene/Chapter 5 (31 minutes into film) Emily on wooden horse

4th: Scene/Chapter 4 (34minutes into film) Emily climbing out

Using these flashbacks as a starting point, I have designed the activities detailed on the next page.

Flashbacks (page 2 of 3)

Complete this grid as you view the four flashbacks:

	How do you know this is a flashback?	Who is present? Who is absent?	What precedes and follows?	Describe length, speed, music, lighting	What do you believe is the intended impact?
Flashback 1					
Flashback 2					
Flashback 3					
Flashback 4					

Flashbacks (page 3 of 3)

Group work/Discussion/Reporting after close or repeated viewing of Flashbacks, and consideration of scenes immediately before and immediately after these flashbacks.

Consider your responses to these flashbacks as a collection. How did the filmmakers construct the flashbacks and what do you consider was the intended impact of each or all of these?

How would your reading of the film, and your response to the characters have been altered if the father

- replaced the mother within those flashbacks?
- was the subject of the scenes preceding and following each of the flashbacks?

In relation to the setting of this film, how are parenting roles and gender constructed in these flashback scenes? How would you expect a contemporary film to construct parents and gender differently?

TASK:

Design a short flashback using a storyboard. The flashback should lead the viewer to a more sympathetic view and understanding of the father. Include commentary on how setting, framing, light and music would be used to heighten viewer sympathy.

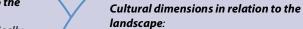
SACSA English in the Senior Years: Key ideas/outcomes	SSABSA SACE Stage 1 English		
	The discussion/group work and reporting back incorporate all 5		
Texts and Contexts (Reading and Viewing)	Learning Outcomes of Stage 1 English		
Outcome 5.3: Views a text containing challenging ideas and issues and multiple views and examines relationships between texts, contexts, readers/viewers and producers of texts.	Written expression - Text Response : Students should submit their commentary, or their responses to Task 1 and/or Task 2.		
Language (Reading and Viewing)	Oral expression: Sharing their storyboard with class, and possibly		
Outcome 5.7: Identifies and critically appraises combinations of features within the text	using IT to plan and present as storyboard.		
	Critical Literacy Studies: While the activities here are focussed on		
Strategies (Writing)	the critical, the Stage 1 statement mandates that two texts must be		
Outcome 5.12: Manipulates multiple strategies for planning, composing	compared. This film might be paired with a selection of flashback		
and reviewing written (and visual) texts	scenes from another film, or alternately, consider a classic Australian		
	short story set in the bush. Henry Lawson springs immediately to		
	mind.		

The Landscape (Page 1 of 5)

Operational dimensions in relation to the landscape:

What impact do aerial effects, slow motion and fast motion have on the portrayal of the land? what aspects of day/night and weather are particularly evident? What is the impact of the shots of birds circling? What are the contrasts between the

What are the contrasts between the homes of the central characters?
How are music and movement used to support a particular understanding or appreciation of the landscape, and does this vary from time to time, and with what effect?



How much do you already know about the geography and history of this area and its people?

What do you already know about pastoral leases and landrights?

What factors have contributed to Jim's racism?
How do you explain Albert's and the police
officer's response to Jim's insistence that Albert
be excluded from the search?
What of Rose's response and her later
intervention?

How do the skills of the tracker reflect indigenous connections with the land, and how do these compare with the search party's approach?

This graphic touches on only some aspects of the landscape in this film. In many ways, what we see is a product of our own experiences and life. For example, an indigenous Australian may notice things that go unseen by someone born in Europe. Farmers and their descendants may offer alternative readings, and none will be the same.

If you have been lost in a gorge, or experienced camping in a swag out under a full moon in the Flinders Ranges, these things may create a strong emotional response as you view the film.

If you have never been to this area, or indeed have spent very little time in isolated areas, your response may be just as interesting.

Critical dimensions in relation to the landscape:

Which characters do we see physically struggling in this landscape, and to what effect and purpose?

What indications are there that the land has been commodified by Jim? Would your reading of Jim be different if you saw him farming?

Why is our last glimpse of Jim as he heads away from the home towards the horizon?

What images and words heighten our sense of Albert's connection to the landscape?

In the final chapter, we see Rose immersed in the landscape. How has the death of her child brought her closer to the land?

The Landscape (Page 2 of 5)

In this film, a significant amount of screen time is dedicated to the landscape and many of the lyrics explore beauty and spiritual bonds with the land. We see sharp contrasts between the relationships of indigenous and non-indigenous Australians and the land, and these contrasts are borne out in many ways. There is the shift from day to night, the weather and seasons, and even the homes of the characters become aspects of the landscape. The activities in the section *This Land is Mind* can usefully lead into this section.

A useful publication to support student exploration of and reflection on the landscape is **Dirt Roads and Desert Roses: Writing from Women in South Australia's Outback (Murphy, 2002)**. The photography and the stories, memoirs and poems in this book are inspired by the same landscape that serves as the setting for this film.

Another useful resource, particularly for a Critical Literacy study, is the tourism website below: www.flindersranges.com.au

In relation to One Night the Moon, and either or both of the texts referred to above, consider the following discussion questions:

- What view of the landscape does the filmmkaer/photographer/writer want to convey? For instance, do they want us to sense its vastness, beauty, hostility, agricultural potential, ancient mystery, isolation or something else? Which words, lighting, angles, film speed, metaphors or other techniques do they use to convey their view or sense of the landscape?
- How do you regard the landscape? Which character from the film do you identify most closely with, or can you never imagine
 yourself living in that setting? Explain your responses.
- What part does the land play in this film? For example, what impact does the land have on individuals, their relationships with each other and their sense of identity?

The Landscape (Page 3 of 5)



Consider the closing song, *Moonstruck*, and sequence in *One Night the Moon*. View carefully at least once more. Take note of the way the images and words are brought together.

- What aspects of the landscape or the seasons or the daily rhythm of the land are highlighted by the writer?
- What words or phrases most strongly suggest a relationship between the singer/composer and the land? Describe the nature of the relationship as you would see it, referring closely to the lyrics. How is this similar to or different from you relationship to the place in which you live?
- Find each reference to the moon in this song. What power is attributed to the moon, and how is this power conveyed in the storyline as well as the visuals of *One Night the Moon*?

Moonstruck (Kevin Carmody)

When the western sky's ablaze And the sun lays down to rest When the curlew starts to cry And the birds fly home to roost When the full moon begins to rise Satin moon beams on my face Beauty of the night goes far beyond Far beyond both time and place

Chorus

No-one's lost who finds the moon Or the sweetness of the wattle's bloom Rebirth with the rain in spring Or the dingoe's howl on the autumn wind Spirit of the moon here calls me home Spirit of the moon here guides me home

Moon it draws me to the scrub Night voices raised in song Past the water lilies bloom In that tranquil billabong Walkin' on the shadowed leaves That are reflected by the moon To the rocks and hills an' caves Where the dingoe's pups are born

Stars ablazin' across the sky
In the brilliance of the Milky Way
I'm surrounded by the beauty
Of every night and every day
Walkin' towards that morning moon set
Caress of moonlight on my skin
Knowin' that freedom of not carin'
Of why I'm goin' or where I've been

© Rosie Kerin, 2003.

Can you suggest why the moon is used so frequently with in the film, what different purposes it serves, and why it is used within the title of the film?

The Landscape (Page 4 of 5)

Two Flinders Ranges websites

Both websites below reveal aspects of the local area and history of the location in which the film is shot, and you are asked to reflect critically as you engage with the sites, paying particular attention to

- the design features (layout, colours, images, fonts, graphics, ratios...)
- the written text
- the images
- the available links.

One is a site developed by Wilderness College students and it explores Adnyamathanha history and culture, while the other is a tourism site promoting the Flinders Ranges. While it may be easy for you to determine which is which, and perhaps the URL gives it away, your task is to identify 5 signals that lead you to determine the purpose and authorship of the sites.

www.library.thinkquest.org/C0115620/Adnyhist3.html www.flinders.outback.on.net/welcome.htm

Consider this extract from the tourism site and the questions to follow on the next page:

"G'day...how ya goin'?"

This is the place of colourful stories and equally colourful characters and creatures. You're in the outback now...so...forget zoos...meet the wildlife in their own homes. Rare and rowdy creatures, shy and fascinating ones – don't forget your camera.

Forget museums...here's an Aboriginal park ranger or elder ready to walk you through his land, show you his family's art, share his 'bush tucker' and his Dreamtime Creation Stories.

Forget the ordinary...the land of the long tale (and only slightly believable) story is alive and well here, often told by locals with a sense of humour as dry as the land itself. Was that a grin as he delivered the last line? Who cares? This is the place where anything seems possible.

The Landscape (Page 5 of 5)

In relation to "G'day...how ya goin'?":

- Make a list of who/what you will see in the Flinders and what those subjects do. For example, what do 'Aborginal park rangers or elders' do? What do 'locals' do?
- What characteristics of the land are given prominence? What is not mentioned? Why these selections and not others?
- Who are the 'locals'? Are they indigenous and non-indigenous, male and female, young and old, educated and uneducated? How do you know?
- Is this the same or a different version of the Flinders Ranges we see in the film? Explain how the purpose, the medium and the
 creators of the two texts in question (the film and website) influence what is included and not included.

Using search engines, find and download two images from the web that either a) support or b) satirize this representation of contemporary life in outback Australia.

- Imagine that one of the key characters in the film is asked this same question, 'G'day...how ya goin'?' Write one character's brief but honest response to such a question at a pivotal moment in the film. Make sure that you signal at what stage of the narrative your question is asked. How does this response from the character now influence possible readings of the extract from the website.
- With a view to comparing representations of the land or the outback in the film and website, find one other extract (image or word or both) from either of the two websites listed on the previous page, or another relevant website of your choice. Download the extract, and write a critical commentary where you highlight the alternative representations and discuss why the creators of both texts have offered alternative perspectives on the land. Be aware of discussing how the images and language works, as well as the cultural and critical dimensions that are significant here.

Homes and the landscape:

- Consider the homes of Albert and Ruby, and Jim and Rose. Describe the contrasts between their homes, and in particular:
 *location *size *place *furniture *boundaries between home and landscape
- Whose homes are constructed as belonging or not belonging, and how are homes used as symbols of people and their relationships with each other and with place?
- What criteria might the filmmakers have established for these homes before they even arrived in the area and began their search for locations?
- What connections can you make between homes, the landscapes and the ultimate fate of these families?

Some further activities (page 1 of 2)

The following activities are designed to support a critical reading of the film, while integrating attention to the operational and cultural dimensions of the film (as in Green's 3D model). These activities are included here as possible entry points and impetus for further pedagogical design. There is no intention that they are used in sequence or totality.

Supporting students to understand the 3D model:

Draw 3 circles on board, labelling them as operational, cultural and critical. Ask students to comment on their responses and understanding of the film (stressing that even if we don't like a film we can still critique it. As students make comments, add these to the relevant circle, acknowledging where their point may overlap. It may be necessary to tease out points with more detail to determine which 'dimension' is most appropriate. (e.g.: 'bad acting' in operational; 'land rights' into cultural; racism in critical etc...)

Encourage students to think this way as they prepare extended writing or essays...have they addressed each dimension, and is there appropriate overlap? Is it possible that they have given too much space to the narrative, and too little to the operational, for example?

Students to search for reviews or supply reviews for class:

www.abc.net.au/rn/arts/atoday/stories/s417304.htm http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/one_night_the_moon/

In small groups, read a review, making note of all of the operational aspects mentioned. Read a second time, this time highlighting the cultural dimensions. In a third and final reading, highlight the critical dimensions. This will assist students to better understand the complexity of writing about texts, and how they can ensure that they explore texts more comprehensively.

How successful is the review? Anything you would remove or add? Write a review of your own, ensuring that you incorporate all three dimensions.

In 50 words exactly, sell this film to

adolescents.....a particular religious group.....educators.....pastoralists..... business people servicing that area....indigenous land rights activitists....parents.....tourists to South Australia.....another 'niche' group....American tourists being on a tourist bus heading to the Flinders....a 'local'.....teachers.

Some further activities (page 2 of 2)

Film construction and design

Review and consider the scene when Emily leaves her bedroom and follows the moon.

In groups of four, each of you should take one of the following role as if you are about to make the film:

* lighting * camera work * dress and setting * direction/action

In relation to your imaginary film crew role:
What was the effect you were trying to create?
What possible arguments might you have with other crew, or those who wanted to do it differently?
How successful or otherwise were you?

Change one thing within that scene that might have made a subtle (or dramatic) difference. How is this change achieved? (e.g.: What if Emily puts on a jacket and cap? Cries? Is struggling in the dark? Constantly looks back at the house? etc...)

Resources and further reading:

Durrant, Cal and Green, Bill (2000). Literacy and the new technologies in school education: meeting the I(IT)eracy challenge? *Australian Journal of Language and Literacy*, Vol. 23, No. 2, pp. 89-108.

Murphy, Catherine (Ed) (2002) Dirt Roads and Desert Roses: Writing from Women in South Australia's Outback. Hyde Park Press: Adelaide. (Book available through Rice, Port Augusta, phone 08) 8642 4477 or email admin@rice.org.au)

South Australian Curriculum Standards and Accountability Framework (SACSA) Essential Learnings www.sacsa.sa.edu.au/

MSN film review

http://entertainment.msn.com/Movies/Movie.aspx?m=8079

Range of reviews and articles about the film http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/OneNighttheMoon-10000881/reviews.php

An interview with Rachel Perkins, director. http://www.sensesofcinema.com/contents/01/17/moon_interview_perkins.html

The official site, though some links are not operating; detailed background on cast and crew. http://www.dendy.com.au/onenightthemoon

SBS Movie Show: review for *One Night the Moon* http://www.sbs.com.au/movieshow/reviews.php3?id=792

Radio National review of *One Night the Moon*http://www.abc.net.au/rn/arts/atoday/stories/s417304.htm

This site, developed by Wilderness students explores Adnyamathanha history and culture http://library.thinkquest.org/C0115620/Adnyhist3.html

This website explores Indigenous culture and politics in Australia. http://www.loreoftheland.com.au/indigenous/archie/index.html

BBC news article: The skills of the Aboriginal **trackers**, honed over generations, remain an ... infamous outlaw Ned Kelly feared the renowned powers of **indigenous Australians** to find ... http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/1444016.stm

An article printed in 1945 re Jimmy James, famous indigenous tracker http://www.sapolice.org/historical/april02.html

Tourism site dedicated to promoting the Flinders Ranges, the setting for *One Night the Moon*. http://www.flinders.outback.on.net/welcome.htm

Biography of Terry Coulthard, whose family appear in the film and are local to the area quest.classroom.com/about/bios/ terry151.asp?qargs=151

Adnyamathanha tourism in Flinders Ranges www.green.net.au/humpsnotdumps/leighck.htm