

## [W81] COUSINS

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:38 AM

## [W81] COUSINS

Taking a break from my usual weekend welfare  
 I drive with my mother through the shifting rain  
 into Mununjali country  
 a roo bounds across the road  
 we meet at the pub and I order an  
 egg sandwich, orange muffin and a newspaper  
 on the last ten years of your life  
 We are cousins  
 though we grew up on different sides of the axis  
 different sides of the moon  
 got to remember  
 same grandmother  
 same grandmother  
 We don't share memories  
 You recall a football game against boys  
 you fell down and  
 I turned on the falla who did it  
 This violence sounds  
 not like me at all  
 I remember you came to live with us  
 when your house burnt down  
 you were amazed at how many socks I had  
 and you asked me if you went to my school would  
 you be the only dark girl in your class  
 This was the first time I realised that  
 others could see us differently  
 We drive up to Nana's resting place  
 in front of Mt Barney  
 You take the wheel where I am a passenger  
 My uncle says you'll teach me in a paddock  
 He seems to know all them old stories  
 while my mother is quiet  
 Got to remember  
 same mother  
 same mother  
 Used to the flies now I sit under a gum  
 This land heals all my city blues  
 I haven't the language for that  
 You read me after all this time  
 I haven't the language for that

~ Ellen van Neervan

## INTRODUCTION TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

CUE COLUMN Questions/Cues	NOTE TAKING COLUMN Key Ideas/Important facts/Repeated (stressed) information
Ellen van Neervan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal writer and poet</li> </ul>

## BASIC UNDERSTANDING QUESTIONS

Question	Answer
Who is the speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speaker drives with mother</li> </ul>
Where is the speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Australia               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mununjali</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

LINE #	QUOTE/EVIDENCE	ANALYSIS
1	Taking a break from my usual weekend welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting in Australia               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Mununjali country'</li> </ul> </li> <li>'newspaper': figurative               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Figure: newspaper</li> <li>Ground: news of what had happened in the last 10 years</li> </ul> </li> <li>The speaker is aboriginal               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of 'roo' for kangaroo</li> <li>Sneaks of 'Mununjali country'</li> </ul> </li> <li>Kinship               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relationship between members of same family</li> <li>Feeling of being close or similar to other people</li> </ul> </li> <li>Aboriginal Kinship               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More complex</li> <li>"Determines how people relate to each other, and determines their roles, responsibilities and obligations in relation to one another and country" Marcia Langton</li> </ul> </li> <li>country               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Country is an Aboriginal Kriol term that refers to the traditional estate of an Aboriginal person, whether a man, woman or child" Marcia Langton</li> <li>Rather than owning land, each person belongs to a piece of land which they're related to through the kinship system</li> <li>Caring for the land provides a deep sense of identity, purpose and belonging</li> </ul> </li> <li>Quotations from other aboriginal writers/scholars               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land is the mother and we are of the land; we do not own the land rather the land owns us. The land is our food, our culture, our spirit and our identity ~ Dennis Foley</li> </ul> </li> <li>The speaker takes a trip to Mununjali country and reconnects with a               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reconnecting with country</li> <li>Reconnecting with family</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2	I drive with my mother through the shifting rain	
3	into Mununjali country	
4	a roo bounds across the road	
5	we meet at the pub and I	
6	order an	
7	egg sandwich, orange muffin and a newspaper	
8	on the last ten years of your life We are cousins	

## [LECTURE] TITLE

CUE COLUMN Questions/Cues	NOTE TAKING COLUMN Key Ideas/Important facts/Repeated (stressed) information
	-

## SUMMARY

Term	Definition

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

Link to Anki:

Question	Answer in white

QUOTE	TECHNIQUE	ANALYSIS

- 'newspaper': figurative
  - Figure: newspaper
  - Ground: news of what had happened in the last 10 years
- The speaker is aboriginal
  - Use of 'roo' for kangaroo
  - Speaks of 'Mununjali country'

Kinship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relationship between members of same family</li> <li>Feeling of being close or similar to other people</li> </ul>
Aboriginal Kinship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More complex</li> <li>"Determines how people relate to each other, and determines their roles, responsibilities and obligations in relation to one another and country" Marcia Langton</li> </ul>
country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Country is an Aboriginal Kriol term that refers to the traditional estate of an Aboriginal person, whether a man, woman or child" Marcia Langton</li> <li>Rather than owning land, each person belongs to a piece of land which they're related to through the kinship system</li> <li>Caring for the land provides a deep sense of identity, purpose and belonging</li> </ul>
Quotations from other aboriginal writers/scholars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land is the mother and we are of the land; we do not own the land rather the land owns us. The land is our food, our culture, our spirit and our identity ~ Dennis Foley</li> </ul>

- The speaker takes a trip to Mununjali country and reconnects with a
  - Reconnecting with country
  - Reconnecting with family
- Line 8-10
  - Contrast
    - "different sides of the axis"
    - "different sides of the moon"
      - Light side and dark side
      - Connotations of poverty or experience
- Line 11-13
  - Repetition line 12&13
    - "same grandmother"
    - Enforcement of identity despite separation
    - Emphasises the importance of connection
- Line 14-19
  - Memory
  - Narrator defends cousin
    - Act of unity
    - Identity
  - Separation/Difference
    - Distance between speaker and memory
- Line 20-26
  - Pain and violence experienced by cousin not speaker
  - 'us' vs 'others'
    - Maybe image of unity
    - Or image of difference
      - One cousin might have darker skin than the other
  - 'you were amazed at how many socks I had/'
    - Difference in wealth between the two cousins
- Line 27-32
  - Second journey mirrors first
    - Reconnection with family and with country - Mt Barney
  - Second relationship: uncle and mother
  - Parallel
    - Cousin takes the wheel or the car and drives; speaker is passenger
    - Uncle knew all their old stories; mother is quiet
    - Mother might be reconnecting too
  - Storytelling in aboriginal culture:
    - Passed from one generation to the next
    - Stories are linked to the land
  - Repetition
    - Line 11-13 and line 33-35
    - "same mother" "same mother"
      - Aboriginal kinship: uncle and aunt is also mother and father
      - Family relationships can be created as acts of friendship
      - Aboriginal networks stretch back through generations and into the distant past but also outwards socially
      - AND/OR the land is the mother and they share the same mother as they share the same land
- Line 36-40
  - Poem involves various forms of movement
    - Trip to Mununjali
    - Kangaroo bouncing
    - Violence
    - Trip to
    - NOW: stillness
  - Tension/Conflict
    - Usual weekend warfare
    - Football
    - House
    - Being the only dark girl in class
    - NOW: image of refuge
  - Contrast
    - Between city/country
    - City: source of tension
    - Country: place of healing
  - Repetition
    - "I haven't the language for that"
    - Comes to the limits of language
  - Connections between
    - Land
    - Kinship
    - Language
    - Knowledge
    - Identity
  - Looks forward in time - future away from weekend warfare

### WORDS AND CONNOTATIONS

Word	Connotation
'	•

