THEMATIC CONCERNS

Discovery
Discovering Belonging
Aboriginal Themes

Discovery

The most obvious use of discovery is when Errol is discussing the Encyclopaedia Britannica and in his ‘spiel’ he says,

"Your entrée to the world of learning, a world of discovery, a world of fascinating facts...’ (pg 133)

And also when the word ‘Discovery’ is repeated on the very next page. While this is instantly recognisable and useful to students, I don’t think this is as much a need to think about. Harrison here is just foreshadowing the concept that affects all the characters and the audience as we discover her drama.

This reference to education is important as learning is discovery and Gladys sees it as a way for Dolly to escape the poverty and racism. Gladys also appreciates something has to be done about her own ignorance so she makes moves to correct her situation. Through Rainbow's End we see the discovery of education as a way forward. It is important at the end to note that Dolly has won a scholarship to be a nurse. Through the play her discoveries about life have resulted in a positive ending despite much angst.

Yet education is not just the only element of discovery in the play. Self-discovery is extremely important and we can look at a number of characters who discover something about themselves for the better. One example is Errol when he says,
‘Yes it is... I’ve changed, Dolly, I realise I was wrong. For example, I will come up here, if you want. Because, where you belong, and your family, is important to me. To you, and to me.’ (pg 193)

Another character to change is seen in Gladys when she finally acts after all her words. She reaches a point of no return and a challenge from a ‘bitter’ Dolly sets her off,

‘Well! I’ll show you’ (p179)

And she heads off to fix her ‘own house’.

Dolly too learns that she must change and adapt to survive in the world. Her life changes after the rape but she shows great personal strength to develop into the woman she becomes in the concluding scenes. We can see this links into the idea that discovery is opportunity and this is what the indigenous people fight for in the text. While each has their own personal sense of discovery it is also about fighting for the opportunity to make those discoveries. We see Nan Dear’s inner strength and how she has learnt to channel that into family. In her case it is also interesting to note that she has secrets which are revealed and these discoveries help and change Dolly’s life.

One example is her revelation that she too was taken ‘advantage’ of. In her case it was a ‘whitefella’ but the situation was not dissimilar to Dolly’s incident with her cousin at the cork trees.

‘No, Dolly – See, I was walking home, taking a short cut, and – and – and the lad – he took advantage of me.... (p187)

Another secret that when exposed opens opportunity is when Errol reveals he is a ‘fake Fisher’,

‘Actually, ma’am, my dad changed our surname after the war. After they emigrated here. It was originally Vischer. But we Germans weren’t the most popular. People used to throw stones at our house.’ (p195)

This revelation allows Nan to grant Dolly permission to be with Errol and a new opportunity opens up for her. With this opportunity to discover we can also think about the purpose of the play and as it is a drama; the audience.

The play’s purpose was ‘to tell a decade of Victorian Koori history and write about ‘the heroes’. Harrison found the heroes were the ‘unsung’ heroes, especially the women. So she has given us a ‘poignant’ story that celebrates these women and, although fictional, exposes an ‘emotional truth’. This is what the audience discovers as they watch the play. It is not just about our indigenous past, the interaction between white and black but about discovering identity, culture and individuality. By creating ‘theatre’ of this Harrison exposes her audience to her purpose without being didactic or boring. We are allowed as an audience to discover these things and create our own impressions and opinions through each of the scenes. I think it interesting that Harrison has a positive, up-lifting final scene that denies much of the negativity. While she does expose white hypocrisy through the ideas of assimilation and the rent-collector character amongst others we get a feeling that the discovery of each character’s own strength will be enough in most instances for positive outcomes.

Here the oft used phrase, ‘It’ll be alright’, is truthful and sincerely meant. It is not just a dream but a dream and hope that is a reality. As the song concludes we do not know what the future holds but ‘Whatever will be, will be’ and it is a discovery waiting to happen.
them stronger. For each other. This sense of belonging to a family gives
love for each other despite minor disagreements. They are always
about all her problems. We see all through the play the family's
daily and the deep bonds family in general. We also learn about Dolly's
talk. This discovery by Full understanding the importance of family to
the end of the play when he says,

"I'd find a real home, a real home is where there are people looking
after each other."

She says clearly to him.

The sense of belonging to a family is also very strong in Rainbow's

The wider Aboriginal community, even those Dolly calls,
is not just felt by the people who live at the Flats but extends to
these people. This sense of belonging to their cultural tradition and it strengthens them

They identity with their culture and are proud of it, wanting to

The sense of belonging in the Aboriginal community is strong.

This Aboriginal heritage means they all belong to one cohort as

"(413d)

Those come from cross-over Aboriginals,"

which is felt by the people who live at the Flats.

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acceptance is part of belonging. 
unquestioningly even though she obviously is not his child, this 
unrequited love for each other. From even accepts Regina 
feeling of belonging and it is obvious from very early in the play 
act that Regina is accepted and loved by everyone in the 
suggests it was him. He feels badly over his exclusion and he is ecstatic 
for the reason because he is white and the cultural/personal history 
resiliently excluded from the family because he is white and untrained. 
Belonging is defined as including a different aspect of belonging when 

rainbows end also examine a different aspect of belonging when 

Cultural genocide not true belonging. 

This is not according to the inspecor. Learning to live like us. This is 
asimilation and belonging absorbed into the community. This 
its inappropriately and over-simplified. The inspector's lack of 
dream as they do. Even when they get new housing at Rugby. 

We see their exclusion in various ways. Housing, jobs, and 
when you do you, eh? P4325 

In the end, you're always asking me to stick up for myself. 

Have you, Mum? Have you learnt not to be ashamed by them? 

Over the racism they suffer. 

Groups of sacrifice their identity. Even Gladys and Dolly argue 
according to the inspecor. They are children of the white Australian. They are content with racism and ignorance while 
other culture and they suffer not belonging to the mainstream 

This strength is needed as they have to overcome much in the 

Group of their lives. They live in a society that doesn't value their 

The prejudice she sees and feels, 

discovers her own personal attributes and makes a stand against 
when she is able to be with Edna. Examining Gladys when she 
are stronger and show positive traits. Look at Dolly's happiness 
characters discover the individual or group to which they belong 
both belonging and alienation to individuals and groups. The 
that acceptance is seen in many ways in rainbow's end 

P4325
That people have been displaced from their traditional lands, wants to ease away their aboriginality. In Rainbow’s End we learn to belong, especially on their own terms in a world that is a struggle to this main theme. For the aborigines in the play, it is a struggle to look at some of the details of aboriginal issues that can be linked to the family and other ideas she has kept apart.

We discover that we are not alone here as we study the play—secrets and support and times to keep the family and the community together.

We have already examined the idea of belonging to a culture which needs variety to grow.

For him discovery is one-sided: the white way. If one also be about something, must take leadership! (p. 125).

Someone must take leadership! In my report, if a question issue to be sure, but assimilation, in my report. If a need issue to be sure, but can be discussed with no reason to live the issue? I have recommended the aborigine needs to be discussed into the community. How now!

He takes to them of assimilation, and asks questions about their life style. A well-dressed white man who inspects their daily living. The one clear example of the white view of aboriginal life is the discouragement.

Families have been torn apart and the traditional ways of life are discouraged.

while the main concept set for study is discovery, it is useful to study.

Aboriginal Themes

What did you discover about indigenous issues when you

- re-discover their own identity to remain strong?
- They might be drunk but they’re still our people’ (p. 139)
- Examine their roles:
- What might the characters do in relation to you?
- How does the concept of assertion prevent individual
- Are excluded from another group? Society? Give specific
- What problems are illustrated when groups/individuals
- Discover something about another culture.
- What benefits are shown in the play where characters
- Aboriginal identity?
- Aboriginal cultures and traditions from understanding the
- Understand the role of aboriginals present both other

Questions for discovery

Examine the graphics on page 29. How does this

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In this scene it is the wrestling that creates the oral drama for the audience. But it is full of dramatic tension. Here the actions much of the dialogue revolves around the three people. The language is not ubiquitous and is only used as an example.

(1969) "Fondly present this petition to you, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of England and the Inspector Report and the petition. One example is,

DIGESTIVE ABBREVIATIONS: prefix a rea.

things familiar to most Australians and a wide range of indigenous languages. The subject matter is also topical and focuses on things and how the play makes the play accessible to a wide range of audiences. This use of generally good uses of some Aboriginal terms such as malungu and malungu ("man""). This use of generally good uses of some Aboriginal terms such as malungu and malungu. She has some 1955 slang terms such as doagues and wongips. She has some 1955 slang terms such as doagues and wongips. She has some 1955 slang terms such as doagues and wongips. She has some 1955 slang terms such as doagues and wongips. She has some 1955 slang terms such as doagues and wongips.

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wedding bells and concert as DOLLY and ERROL - FROM IN THE

mind of - gor through, 'sadly,' (p.29)

and Narn's dream sequence where she sees,

extrad, (p.66)

A rash is hung over DOLLY'S shoulder. DOLLY is surround - so,

see DOLLY dream of winning the Miss Mooroom-Shropston ball.

pink, (p.154)

books around feet that her Confederate has been wounded, but

The lights change for a dream sequence. GLADYS sees DOLLY in a

sequence where.

Glads specialises in aspirations for DOLLY as we see in her dream

members. Gladys has many ideas which Ann criticises for;

have many hopes and dreams for twins and their family

dream sequences are quite numerous in the play and the characters

are incorporated into the action. These

indigenous play. They show characters' hopes and dreams for

Dream sequences are also a major focus in this contemporary

with its rising value.

Hosking. The radio is also a source of amusement and frustration.

perspectives such as reporters' views of the new Aboriginal

also learn about 'radio moments', when she gets affected from

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the council meeting and the queen's visit. It gives us different

by glorifying Pick-6 Box sponsors. We

beginning of many scenes to set tone, we learn such things such

Another technique that Harrison incorporates into Rainbow's

and action.

and emotion and contrast to the scenes and reinforce the worlds

music, 'a little like you. By high kick and the shadows etc. These

get tunes such as 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow', big band swing

due sera, 'Gladys uses song frequently in the play and we

that Harrison commonly uses - song here it is the theme song

DOLLY can't speak. In this scene we also get another technique

especially due to the dramatic impact as the scene is so emotive

pre-recorded. The officials are more disparate and could be

the inspector and the police. They are all male roles that are

these are parts such as the bank manager, the turn, and

them. These are parts such as the bank manager, the turn, and

all others parts are small and placed so that more can do

playing Elsa as other characters. Other than the four main parts

This also of stagecraft as extras extend to use of the actors

This voice-over is the catalyst for much of the conflict that

them to the lip.' (p.166)

it was our sunshine country. But you know, I thought we look

love the picture. 'With a gable [my mother's village], it's love when

Why? If it isn't Miss Doolas' words. Reels love your dress. Don't you?

voice-over at the ball.

without unnecessary explanatory scenes. For example Nanny's

several dramatic techniques while allowing the pace to be maintained.

voice-over allows the actor playing Elsa to understand the

other interesting features of the play are the use of voice-over and

middle - gor through, 'sadly,' (p.29)

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It is also interesting to recognise how Harrison concludes the play on a positive note with all the main characters fulfilling some part of their hopes and aspirations. Dolly, for example, has a nursing scholarship and is to marry Errol. Gladys has learnt how to read and has seen the best for her daughter. This is very positive and offers the audience more than problems and negativity. Rainbow's End offers Aboriginal solutions to Aboriginal problems through the actions of individuals.

Questions

- Discuss how the use of the songs contribute to the overall impact of the play. How do songs affect an audience? Think about how they marry to scenes and characters.
- Why would Harrison use mainly colloquial language in the play?
- Harrison uses some Aboriginal terms. Why would she keep these to a minimum?
- Discuss how the medium of the radio is used in the play. How is it integral to the plot and character development?
- Choose one dream sequence and analyse it carefully. Describe its impact on the play as a whole and how effective it would be on stage for an audience.
- Discuss one other piece of Harrison’s stagecraft and analyse its effectiveness.
- How effective is the conclusion to Rainbow’s End? Is it realistic?