



Tim Winton, ~~the~~ 'Cloudstreet'

Student 1: Oh god... school is sooo boring!

Student 2: Yeah, I know. Especially English.

Student 1: Oh, don't remind me. Hey, James have you read the novel yet? Cloudstreet?

James: Yeah, I thought it was really good! It was so meaningful! What did you think?

Student 1: ...

James: Dave?

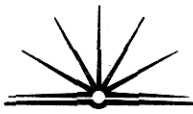
Dave: ... I thought was terrible. It didn't make sense at all!

James: What do you mean? It was very well written, and it dealt with many good issues very cleverly yet honestly.

Dave: Oh, you must be talking about all the biblical allusions, and the metaphors in everything

James: Yeah, that was a real piece of work by Tim Winton. What a great writer!

Dave: I was being sarcastic.



J: Oh. Well, I thought it was good. The ideas of the text were very deep, yet entertaining to read.

D: No, it was simply a long story that dragged on about two loserish families.

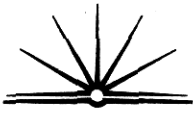
J: The characters were well drawn. They weren't the typical stereotypes that you see in most of today's books.

D: True. One was a crippled gambling addict, another a chain smoking drinking whore, another an anorexic depressed teenage girl, another was -

J: Okay I get the point! But those things can all be found in real people, real society, I'm sure it was just that Whitton wanted to show all these issues, and he only had these main characters.

D: Fire fire, what about them themes about God and Australia as a nation and everything?

J: Ahh yes... there are many hidden messages in the stories - for example, the whole Lamb family, well actually only Ariel and Lester, they represent the 'lambs' of God, hard working, God-fearing, church



going simple folk. They work hard, clear up after themselves and are proud of who they are. On the other hand, the Pichles, they live off chance and commit most of the sins that the Lambs live so much in fear from. Gambling, drinking, cheating, they don't take pride in themselves, they live off Lady Luck and don't care about family structure.

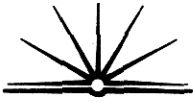
D: (bored) Oh-huh...

J: And about Australia, Oriel Lamb represents the 'Mother' Country, England, while her ~~children~~ children are the new Australians and the house named 'Cloudstreet' symbolises the land of Australia, where the new settlers are going.

D: You probably have something to say about the language used in the book too.

J: Yep! Well, it's realistic to who the characters are, what they were like, and it depicts the attitudes of the people at that time, in the middle of a war and trying to survive in relative poverty.

D: They were poor? What do you mean? How



big is that house?!

J: True, big house, but it had two families in it with one pretty much supporting the other.

So you see, this book does have its merits

D: (enthusiastically) My God, you're right! I'm going to go home and read it again!

J: (smiles) I'm glad I could help you see this book differently. I gotta go, catcha ~~u~~ later!

D: Yeah ok, bye! See ya James!

(James leaves)

D: Jackass