

# *Cloudstreet*

Tim Winton

## Chapter Questions

### **Prologue (pp. 1-3)**

1. Who is the 'us' mentioned in the prologue?
2. What indicators are there that this novel will have a spiritual element?

### **Chapter 1 (pp. 7-22)**

1. What are the dynamics in the Pickles family?
2. What does the reader learn of Dolly, Rose and Sam and their relationships with each other at this point?

### **Chapter 2 (pp.25-32)**

1. What has actually happened to Fish?
2. What impressions of the Lamb family are given before the accident?

### **Chapter 3 (pp. 35-80)**

1. How do the descriptions of Oriel's past life affect the reader?
2. How is the house described?
3. What is happening to Quick emotionally?

### **Chapter 4 (pp. 83-134)**

1. How is the relationship between Oriel and Dolly depicted?
2. What is the significance of the pig?
3. Comment on the signposting in this chapter of future relationships.

### **Chapter 5 (pp. 137-192)**

1. Why does Oriel become fanatical about G.M. Clay?
2. Why is Beryl brought back to Cloudstreet?
3. Why does Quick feel he needs to run away?

### **Chapter 6 (pp. 195-220)**

1. What happens to Quick, spiritually, out in the wheat belt?
2. How can the reader account for (explain) Quick's glowing?
3. What is the significance of the Aboriginal man's appearance?

### **Chapter 7 (pp. 223-273)**

1. Why does Lester commit adultery and how does he feel afterwards?
2. How is the relationship between Sam and Lester depicted in this chapter?

### **Chapter 8 (pp. 277-321)**

1. Why does Rose know Toby to be wrong for her and Quick to be right?
2. What does Toby expose about another way of life?

### **Chapter 9 (pp. 325-385)**

1. What purpose(s) does the inclusion of a real murderer have?
2. How does the birth of Harry affect the various family members?
3. What indicators are there, early in the chapter, that something momentous will soon happen?

## **Chapter 10 (pp. 389-426)**

1. Why does Sam decide not to sell Cloudstreet?
2. What does the reader learn about social attitudes of the 1960s?
3. Symbolically, what does the folding of the tent suggest?

### **Characters and relationships**

1. How do Oriel and Dolly reach an understanding?
2. Why does Lester need Sam as a friend and vice versa?
3. Is Rose and Quick's relationship destined? Why/why not?
4. What does Fish indirectly teach various family members?
5. What purpose do the minor characters serve in the novel?
6. Why is each family member important to the other, both practically and symbolically?

### **Themes, ideas and values**

1. What does the novel suggest about the importance of connectedness and community?
2. What larger idea might the Aboriginal man represent?
3. How does the novel portray Western Australia and, more broadly, Australian society in the 1950s and 1960s?
4. What could be suggested about childhood and innocence in the novel?
5. What does the text appear to advocate about forgiveness?
6. How does the novel suggest that faith can be felt, practised and shared in a great variety of ways?
7. How is life (in the sense of being alive) represented in the novel?