

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

DRAMA

0411/01/T/EX

Paper 1

SET TEXT for the 2005 examination

May/June 2005

2 hours 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Several of the questions in Paper 1 will be based on this extract from Ned Manning's play '*Close to the Bone*'.

This clean copy of the text is for you to use in your responses.

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE TEXT

These notes are intended to help you understand the context of the drama.

Close to the Bone deals with the forced adoptions of Aboriginal children taken from their families to live in white families. In the 1960s – before the 1967 referendum on full citizenship rights for Aboriginal people in Australia – a little girl is taken from her mother.

The play takes place over a number of years as Rose develops from a baby to a young woman. The play is in two acts. Act One begins on an Aboriginal Mission and then moves on several years to Bin Bin station in outback Australia.

This extract is taken from Act One, slightly abridged. The original play contains songs but these have been omitted in your version.

Glossary: Drover – Australian 'cowboy', worker with livestock

grog – drink (alcoholic)

gubba – white man/person (Aboriginal slang)

bub – baby

sool the gungies – get the police

roo – kangaroo

tucker – food

chook – chicken

joey – baby kangaroo

CLOSE TO THE BONE

CHARACTERS

NAOMI

ROBBIE

BETTINA

KARINA

ROSE

ENID BOULDER

HARRY BOULDER

MISSION MANAGER

Naomi's brother, a drover

Naomi's eldest daughter, aged seven

Naomi's younger daughter, aged five

Naomi's third child (not seen in this extract)

Station manager's wife

Station manager

ACT ONE SCENE ONE

A dormitory on the Cherbourg Mission. Naomi enters. She is pregnant and very tired, she carries a load of washing with her. She struggles to sit, putting the washing down beside her. She picks out an item of clothing and begins to fold it.

5

NAOMI:

Oh, I can't.

[She wearily flings the item back into the basket.]

Bettina! Karina!

[There is no response. She looks around for her children.]

10

Typical, bet they're down playing in the dirt.

[She stands and looks outside.]

Bettina! Karina!

[She signals them to come inside and wearily sits down again. She rests her hands on her pregnant stomach and then takes a few shillings out of her pocket.]

15

A few shillings! What am I meant to do with that! Bettina! Karina! Get in here. I'll give youse a belting. Bettina! Karina!

[She sighs. She slowly looks around the room.]

20

What am I gonna do on this Mission?

[She rests her head in her hands. Her contemplation is broken when the kids rush in, grubby from playing in the dirt.]

BETTINA:

What's for dinner Mum?

25

NAOMI:

Look at you. What have you been up to?

KARINA:

Nothing.

[The children begin folding the washing.]

NAOMI:

What are you doing?

BETTINA:

Helping Mum.

30

KARINA:

Yeah Mum, look what we got for you.

[She brings a bright red apple out of her pocket and shines it.]

NAOMI:

Where did that come from?

BETTINA:

Oh, a man gave it to us.

35

KARINA:

Yeah.

BETTINA:	A man on a donkey.	
KARINA:	Yeah.	
BETTINA:	He was riding past the Mission.	
KARINA:	Yeah, he's gone now.	
NAOMI:	A man with a donkey.	
BETTINA:	True Mum.	
NAOMI:	Was he near the Mission Manager's garden at the time?	
KARINA:	Yeah.	45
BETTINA:	No!	
KARINA:	Sort of.	
BETTINA:	He wasn't anywhere near it.	
KARINA:	Was so.	
BETTINA:	God you're stupid.	50
KARINA:	I never broke the window.	
NAOMI:	What window?	
KARINA:	She threw the rock that broke the window that ...	
NAOMI:	I beg your pardon?	
BETTINA:	I'm going to bed.	55
NAOMI:	You're not going anywhere. You been into the boss man's garden haven't you?	
KARINA:	We was only playing chasies.	
BETTINA:	The boys were teasing us.	
NAOMI:	And.	60
BETTINA:	And they started chucking stones at us.	
NAOMI:	And you broke a window.	
BETTINA:	Sort of.	
NAOMI:	Whose?	
BETTINA:	The ah ...	65
NAOMI:	The boss man's.	
BETTINA:	Yeah, sort of.	
NAOMI:	You broke the boss man's window! What am I going to do now? He'll kill me, he'll cut off our rations. You bloody kids, I could ... go on, get to your rooms before I give you the thrashing you deserve.	70
	<i>[The kids disappear, happy that they have escaped their mother's anger. NAOMI fumes, then she looks at the apple, smiles and takes a large bite.]</i>	
	Not a bad apple.	75
	<i>[There is a knock at the door. NAOMI freezes, then frantically hides the remains of the apple.]</i>	
	Who is it?	
MALE VOICE:	Sergeant Rankin.	
NAOMI:	Who?	80
MALE VOICE:	Sergeant Rankin, the Mission Manager sent me down to deal with you, hurry up and open the door.	
	<i>[Full of fear she does. Her brother, ROBBIE, stands in the doorway, his appearance delights NAOMI.]</i>	
NAOMI:	Robbie! You bloody rother	85

- ROBBIE: G'day Sis.
 NAOMI: You nearly gave me a heart attack.
 ROBBIE: Got ya eh?
 NAOMI: What are you doing here? You look terrific, been on a good paddock eh?
 ROBBIE: Can't complain.
 NAOMI: Where you been? Seems like ages since we seen you. The kids'll be over the moon.
 ROBBIE: Settle down. You'll wear yourself out going at that rate.
 NAOMI: Oh, it's so good to see you. 95
- [They hug, then look at each other for a moment.]*
- ROBBIE: So, what you been up to Sis?
 NAOMI: Very little.
 ROBBIE: That so?
 NAOMI: Yeah. 100
- [He pats her pregnant stomach.]*
- ROBBIE: Doesn't look like you been up to 'very little' to me!
 NAOMI: Dunno how.
 ROBBIE: If you don't know now, you're in big trouble sister.
 NAOMI: Go to buggery. 105
 ROBBIE: Where's Lester?
 NAOMI: Took off.
 ROBBIE: Oh.
 NAOMI: Fair while ago now. Ahh, good riddance! He never was much use. Even when he was around he was either workin' or on the grog. 110
 ROBBIE: That sounds like Lester.
 NAOMI: Yeah, the good ones get sent away and the bad ones take off.
 ROBBIE: Is that his? 115
 NAOMI: Nuh.
 ROBBIE: Oh ...
 NAOMI: It's been a rough couple of years Rob. Tell you one thing though, there won't be any more of these.
[She pats her stomach.] 120
- ROBBIE: Yeah, well, how about a cuppa, man'll die of thirst.
 NAOMI: Oh, sorry. Typical me, going on about me troubles.
 ROBBIE: Well?
[He indicates a cuppa.]
- NAOMI: I'll chuck the billy on. How do you have it again? That's right, black isn't it? 125
 ROBBIE: Just like me women.
 NAOMI: And three sugars?
 ROBBIE: When I can get it.
[The kids burst in. They hug him affectionately.] 130
- BETTINA: Uncle Robbie

KARINA:	Robbie! Robbie!	
ROBBIE:	We'll have a go at you two.	
NAOMI:	You should be in bed.	
BETTINA:	Aw Mum.	
NAOMI:	Don't 'aw Mum' me. You know the trouble I'll get into because of you two.	
BETTINA:	Won't do it again Mum promise.	
KARINA:	Yeah Mum, promise.	
NAOMI:	I bet.	140
ROBBIE:	They been playing up have they?	
KARINA:	No Uncle Robbie, we haven't.	
ROBBIE:	What'ya reckon Sis? Do they deserve a present?	
NAOMI:	No, but they're gonna get one anyway.	
ROBBIE:	Here you go, I got something for you.	145
	<i>[He takes out two roughly wrapped parcels. The kids unwrap them. One has a rock and the other a stick. They try to hide their disappointment.]</i>	
	Well?	
BETTINA:	Thanks Uncle Robbie, they're ...	150
ROBBIE:	They're special those, they come from a very special place.	
	<i>[Silence.]</i>	
NAOMI:	Well?	
KARINA:	Where they from Uncle Robbie?	155
	<i>[He winks at NAOMI.]</i>	
ROBBIE:	Can't tell you that.	
BETTINA:	They're ...	
KARINA:	Really ...	
NAOMI:	Interesting?	160
BETTINA:	Yes, interesting ...	
NAOMI:	Well?	
BETTINA:	Oh, thanks Uncle Robbie.	
ROBBIE:	And I got these, they're from a special place too.	
	<i>[He gives them a bag of lollies. The kids erupt.]</i>	165
KARINA:	Whacko, lollies!	
	<i>[NAOMI is delighted by all this. Her family are with her.]</i>	
NAOMI:	You're lucky you kids.	
ROBBIE:	They're all right.	
NAOMI:	They're spoilt.	170
ROBBIE:	Why not? They're family. Here, give your old Uncle a hug.	
	<i>[They do.]</i>	
KARINA:	Thanks Uncle Robbie.	
BETTINA:	We missed you.	175

- NAOMI: Now, time you went to bed. Go on! Get goin' before I give you something to think about.
- [They hug ROBBIE and run off to bed.]*
- ROBBIE: Be good if we could stay that age don't you think?
 NAOMI: I'll say ... 180
 ROBBIE: It was all so simple eh?
 NAOMI: Yeah. Remember when we were kids?
 ROBBIE: Just ...
 NAOMI: I'll never forget you riding that cow, or trying to.
 ROBBIE: You used to look like a monkey. 185
 NAOMI: Thanks.
 ROBBIE: True. You did, always climbing up trees and carrying on.
 NAOMI: Used to be fun swingin' off that rope into the creek eh?
 ROBBIE: Yeah. They were the days ...
- [Pause.]* 190
- NAOMI: When you going to get yourself a woman?
 ROBBIE: Already got one for each day of the week, anymore'd knock a fella around too much.
- NAOMI: Get out, I mean a good woman.
 ROBBIE: They're all good women. 195
 NAOMI: You ought to wake up to yourself. You need someone to settle down with.
- ROBBIE: I got too much travelling around to do.
 NAOMI: Oh yeah! You just like playing the field.
 ROBBIE: Dunno, maybe I can't settle down. 200
- [NAOMI looks at her brother and laughs.]*
- NAOMI: Its so good to see you bro.
- [She gives him another big hug.]*
- ROBBIE: Us mob stick together right?
 Right. 205
- [The MISSION MANAGER walks in. He is aggressive and arrogant. At first he doesn't see ROBBIE.]*
- MISSION MANAGER: How's me favourite girl? Got a kiss for your old mate.
- [He grabs NAOMI lasciviously and then sees Robbie.]*
- Who's this? One of your boyfriends eh? 210
- NAOMI: This is my brother.
 MISSION MANAGER: Oh yeah.
- [During the following, ROBBIE adopts a subservient pose.]*
- ROBBIE: True boss. 215

NAOMI:	He's just travelling through.	
MISSION MANAGER:	You haven't got a permit.	
ROBBIE:	Sorry boss?	
MISSION MANAGER:	Did you sign on?	
ROBBIE:	Sign boss?	225
MISSION MANAGER:	At the office. You're not allowed on the Mission without signing on.	
NAOMI:	He's only ...	
MISSION MANAGER:	You know the rules.	
ROBBIE:	Sorry boss, I can't write.	225
MISSION MANAGER:	Don't get smart with me.	
ROBBIE:	Yes boss.	
MISSION MANAGER:	Where are those bloody kids of yours.	
NAOMI:	In bed.	
MISSION MANAGER:	They been playing down near my place again.	230
NAOMI:	No, they've been here all afternoon.	
MISSION MANAGER:	Bullshit.	
NAOMI:	They have. Honest.	
MISSION MANAGER:	I don't believe you. One of my windows got smashed.	
NAOMI:	Wasn't my kids.	235
MISSION MANAGER:	Yeah? Well, I'm gonna take the cost of it out of your rations.	
NAOMI:	You can't do that, we hardly got enough as it is.	
MISSION MANAGER:	Catch yourself a few rabbits, plenty of them about.	
ROBBIE:	How much was it boss?	240
MISSION MANAGER:	What?	
ROBBIE:	How much was the window.	
MISSION MANAGER:	What's it got to do with you?	
	<i>[ROBBIE gives some money to the MISSION MANAGER.]</i>	245
ROBBIE:	Reckon this should cover it, eh boss?	
MISSION MANAGER:	Where'd you get this from?	
ROBBIE:	Workin' boss.	
MISSION MANAGER:	I don't believe you.	
ROBBIE:	True boss, honest.	250
MISSION MANAGER:	I reckon you might have a bit of explaining to do.	
ROBBIE:	Sorry boss?	
MISSION MANAGER:	I'm going to let the police know about you. And make sure you're off this Mission by six o'clock.	
ROBBIE:	I'm on me way now boss. Don't mean to cause any trouble boss. True.	255
MISSION MANAGER:	You just watch yourself. I don't like the look of you.	
ROBBIE:	Sorry boss.	
MISSION MANAGER:	I'll be back to see you later Naomi. You keep a good eye on those brats of yours, they'll cause you more harm than good. I don't know why you don't get rid of them. Your old man's no bloody good to you.	260
NAOMI:	How'd ...	
	<i>[ROBBIE interrupts.]</i>	
ROBBIE:	You're right there boss.	265
MISSION MANAGER:	Who asked you? You bloody well clear out of here before you get into strife. Meant to be your sister is she? Why don't you look after her then?	

- ROBBIE: Don't know boss.
[The MISSION MANAGER checks his fob watch.]
- MISSION MANAGER: You better be out of here before I get back from my rounds.
[He goes to leave.]
 I never forget a face so don't think you're getting away with anything. 275
[He leaves.]
- ROBBIE: Yes boss, no boss, three bags full boss.
 NAOMI: Sssh. He might hear you.
 ROBBIE: Ok. Ok. I better be going. I don't want to cause you any trouble. 280
- NAOMI: Stay a bit longer, please. I haven't seen you for so long.
 ROBBIE: No Sis, I don't want any gubba trouble.
 NAOMI: He won't be back for a while ...
 ROBBIE: He'll be back all right.
 NAOMI: Robbie, you gotta help me. 285
 ROBBIE: How?
 NAOMI: That fella, that Mission Manager. He keeps threatening me.
- ROBBIE: He's a gubba isn't he?
 NAOMI: It's more than that. He's been sniffing around here for a while. He keeps threatening that he's gonna come back for me after baby's born. I'm scared Robbie. There's been trouble since Les took off. Ever since then there's been no-one around to keep an eye out for me. You know what these blokes are like. God Robbie, what am I gonna do? 295
- ROBBIE: I dunno Sis but I know what I've got to do and that's to clear off out of here as quickly as possible.
[He prepares to go.]
- Don't worry Sis, she'll be right. Things always work out for the best. You'll see bub, you'll see. Don't get yourself all worked up. Maybe I can figure something out. I know what'll happen if I stay, he'll sool the gungies onto me and that's the last thing I need. You look after yourself and those kids. Hey, if the little one turns out to be a boy, I reckon Robbie's not a bad name! 300
 305
- [With that he leaves. NAOMI lets out a cry of anguish. She looks up as if addressing God.]*
- NAOMI: What are you doing to me God? What's going on? What have I done wrong? I know you've got a lot of people to care for God, but sometimes ... I wonder, what's goin' on? I wonder if you're listening. Have you 310

busy, I know you've probably got a lot on your plate and you can't be everywhere at the same time but I wish you'd just spend a few minutes on me. Please.

SCENE TWO

Later that night. Naomi and the kids are asleep. The window is forced open. A figure climbs through. We cannot see the face but can make out that it is a man. Naomi stirs. 320

NAOMI: What's ...

[The figure covers her mouth. They struggle. The children stir. The figure reveals himself, it is ROBBIE.]

ROBBIE: Sssh. Don't make a sound. 325

NAOMI: What are you doing?

ROBBIE: I've got a mate standing by outside. We're gettin' you out of here Sis'.

NAOMI: Where're we going?

ROBBIE: Just be quiet, we gotta get those kids out of here without making a sound. Don't want those bloody mongrels yappin' and wakin' that bastard up. 330

NAOMI: But ...

ROBBIE: For once in your life shut up and do as you're told.

[ROBBIE and NAOMI collect the kids and escape.] 335

SCENE THREE

Robbie and Naomi sit by a fire. They are watching the children playing on the river. Robbie threads gum nuts through some twine. He is making wrist bands. There are many sounds, bush sounds. Nightfall is approaching.

ROBBIE: Hey, you kids, don't eat too many of them berries, they'll make you sick. 340

BETTINA: *[off.]* These ones?

[The kids laugh.]

ROBBIE: Don't come running to me if you get a gut ache. *[Poking at the fire.]* Time for a brew eh? 345

NAOMI: Yeah, I reckon.

ROBBIE: Hey kids, bring us some water will ya?

NAOMI: Don't fall in.

ROBBIE: They'll be right, it's real shallow here, there's a sand bank runs halfway across the river. You only got to keep an eye on it after rain, then the current gets a bit strong. 350

NAOMI: Bettina's alright in the water but I worry about Karina, she never watches what she's doing.

ROBBIE: Relax Sis, you're not on the Mission now. 355

[The kids run in with some water; they are obviously enjoying their new-found freedom.]

KARINA: Here Uncle Robbie.
ROBBIE: Thanks bub. Here, I got something for you girls. Something to remind you of the day you left the Mission. 360

[He gives the girls a precious stone each.]

[patting NAOMI'S pregnant stomach.] And here's one for little Robbie in there.

BETTINA: I'm gonna have a swing off that rope.
KARINA: Me too. 365
BETTINA: What's for dinner Mum?
NAOMI: You wait and see.
ROBBIE: We might have a bit of snake eh?
BETTINA: Snake?
KARINA: Yuk. 370
ROBBIE: Or some berries, or some roo. You like roo?
BETTINA: I dunno.
KARINA: I do.
BETTINA: How would you know?
KARINA: I do. 375
ROBBIE: Yeah? Well, I got one buried in the sand over there.
KARINA: What for?
ROBBIE: What do you mean what for? To keep it cool of course.
KARINA: Why don't you put it in the fridge?
BETTINA: What fridge? 380
ROBBIE: The sand's a kind of fridge. If you bury things in it they stay cool. You kids gotta learn about the bush.
KARINA: Can we go and play?
NAOMI: Go on and be careful!
ROBBIE: You can play wherever you like, you're not on the Mission now. 385

[The kids run off.]

BETTINA: Bags the rope first.
ROBBIE: Watch yourself. Hey, Sis, talking about watches ...
[He pulls out the MISSION MANAGER'S fob watch.] 390

NAOMI: Robbie!

[There is a loud scream. The kids come rushing back.]

BETTINA: Snake! I nearly stood on a snake!
KARINA: Mummy!
ROBBIE: Hey, take it easy. Don't scare the snake. He might run off. Where'd you see him? 395
KARINA: Over there.
ROBBIE: He probably gone now, all that noise. Don't move.

[ROBBIE stealthily hunts the snake. He catches it.]

Tucker! He's a big fat lazy fella. Not many snakes he
around after all that, they don't like noise and carryin
on. You make a bit of noise when you're walking along
and he'll push off, he's more scared of you than you are
of him.

[The kids are frozen.]

405

KARINA:
ROBBIE:

Go on, off you go. The river's nice and shallow, been
no rain. Best time to play.
Maybe after.
Go on, I'll give you a yell when the tucker's ready.

*[The kids leave, this time with extreme caution. The
sight of them tip-toeing makes ROBBIE laugh.]*

410

NAOMI:
ROBBIE:

They're a couple of good 'uns those two.
It's so good to be free, eh Rob?
Mission's no place for you, Sis.

[He stokes the fire, boiling the water.]

415

NAOMI:

Cup of real tea eh? Billy tea.
Where'd the tea come from?

[ROBBIE smiles. He busies himself making the tea.]

ROBBIE:

I better see if this roo is ok while I'm at it eh? What do
you reckon? Good cup a billy tea, bit of fried snake and
some roo meat, sounds like pretty good tucker to me.
Here, you can skin this.

420

[He chucks the snake at NAOMI.]

NAOMI:

Still remember how?
What do you reckon?

425

[She skins the snake expertly as ROBBIE digs up the roo.]

ROBBIE:

Where we going Robbie?
Place called Bin Bin Station. I done a lot of droving work
there. They're a good mob. Specially the Mrs. Old
Harry's a bit of a mongrel but no one takes too much
notice of him. A lot of blackfellas work on the place, the
pay's good and the tucker's not too bad. We do all the
stock work for old Harry. He doesn't know too much
about it so he usually leaves it up to me. His manager's a
good bloke, reckon he's got a bit of blackfella in him the
way he carries on but he'd never admit it. You'll never
see Harry on a horse though. Not since he got tossed by
a little mare of his. Couldn't ride a gate on a windy day!
Suits me, the mare's a beauty and I get to ride it now.

430

435

NAOMI:
ROBBIE:

And what am I going to do?
Work for the Mrs. You know, cook and all that stuff.
Don't worry, you'll be right. I wouldn't let you go there if
I didn't think you'd be right.

440

- NAOMI: But what about this?
[She pats her pregnant tummy.]
- ROBBIE: Mrs loves kids. Specially babies. Don't worry, it's all arranged. Trust me.
- NAOMI: I do Robbie.
- ROBBIE: Let's enjoy tonight eh? We're not that far from town, I'll put you on the train in the morning. You'll be right Sis. 450
[The kids run in.]
- KARINA: Mum! We saw a whole mob of roos across the river.
BETTINA: Yeah. Hundreds of them. You gotta climb up the tree to see them though.
- NAOMI: They come down to the river for a drink and a feed. 455
BETTINA: Dinner before bedtime, eh Mum?
NAOMI: Something like that.
ROBBIE: You kids know the kangaroo dance?
KARINA: No.
BETTINA: Can you teach us Uncle Robbie? 460
ROBBIE: I reckon I can. Here.
[ROBBIE teaches the kids the kangaroo dance. The kids join in.]
- BETTINA: Come on Mum.
[NAOMI tries but it is a difficult dance for a pregnant woman.] 465
- NAOMI: That's enough of that, I don't want my joey popping out early!
- ROBBIE: Time for a feed eh?
KARINA: Yes please I'm starving. 470
BETTINA: Me too.
ROBBIE: Try some good bush tucker.
[The kids try some.]
- BETTINA: This' good.
KARINA: Taste like chicken. 475
ROBBIE: Probably ate a chicken!
NAOMI: Yum this sure beats bully beef.
KARINA: What is it Uncle Rob?
ROBBIE: What do you think it is?
KARINA: I dunno. 480
ROBBIE: Could be a sheep, could be a chook. Could even be an elephant. Isn't though. It's that snake that nearly ate ya.
[The kids nearly faint.]
- NAOMI: Best tucker you'll ever eat. 485
ROBBIE: That's right.
Look at those stars, see that there looks like a pot, if you ever get lost you just follow that

BETTINA:

Where?

NAOMI:

There.

[She points out the stars to the girls.]

ROBBIE:

Now you girls settle down there and I'll tell you a yarn. When I was a young fella and your Mum was only a baby my Dad taught me the most important lesson I've ever learnt. One day we were wandering along the street, just minding our own business, when we heard this racket. Well, the old man, he was always interested in what was goin' on, so we race around the corner to where the racket's coming from. Well, strike me pink if there was this fella, a big fella with a big ugly nose, there he was fairly laying into his horse.

495

He was giving it larry dooley. Thrashing it with his reins. Well, the old man didn't like that at all.

500

'What do you think you're doin'?' he says.

'None of your bloody business you black bastard,' says the ugly bloke. 'You keep out of it or I'll give you a thrashing too.'

505

Well, the old man didn't like that. Quick as a flash he jumped on this bloke and gave him the belting he deserved. He could go like a thrashing machine when he was stirred up, and I tell you what he was stirred up that day. He fairly flattened him.

510

[He demonstrates.]

Left hooks, right hooks, uppercuts, jabs. He destroyed the rotten mongrel. I was pretty impressed. He turned to me and he said, 'Whatever you do son, never be cruel to dumb animals. You can fight any man you want to and he can fight back but an animal can't fight back.' So never, ever lift your hand to a dumb animal.

515

NAOMI:

Come on kids, time for a sleep, we got a big day tomorrow. We're going to catch the train.

520

[The kids snuggle up and go to sleep. ROBBIE and NAOMI sit quietly as the sounds of the night surround them.]

ROBBIE:

God this is beautiful.

NAOMI:

Sure is Sis.

525

ROBBIE:

It's so peaceful.

NAOMI:

Yeah.

Wish we could stay here forever Rob. If we could bottle this moment and keep it and never have to leave.

ROBBIE:

Huh.

530

NAOMI:

Look at those kids, don't they look innocent? Sometimes, when I put them to bed I watch them, and I wonder how it is they're the same kids that get into so much trouble and get me so stirred up.

ROBBIE:

They've got it made, kids.

535

NAOMI:

Yeah, shame we have to grow up.

ROBBIE:

Yeah

NAOMI: Well, some of us. Some never bother do they Rob?
 ROBBIE: Sis, I'll be a kid for as long as I can get away with it!
 NAOMI: True.
 ROBBIE: We better get some sleep ourselves, big day tomorrow.
 NAOMI: You're a true friend bro, I'll never forget this. Tell you
 what though, you had me worried. Thought you were
 going to leave me on that Mission.
 ROBBIE: I wouldn't do that would I? We're family. 545
 NAOMI: True. We are. Family.

SCENE FOUR

At Bin Bin Station four years later. Naomi has established herself as the chief housekeeper on Bin Bin Station. She is the boss of the kitchen. She happily decorates a birthday cake. 550

NAOMI: 'Happy Birthday Rose'. There you go! Now ...
[She checks the stove, stirring and then tasting a stew.]
 Not bad. Ahh ... candles!
[She goes to the pantry as ENID, the property owner's wife enters.] 555

ENID: Naomi?
 NAOMI: *[off.]* Yes Mrs?
 ENID: I ... what are you doing in there?
 NAOMI: *[off.]* Looking for some candles.
[She enters.] 560

That pantry is a disgrace! If we don't do something about it it'll be full of rats.
 ENID: Lovely cake.
 NAOMI: I can't find the candles.
 ENID: I'll get them, I know where they are. 565
 NAOMI: You been in there 're-arranging' again?
 ENID: I was looking for some castor oil.
 NAOMI: Oh?
 ENID: Mr Boulder's been a bit, you know ... constipated.
 NAOMI: Its not my cooking is it? 570
 ENID: No! Of course not! You know him, he gets himself so knotted up.

[They both laugh. ENID goes to find the candles. The sound of boxes being upturned can be heard.]

NAOMI: Now I *will* have to clean it up! 575
 ENID: *[off.]* Rosie's still down with the women?
 NAOMI: Yeah.

[More sounds of crashing boxes. NAOMI smiles to herself.]

- ENID: *[off.]* Found them!
- [She enters triumphantly holding the candles.]*
- There!
- NAOMI: Well done!
- ENID: Shouldn't she be home?
- NAOMI: Not yet, give me a chance to get some work done. 585
- ENID: I could look after her.
- NAOMI: She's fine.
- ENID: Don't you ... well, you know, worry ...
- NAOMI: About what?
- ENID: Oh, the, ah ... the women. 590
- NAOMI: Why?
- ENID: Well, they're not all that clean are they?
- NAOMI: What?
- ENID: I mean ... the babies ... their noses are always runny!
- NAOMI: Mrs Boulder, those women are Rosie's people. Our people. 595
- ENID: Yes. Yes. Of course, but do you think it's right?
- NAOMI: What?
- ENID: Your children playing with the stockman's children.
- NAOMI: Course it's right, they're having fun and they're playing with their people, what could be righter? 600
- ENID: But won't they pick up bad habits?
- NAOMI: Only from gubbas ... nah! Look, its important that they know who they are. Them women down the creek, they know a lot, important stuff, stuff they need to learn. Now make yourself useful and put the candles on the cake will you? 605
- ENID: Oh yes, I'd be delighted.
- [She carefully places candles as NAOMI returns to the stew.]* 610
- I was thinking, we better use up the rest of that mutton before it goes off. Mr Boulder's going to kill tomorrow so we'll have some fresh meat.
- NAOMI: I already have.
- ENID: What? 615
- NAOMI: Used the mutton.
- [She indicates the stew.]*
- ENID: The girls should be home from school shouldn't they?
- NAOMI: Should be. Just think, Rosie'll be joining them there soon ... 620
- ENID: Amazing how time flies. Oh, by the way Naomi ...
- NAOMI: Yes Mrs Boulder.
- ENID: Enid. Call me Enid.
- NAOMI: Yes Mrs Boulder.
- ENID: I mean its quite ridiculous really. We've known each other all this time, you can't go on calling me Mrs Boulder. 625
- NAOMI: Yes Mrs Boulder.

[ENID laughs. They have an easy, friendly relationship.]

I'm sorry, Mrs Enid ... I mean Enid. Oh! I can't get out of the habit! Anyway, can you imagine what your husband would say if he overheard me calling you Enid, he'd have me horsewhipped.
 ENID: Don't take any notice of him.
 NAOMI: Easy for you ... 635
 ENID: I'm sorry, that was a silly thing to say.
 NAOMI: You know how he carries on.
 ENID: He's all puff and wind. His bark's worse than his bite.
 NAOMI: Yeah, well ... I've been bitten once too often.

[There is an awkward pause which ENID relieves by pulling out a beautiful pink dress which she has bought for the four year old ROSE.] 640

ENID: What do you think?
 NAOMI: Oh ... its beautiful. You, you shouldn't have ...
 ENID: Why not? You know how much I adore her. 645
 NAOMI: She'll love it. It'll look lovely on her.
 ENID: She's such a gorgeous little thing.
 NAOMI: Takes after her Mum eh? ... Thank God!

[NAOMI returns to the stew. ENID watches her for a moment.] 650

ENID: What about her Dad?
 NAOMI: Pass the salt will you?

[She does and NAOMI adds salt to the stew.]

ENID: You never talk about him.
 NAOMI: I never talk about a lot of things. 655
 ENID: You shouldn't be so secretive Naomi.
 NAOMI: Don't you have something to do?
 ENID: Oh. I'm sorry ... actually, I did want your advice on something.

[NAOMI stops stirring and looks at her.] 660

NAOMI: You're right.
 ENID: Pardon?
 NAOMI: I'll have to tell her. Won't I?
 ENID: What?
 NAOMI: About her father. She'll want to know. 665
 ENID: Yes, yes, I suppose she will. But you don't have to tell me. It's none of my business.
 NAOMI: He was white.

[Pause.]

It was after Les took off. He promised to look after us. 670
 To take us off the Mission. He lied to me.
 ENID: Oh, Naomi, I'm sorry.

- NAOMI: I never told you because I was ashamed ... I don't
want to remember him. But you have to ... I dunno,
face it, don't you? You can't pretend it never happened.
You know what? Every birthday I think about it. I wish I
didn't but I do ...
- [ENID comforts her.]*
- Ahh! This' no good. I've gotta be in a good mood for
Rosie on her birthday haven't I? Here! Wasn't there
something you wanted to ask me? 680
- ENID: Yes, that's right. I'm going into town and I wondered if
you could help me decide which dress to wear, I can't
make up my mind.
- NAOMI: All right, but get a move on. Dinner won't cook itself. 685
- [ENID rushes off.]*
- Nothing better to do than worry about which dress to
wear! Still, she's all right, for a gubba.
- [BETTINA and KARINA rush in from school. They are
now nine and twelve.]* 690
- KARINA: Hi Mummy!
- NAOMI: Hello darlin', have a good day?
- BETTINA: Yeah! I won the 100 metres and the long jump!
- NAOMI: Well done!
- BETTINA: And Mr Beecher reckons I can be in the school play as
long as I have a note saying it's ok. 695
- NAOMI: Uh huh.
- KARINA: And I got a gold star Mummy, for tidying up.
- NAOMI: Good girl.
- BETTINA: Can we go down the creek? 700
- NAOMI: Yes, and bring Rosie back. Time for her party!
- KARINA: I did a painting for her Mummy.
- NAOMI: All right, off you go. And no swimming today! I want you
back here before it gets dark.
- BETTINA: Let's go. 705
- NAOMI: Bettina! You hear me? Straight back.
- BETTINA: Yes Mum.
- NAOMI: Go on, off you go.
- [They go as ENID rushes in with two dresses and holds
one up.]* 710
- ENID: Well?
- NAOMI: That's a pretty colour.
- ENID: You think so?
- NAOMI: Suits you.
- ENID: What about this one? 715
- NAOMI: It's too nice.
- ENID: Naomi?
- NAOMI: Yes?
- ENID: The tone in your voice tells me something.
- NAOMI: Well, which one do you like? 720

- ENID: This one.
- [She holds up the second dress. NAOMI works on.]*
- NAOMI: Oh.
- ENID: And?
- NAOMI: Well, I tell you, you go wearing that and you'll have every fella in town staring at you. 725
- ENID: Maybe I should ...
- NAOMI: Eh, you behave.
- ENID: I'll wear this one then. Harry Boulder's wife can't be seen to do the wrong thing can she? 730
- NAOMI: It suits you better anyway.
- ENID: Thank you.
- [She puts the dresses away and fusses around preparing for the birthday ...]*
- ENID: These cups will be best. 735
- NAOMI: When you going to have one?
- ENID: A what?
- NAOMI: A bubby.
- ENID: I don't know.
- NAOMI: You ought to get a move on you know, you're not getting any younger. 740
- ENID: Thanks Naomi. I'm not sure I can.
- NAOMI: Can what?
- ENID: Have a baby.
- NAOMI: Why not? 745
- ENID: Well, don't tell Mr Boulder, but I've been trying.
- NAOMI: You need help you know.
- ENID: I do know how babies are made.
- NAOMI: Well?
- ENID: Nothing's happened. 750
- NAOMI: Hasn't old Mr Boulder got any sting in him?
- ENID: It might be me.
- NAOMI: I never had any trouble, every time I looked sideways at a man I seemed to get pregnant.
- ENID: I wish I could have a baby. 755
- NAOMI: I know what you need Mrs, you need a blackfella!
- [ENID laughs as NAOMI works on busily.]*
- NAOMI: When you going into town?
- ENID: Later. I've got a Committee Meeting for the Picnic Races, and after that we're having a meeting about the fete and I thought I might drop in on Mrs Lee for a cup of tea. 760
- NAOMI: That should keep you busy.
- ENID: Anything I can do?
- NAOMI: Set the table if you like, just don't get in the way. 765
- [She does. NAOMI laughs.]*
- ENID: I'll try not to.

- NAOMI: Just gammin'. Tell you the truth, I like the company. The more kids grow up the less they seem to need you, or that's what they think. Lookout! We keep yapping we'll never get this party ready!
- [The moment is broken by HARRY BOULDER'S entrance.]*
- HARRY: Oh, there you are Enid, I've been looking for you everywhere. Now, look here, I've just got a message that Percy Buttons is coming into the District and I want to throw a dinner party for him and his entourage. That's his 'party'. 775
- ENID: When?
- HARRY: At the weekend. Now we'll need to get stuck in, I want this to be a spectacular event. 780
- ENID: Why?
- HARRY: Because Enid, Percy Buttons is the Speaker of The NSW Legislative Assembly. A very influential person. Some Crown land is becoming available. We're never going to expand unless we get hold of some of those river flats. 785
- ENID: But ...
- HARRY: Now I suggest you speak to the Ridges and ask if we can borrow their cook for a few days. 790
- ENID: Why?
- HARRY: Well we can't have blackie here doing it can we? I mean, the Buttons party will be expecting more than mutton stew won't they? The Ridge's cook trained in Paris.
- [NAOMI and ENID are stunned by this.]* 795
- Well? That's settled then. See to it won't you Enid? Blackie can have a day off or maybe we should swap her with the Ridges, although they'll be dining with us. Whatever.
- [He goes to leave.]* 800
- NAOMI: Hang on a sec.
- HARRY: Yes blackie?
- NAOMI: This' my kitchen.
- HARRY: What?
- NAOMI: This' my kitchen and no-one else is gonna cook in my kitchen. 805
- HARRY: I beg your pardon.
- NAOMI: You heard me. If another cook sets foot in this kitchen I'll be out that door before she's had a chance to unpack her bag. 810
- HARRY: You'll do as you're told. No-one tells me what to do.
- NAOMI: Well then, you can make up my pay now. I'll go and pack my things and pick up the kids. I don't play second fiddle to anyone. Not in my kitchen.
- ENID: Naomi, please ... 815
- NAOMI: If you think I'm going to stand around listening to this, you've got rocks in your head

[NAOMI angrily leaves.]

- ENID: Well, isn't that a fine mess.
 HARRY: What's got into her? Have a talk to her will you and tell her something about respect while you're at it.
- ENID: Wait on Harry.
 HARRY: What? Come on hurry up. I've got work to do.
 ENID: What's wrong with Naomi's cooking? She's cooked for us for two years and none of us has ever been sick. 825
- HARRY: Enid, she's a very good country cook but really and truly can you imagine her cooking for people of this ilk?
 ENID: You worry too much Harry, you'll give yourself another ulcer. I trust Naomi to cook our food anytime and for anyone. 830
- HARRY: Oh really Enid, you're missing the point! I've got an enormous amount to think about ...
 ENID: All you've got to do is to make sure you invite all the right people and leave the rest to us.
- HARRY: No Enid, its not good enough. Just not good enough. 835
 ENID: I tell you what Harry Boulder, if Naomi leaves I'll be right behind her.
- HARRY: I beg your pardon?
 ENID: She's a good friend. You're always off somewhere doing something terribly important. Who do you think I talk to? 840
- HARRY: You've got the neighbours.
 ENID: The neighbours! They're miles away and even if they were closer who'd want to spend their time discussing the latest way to crochet or how to make a perfect sponge. That Emily Ridge is as thick as a post. 845

[NAOMI storms back.]

- ENID: Oh, Naomi ...
 NAOMI: And another thing Mr Boulder, you don't seem to have any trouble eating seconds do you? My cooking not good enough! 850
- ENID: Naomi, Mr Boulder would like you to bake a leg of pork for the dinner. That's your speciality isn't it?
 NAOMI: Yes, amongst others.
 ENID: He realises how great your contribution has been and in the light of our magnificent wool clip, he has decided that it is time to raise your pay. 855
- HARRY: I ...
 ENID: Harry dear, you don't think I should visit Mother this weekend do you? 860
- HARRY: No, I would like you to be here to look after Mrs Buttons and the other ladies.
 ENID: Exactly. Mr Buttons will be delighted that he chose to eat with us won't he Naomi?
 NAOMI: Oh yes Mrs Enid, he'll never have a better feed as long as he lives. You can tell him that for me Mr Boulder. 865
- HARRY: Yes. Well, yes, I, I will.
 ENID: We owe you an apology don't we Harry? We didn't mean to offend you. We were a bit confused because

- Mr Buttons is such an important person and we're a bit
anxious about doing the right thing aren't we dear?
- HARRY: Yes, well I'll leave it up to you then Enid. I trust you've
made the right decision.
- ENID: Besides, there is another event of equal significance
which needs to be addressed before we can worry
about Percy Buttons. 875
- HARRY: Eh?
- ENID: Our Rosie's birthday. Now, you'd better hurry along
dear we don't want to keep you any longer.
- HARRY: Right. Good. 880
- ENID: Shall we say four pound a month then?
- HARRY: Ahhh, yes. All right.

*[HARRY departs making as dignified an exit as possible
under the circumstances.]*

- NAOMI: Well you certainly put a spoke in his wheel didn't you? 885
- ENID: Talk about women fussing! What a performance, men
are such peacocks aren't they?
- NAOMI: Some are peacocks and some are worms and some
are like the brown snake, you take your eyes off them
and they strike. 890
- ENID: We'll need to kill a pig ...
- NAOMI: I'll get the boys onto it straight away.
- ENID: Good.
- NAOMI: That Percy Buttons is in for a treat, I hope he deserves
it! 895

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS EXAMINATION, SCENE FIVE HAS BEEN CUT

SCENE SIX

*A few days later. Naomi is happily working in the
kitchen, mixing a cake.*

- NAOMI: I hope this works out all right, Enid'll be hungry after all
that travelling and no-one likes a cake as much as she
does. 900
- [She casually looks out the window and then suddenly
sees something.]*
- Rose! You get out of that puddle! You'll dirty your nice
clean dress. Go on! Get out of it! Go and play with your
sisters. Bettina! Keep an eye on Rosie will you? Ohhh.
Look at them. 905
- [She returns to her work humming a lullaby. ENID enters.]*
- NAOMI: Oh, you're up! Cake's not ready yet. I thought you'd have
a lie down after such a long journey. How was the city?
- ENID: Pretty depressing I'm afraid. 910
- NAOMI: All those people rushing about. Like a bunch of chooks
with their heads cut off if you ask me

- ENID: Yes.
 NAOMI: Are you all right?
 ENID: Yes. I'm just a bit ... tired.
 NAOMI: That all?
- [ENID looks at NAOMI before she speaks.]*
- ENID: Do you know why I went to the city? I've been having a series of tests done.
- [Pause.]* 920
- NAOMI: They've confirmed what I've always suspected. I can't have a baby.
 Oh no. *[She stops work.]* That's terrible. I had no idea that's what you were talking about before ... you know, when you said ... Oh, Mrs, that's sad. You should get a second opinion though, they're not always right those doctors, they may think they're God but ... 925
- [She goes to comfort ENID who pulls away.]*
- ENID: You know how desperately I want a family. I've been talking to some people and they suggest I adopt a baby. 930
 NAOMI: Well, why don't you then?
 ENID: It's not quite as simple as that.
- [Pause.]*
- NAOMI: What would you say if I said I was thinking of adopting an Aboriginal baby? 935
 ENID: Eh?
 NAOMI: Well ... not fully Aboriginal ...
 ENID: What are you getting at?
- [ENID blurts out ...]*
- ENID: Naomi, I want to adopt Rosie. 940
 NAOMI: What?
 ENID: I want to adopt Rosie. I've known her all her life, I've cared for and I can give her a future.
- NAOMI: Enid ...
 ENID: Naomi, I can give her a start in life, I can assure her of a good education and some security in the world. 945
- NAOMI: You're talking about my baby. My Rosie ...
 ENID: Listen, I've thought this through very carefully. She's still young enough. You'd obviously be able to see her and it would take the pressure off you a bit. I'd make money available so that you can really give the older girls a chance. It would all be in writing. I've spoken to my stockbroker and he suggested I sign some share scrips over to you. Think about it. 950
- [NAOMI is stunned.]* 955

We would still be close, your family would still be together and in the long run everyone would be better off.

[Pause. NAOMI turns away, unable to comprehend what she is hearing.]

Even the Adoption Agency people agree. The Protection Board are behind me. They think it's the most humane thing to do for those who don't belong ...
 NAOMI: Don't belong?
 ENID: Well ... what I mean is ... I'm only thinking of Rosie. 960

[Pause. NAOMI is unable to speak as ENID pulls papers out of her bag.] 965

Look, I've got the papers here for you to have a look at. You can take your time to think about it but I'm sure you'll see what a wonderful thing this will be for everyone involved.
 NAOMI: You must be out of your mind.
 ENID: Think about it Naomi. 970

[NAOMI turns on her.]

NAOMI: I don't need to think about it. You must be mad! I wouldn't part with my children for anything. Anything! I thought you were a friend. 975

ENID: I am Naomi, don't you see what I'm offering you? A chance for Rosie to make it in the world. I'm offering you the chance to give your daughter a future.

NAOMI: You make me sick! You get out of here. Go on. Get out of my sight. I've never been so insulted in all my life. You're worse than the Mission Manager. You're ... get out, get out of here, just go ... 980

[ENID escapes.]

And don't you go anywhere near my children ever again. You hear me! 985

SCENE SEVEN

Night. Naomi is packing her things. Robbie helps her.

ROBBIE: Jeez Sis, I seem to spend half my life moving you.
 NAOMI: Sssh.
 ROBBIE: It's all right, no-one's awake. Yet. Come on. Those kids won't keep quiet in the car for long. 990

NAOMI: I don't want to leave anything ...

ROBBIE: Come on! Everything you need is in the car.

NAOMI: I can't find Rosie's teddy.

ROBBIE: She's got it with her. This' mad, you're a free person, this isn't the Mission you know. 995

NAOMI: I want to be out of here and well away before they realise we've gone

- ROBBIE: Whatever you reckon Sis.
 NAOMI: Here. Grab this.
- [She loads him up with belongings then mutters to herself.]*
- ROBBIE: No-one's gonna take my baby away from me.
 You got any money?
 NAOMI: Enough. 1005
 ROBBIE: Well you can stay with me but I tell you Sis, it's not exactly Buckingham Palace.
 NAOMI: It'll do.
 ROBBIE: You gonna find it tougher than you think. Them city bullymen don't like blackfellas much. You gotta be careful. 1010
 NAOMI: I'm not a child.
 ROBBIE: But you don't know nothing. I'm worried about you going to the city. You'd be better off in the bush.
 NAOMI: We'll manage. 1015
 ROBBIE: Just keep away from the Welfare, they've got some bad habits. If that missus Enid wants to she can make things pretty tough for you.
 NAOMI: I know. That's what I'm worried about.
 ROBBIE: Let's get a move on. 1020
- [HARRY enters, accompanied by a distraught ENID. They have been in bed.]*
- HARRY: What the hell's going on here?
 ROBBIE: I told you we shoudda hurried.
 ENID: This isn't the answer Naomi. Surely we can work something out? 1025
 NAOMI: Come on Robbie.
 HARRY: What's he got to do with it?
 ROBBIE: Family, Harry, something you gubs don't know much about. 1030
 HARRY: Look here Robbie, you might know a bit about horses but ...
 ROBBIE: No time to talk Harry, we got a train to catch.
 ENID: Naomi?
 ROBBIE: Come on Sis. 1035
 HARRY: Now you listen here ...
 ROBBIE: No. You listen. We may not have the vote but we're still free to go where we want to.
 ENID: Wait Naomi, have you got any money, where are you going to stay? 1040
 NAOMI: Goodbye Enid.
 ENID: Do something!
 HARRY: Ahh, wait.
- [ROBBIE blocks the doorway.]*
- ROBBIE: Sorry, only room for us on this trip. 1045
 ENID: Harry! Do something for once in your life ...
 HARRY: I, ah ... look be reasonable, you've got no money to

ROBBIE: Remember Harry, you pull a horse too hard and
throw you in the end.

[He rushes off. HARRY shouts after him.]

HARRY: You'll regret this ... I promise you.

[ENID turns on HARRY.]

ENID: You useless bloody idiot! Look what you've done now!
HARRY: But ... Enid. It's not my fault ...

1055

[She storms off.]

Damn you Naomi!

[He shouts after them.]

You won't get away with this Naomi. You mark my
words. You won't get away with this! This won't be the
end of it ... You hear me?

1060

END OF ACT ONE

STIMULI

You are required to produce a short piece of drama on each stimulus in preparation for your examination. Questions will be asked on each of the stimuli and will cover both practical and theoretical issues.

- 1 My friend.
- 2 Conscience is the loudest voice.
- 3 Celebrating the anniversary.

Copyright Acknowledgements:

© Taken from *Close to the Bone* by Ned Manning, published by Currency Press Pty Ltd, Sydney.

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

University of Cambridge International Examinations is part of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.