

Essential English 2019 v1.1

IA3 sample B-standard response 1 transcript

Transcript of video

This video is available from

www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/portal/media/snr_ess_english_19_ia3_b_sample_response_1.mp4.

Australian Identity

What represents Australia?

Introduction

Student

A montage of Australian images plays. (Images have been removed from video to avoid copyright infringement.)

Being Australian and what being Australian means to people can vary throughout our multicultural country. Most countries see Australia as a laid back, relaxed country with beautiful weather, whilst others countries still think we ride kangaroos to school. Typical Australian qualities include having mateship, being down to earth, a good sense of humour and always giving everything a 'fair go'. All these traits have grown and developed over the years becoming what they are today. One Australian song that represents our country positively is 'Waltzing Matilda' by Banjo Paterson, and one play that also represents Australia is 'Muriel's Wedding' by PJ Hogan.

Waltzing Matilda

Student

The song 'Waltzing Matilda' is a world-recognised and iconic Australian song. Some of the most important words, for example 'billabong', 'jumbuck', 'swagman' and 'Waltzing Matilda' are only used in Australia and the story isn't very obvious to many speakers of English. The story portrayed through the song can be quite a universal one — a conflict between poor and rich. 'Waltzing Matilda' has also been referred to many times as the unofficial national anthem of Australia. Due to the story line behind this song, a positive representation of Australia actually comes through. In the lyrics 'once a jolly sma ... swagman camped by a billabong under the shade of a coolabah tree as he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boil' — it shows we enjoy life's simple pleasures such as having a fresh cup of tea while sitting in the shade of a tree along the banks of a cool pond. The term 'who'll come a waltzing Matilda with me' used throughout the whole song is actually a wildly romantic invitation. It is an invitation to live the life we dare not. The swagman is also very affectionate towards his matilda, which is a particular term for a bag, because it is only his ... it is the only companion he has. All the language and lyrics used in this song, such as 'jumbuck', which is a sheep, 'tuckerbag', which is a food bag, and 'swagman', which is a person travelling around looking for work, represents Australia, how we always use slang and shorten our words. It's like a whole new language.

The tune is quite seet sound ... sweet-sounding, which belies the tragedy that awaits the swagman. Overall, the song 'Waltzing Matilda' creates a positive representation of Australia.

Excerpt of song 'Waltzing Matilda' and a montage of images play.

Muriel's Wedding

Student

The play 'Muriel's Wedding' was first written by PJ Hogan. Soon after, it was transformed into a movie. The families and marriages shown in this play/movie display a negative representation of Australia. Every single one of the family members are all in some way depicted as a failure. This sends out the message that families in Australia are failures, which is very negative. Muriel has no job, steals from her parents and depends on getting married way too much. Bill cheats on his wife, Betty is unhappy and will not leave her cheating husband, Joanie and Perry both still live at home with no job, and do nothing to help around the house. This portrays to other people that Australians are lazy, stealing, cheating, and just all-round not very good people. Furthermore, the marriage in this play is portrayed as yet another negative representation of Australia. It displays that we just marry people because we want to, not because we love them, and perhaps in this case, so they can become an Australian citizen. Through Bill and Betty's marriage is yet another negative representation, as Bill cheats on his wife and she will not even leave him for it. Another aspect that represents Australia negatively, is the humour. Australian humour is full of payouts and put-downs, for example, from the play: 'You're terrible, Muriel.' This displays that Australians don't care for others and put them down all the time, which is false, because in real life, which is not shown in this play, we take it light-heartedly and in the end, we are all mates.

Excerpt of film 'Muriel's Wedding' plays.

Conclusion

Student

Overall, the song and play's representation of Australia are completely different. One being positive, and the other negative. If people from another country were to read the play 'Muriel's Wedding' or watch the movie it was created into, they would definitely receive a negative impression, when they have no idea that this whole play is very unrealistic. The song 'Waltzing Matilda' used ... used to be a good impression of Australia, but now as our society has developed and changed over the years, and people do not regularly use the language used in the song, in this case creating it hard to understand even though it does portray a positive representation, it's just not very modern making it unrealistic for Australia nowadays.