

### Question 3

Our perspective is determined by who we are and how we look at things. There are a number of factors which influence our perspective, such as our age, gender, cultural background, our socio economic status, our educational level and most significantly our past experiences. Perspective can change with time, as our knowledge and experience grows. Sometimes by looking at someone else's perspective through events and experiences in their life we gain a deeper and better understanding of our own. The texts that I have studied this year have powerful impacts in shaping my understanding of the meaning of perspective.

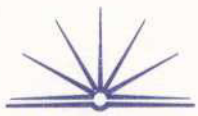
The program "Through Australian Eyes" by William Fitzwater is a successful television series presenting the perspectives of six young Australian girls born of migrant parents who have travelled to their parents' homelands in order to find their true identity. These girls have been brought up in between two cultures - Australian and their parents' cultures.



For example, Jessie Thandi. She is an Australian born Indian. ~~At home~~ Like many of the girls she is uncertain or confused whether she is an Australian or an Indian. At home, she wears the traditional sari and speaks the sixth language; and at school she wears jeans and acts like any other Australian teenager. Therefore, she went into the Thandi village - her parents birthplace and try to find ~~which side is she part~~ who she really is. Jessie believes that on her journey she will find some good things about India ~~not~~ because all this time she has heard nothing else but stomy and dirty India.

Jessie later on found these positive things about India but at the end, however, she is more confused whether she is an Australian or an Indian. Many of the girls perspectives about their background countries ~~and~~ have come from their parents. For example Angela Sarantis.

Angela is an Australian born Greek. All the things she knew about Greece have come from her mother. ~~Therefore~~ Therefore, she went into Greece



to see things if they are now different to what she has been told by her mother. It is a journey of <sup>self</sup> exploration for Angela. And in her parents village she feels connected to the land, somehow she feels that she has been there before. And she comes to know her father whom she never knew (he died when she was 4 years old); she began to see things through her fathers eyes. When she had to leave the village she ~~said~~ said that she would not want to live in the village however, she has experience more of life in her two weeks in Greece than in her whole life in Australia.

These girls perspectives have now changed their perceptions towards a different world with a different point of view.

The second text that I have studied this year is ~~the~~ The Stolen Children Their Stories edited by Carmel Bird. This is a series of stories, recounted in the first person by these very people who were part of the Stolen Generation. These childrens (who are now adults)

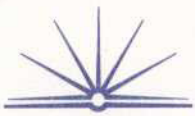
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have experienced a life of harsh treatment and cruel punishments. Millicent D, for example, was one of the stolen children who have suffered a life of torment, stated: "All they contributed to our upbringing and future is an unreparable scar of loneliness, mistrust, hatred and bitterness". ~~These~~ This <sup>similar</sup> comment can be found throughout the book. These ~~comments~~ have resulted in Carmel Bird's sympathetic actions towards the Aboriginal people. She believes that it was "nothing else but a systematic genocide" and her comment was supported by Labour senator Crowley. ~~the~~ ~~Anderson~~

On the other side, the government believes that there were no such thing as stolen generation. These Aboriginal children were being removed from their families or in a nother term 'saved' from their stomy, dirty and uneducational environments which were their families. Truly, the different perspectives on this issue is potting Australian future on hold.



A poet by Miroslav Holub, 'The Door', from the stimulus booklet ~~has~~ ~~he~~ is ~~the~~ telling us to open our hearts and minds to the world - "go and open the door - maybe there's a wood... or a magic city".

We should take up every opportunities there is, it is telling us ~~use~~ not to shut behind closed doors.

We don't know what's behind the door, behind every opportunity there'll be some advantage or disadvantage "even if there's a fog it will clear".

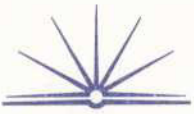
At least we have made ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> attempt to broaden our perspective on life and surely the outside world must have an impact on us.

"At least there'll be a draught".

A film 'Dead Poets Society' is ~~about~~ <sup>making choices</sup>

~~an Eng.~~ A charismatic English teacher played by Robert Williams who chose to teach his students in a strict boys school with wit and wisdom. He tells them to broaden their perspective to see the world from a different angle.

~~On~~ In one ~~ed~~ scene he told his students to stand on their desks, to see the classroom from a different position ~~is~~ things are different from up there.



He told them to "seize the day" take every opportunity there is and make the best of it.

Perspectives can differ from people to people.

A Sydney Morning Herald Article on the Australia Day on January 11 stated 3 different perspectives on the Australia Day. To some people it is a day when the British Settlers came into Australia - building or creating a nation. But to some people especially the Aborigines it is when they lost their culture, language, beliefs and family. And to others it is just another day off, a long weekend or something.

There will always be differences in perspectives, no way we can avoid it and sometimes it is a good thing. However, we can make the best of it by joining our hands together, put our differences aside as we walk towards the bright new future of our nation Australia. Surely, the world will be a better place to live.