



Winton's Cloudstreet is a uniquely Australian text that celebrates an Australia that no longer exists. Cloudstreet is partly biographical which allows for a powerful sense of realism that Winton carries through his characters and stylistic language techniques. This realism within the text allows the reader to explore human emotions and relationships which are the key elements allowing critical interpretation to the text.

Winton explores the role of a family in Cloudstreet a universal theme, by exploring the differences in family unity and the effect of this on the various characters. Winton explores the negative effects



of the path of a loving mother through Rose's anorexia and Dolly's promiscuity. This similarity is examined when Elaine states

'You're a dead ringer for Dolly', and Rose accepts this as ~~both~~ a physical and mental similarity. Winton also looks at the difference in family structures with the Lambs representing a family unit whilst the Pickles area divided. Winton's exploration of this universal theme and the effect on the characters explores ~~the~~ how the characters react in future relationships and also provides focus on the Australian culture.

Winton uses verisimilitude



throughout his text creating a realistic and historical interpretation.

Byrnes states 'The acknowledgment of the Australian voice, dialect and exploration of the Australian psyche' is evident in Cloudstreet. Winton's characters are realistic

using slang and colloquialisms that are familiar to us.

This is seen in the following:

'A weddin present she says  
could never think of a  
decent bloody reason  
to get them dirty.'

Here a use of uninked words improves textual integrity and a realistic nature to the texts.

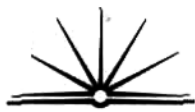
The character Ovid and his relationships with Rose



and the blackfella provide numerous ~~many~~ critical responses. The spiritual is developed here through Winton's use of the voodooism. This is a Jungian concept described by Mills as 'the world of the spirit is present and characters naturally interact with it... a third dimension: The blackfella develops this theme acting as Winton's voice and a guide to Quick.

Quick recognises the blackfella despite a realisation that he is a mystical being. The blackfella leads Quick back to Cloudstreet, firstly by chance and then by force stating 'Go home. This is not your home.' Here Winton borrows the Aboriginal





Winton of spiritual connection to place and continues to develop this with the blackfella stating 'You shouldn't break a place, places are strong, important.' Here Winton allows exploration in to the Aborigindity of the text and the spiritual relationships that are critical to Owick's self development and inner growth.

Winton also uses symbols to represent the spiritual, with the house being personified by the spirits who are affected by the inhabitants of Cloudstreet; 'as though the place was an old stroke victim paralysed down one side.'

This sense of imbalance is



brought about by the conflicting  
Lamps and Pickles and it is not  
until Quick and Rose within  
the library that balance is  
restored. This is an example of  
rhythm in the text as Quick  
and Rose through their relationship  
are able to find their place  
in the great continent of  
Cloudstreet.

Quick, too allows for a ~~psych~~  
psychological interpretation  
through his self analysis  
compared with the Nedlands  
monster. Here Quick represents  
Winton's typical male  
protagonist who as Hopkins  
states are 'very incontact  
with their anima.' This  
relationship and analysis



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Quick develops is beyond the female characters ability to express themselves. Quick state;

'It's not us and them.

anymore. It's us and us

and us. It's always us.'

Quick here highlights the psychological link between all people and fears what this means for him. This relationship

greatly affects Quick throughout most of the text and it is not until

the birth of war Harry that

Quick is changed. This aspect allows insight to the human condition and exploration of an Jungian theory of 'collective unconscious.'

Water is another potent

image used to developed the spiritual, representing a cleansing, change or spiritual awakening.

Lossiter and Jacobs note,



'Winton's characters explore their personality and destiny in relation to the spiritually charged nature of the water.' Fish recognises ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> concept ~~early~~ that the river and spirit are one and inextricable in life, and so longs to be reunited with the river; 'Fish lumps for as long as it takes to drink the river.'

This relationship is developed early in the text and Fish's obsession with the river is a key concept in his relationship with others.

The cyclical nature of the text also brings the responder back 'Here by the River...'



The Lambs and the Pickles.' Through this the responder can explore that reconciliation in contrast to the text, and Mills reinforces this concept stating 'water represents the world of the spirit and the development of relationships.'

Winton explores a Marxist perspective, through an analysis of Rose and her interaction with the various classes in society. Her relationship with Toby and Quick ~~is~~ is the springboard for this interpretation, with Winton focusing on ambition.

Rose accepts 'ambition Toby makes us funny shapes.' This is then contrasted with

quick who 'just wants to be a good man,' thereby demonstrating how the upper class are concerned with materialistic gain, while the lower classes aim for inner improvement and development of relationships with others.

Cloudstreet appeals to many responders and contexts, by Winton's inclusion of universal themes coupled with stylistic language, <sup>that provides realism to the text.</sup> However it is the exploration of the human psyche and human relationships that is most important + is developing the themes of the novel. Winton's allows for understanding and connection by the reader through a discovery of the human condition and the



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effect of the spirit world on  
~~the~~ various relationships.