

Inheritance by Hannie Rayson

SCENE SUMMARIES

ACT 1

Prologue

Characters: Norm, Dibs, Girlie, Refrain, Myrtle, Various neighbours and friends of the Myrtle family.

Plot Summary: A brief introduction to Allandale, setting the scene of December 1934. Norm introduces Dibs and Girlie who sing 'Two Little Girls in Blue' to compete for the 1934 Norm Myrtle Memorial Trophy.

Key Ideas or Themes: In this scene the theme of gender roles is introduced through the song 'Two Little Girls in Blue'. This song also introduces the theme of fairness and fate.

Important Quotes:

- "But freedom and happiness filled our life, a life that was fair and true." - Refrain, from 'Two Little Girls in Blue' (relating to the theme of fate and fairness)
- "And one little girl in blue, lad, Who won your father's heart, Became your mother. I married the other, till destiny drew us apart" - Refrain, from 'Two Little Girls in Blue' (This could relate to/foreshadow Farley's encounter with Nugget's mum and his later marriage to Dibs.)
- "Darlings of the Mallee" - Norm, talking about Dibs and Girlie (Relating to their relationship and bond to the land)

Scene 1

Characters: Felix and Julia

Plot Summary: We are introduced to the setting of the rural area, where Felix and Julia have broken down on The Berriwillock Road. It becomes clear that Felix is more familiar with the inner city and Julia is more 'handy' than Felix, being the one that can fix the car as she did a course in Car Maintenance. Felix is not keen to come up to Allandale for his nana's 80th birthday, although his mum would have been "very disappointed" if he didn't.

Key Ideas or Themes: Rural and Urban Divide is the main theme coming through in this scene with Felix and Julia's opposing attitudes towards going to Allandale.

Gender roles play a small part in this scene although we see that they contrast typical gender roles with Felix having no idea how to fix the car, and Julia being the one who has knowledge about Car Maintenance.

Important Quotes:

- “I hate cars” – Felix (to audience)
- “She always takes on this passive-aggressive tone when she wants me to come up to Allandale with her” – Felix (about Julia)
- “Everyone would be so sad if you weren’t there” – Julia (about Felix)
- “My mother did a Car Maintenance Course for women” – Felix

Scene 2

Characters: Dibs, Girlie

Plot Summary: Girlie and Dibs talk about Julia's marriage falling apart and also talk about Lyle

Key Ideas or Themes: Marriage & family hardships

Important Quotes:

- None

Scene 3

Characters: Lyle, Girlie

Plot Summary: Lyle has converted a ride on mower to a little drive-bike for Girlie and he presents it to her as her birthday present.

Key Ideas or Themes: There is family conflict present as Girlie is not very appreciative of the gift that Lyle has made for her. She thinks that what he has done is idiotic and that her son thinks that she is becoming incompetent of looking after herself with old age.

Important Quotes:

- “Too right it is. I’m gonna be the town idiot.” - Girlie to Lyle

Scene 4

Characters:

Plot Summary:

Key Ideas or Themes:

Important Quotes:

Scene 5

Characters:

Plot Summary:

Key Ideas or Themes:

Important Quotes:

Scene 6

Characters: Girlie and Lyle

Plot Summary: This scene involves a brief conversation between Girlie and Lyle about the party and who exactly is going to be there and how many. They are planning on having people over for Dibs' birthday. They state that they will need more grog, hinting that they are always looking for more alcohol and believe that alcohol leads to throwing a good party. The scene also begins with Girlie being on her new motor or lawnmower. This scene links to the theme of family and connections due to the family orientated approach of throwing dibs a party.

Key Ideas or Themes: Family and relationships, alcohol

Important Quotes:

- "You don't know those Barkers. They drink like fish"

Scene 7

Characters: Dibs, Girlie, William, Farley, Lyle

Plot Summary: Dibs, Girlie, Lyle and William are in the kitchen with Dibs making sandwiches. Dibs tells Girlie she asked about the Barkers and Lyle powers up his mothers motor wheelchair. Girlie roars off and Dibs tells William how Mrs. Barker is on with Cougar Crowley who was an old friend of Farley's. The conversation goes towards whether William brought his boyfriend Kevin, which William says no, as gay men aren't welcome in Rushton. Farley enters and Dibs finds out that Julia's car has broken down and contacts Nugget, while upset that William has brought up her husbands behaviour towards him.

Key Ideas or Themes: The key ideas and themes used in this scene are family conflict and prejudice. Farley and William have a very tough relationship as father and son, which is shown when Farley

enters the kitchen. The relationship is so bad, Farley won't even so hi and just rambles on about how they had an inch of rain the previous week. The reason the conflict occurs is due to William being homosexual which Farley isn't happy about, and leads into the second theme, Prejudice. The homophobia belief in Rushton is shown in the scene when Dibs says that Kevin doesn't need to show that he's gay. The theme is expressed through both Dibs and Farley and it makes things awkward between Frakey and William.

Important Quotes:

- Dibs - "Well nobody need know. He didn't advertise the fact."
- William - "Hello, William. How are you? Are you well? How nice of you to come all this way to see us."
- William - "Let's pretend that he has the capacity to treat his son slightly better than his dogs."

Scene 8

Characters: Nugget, Lyle, Dibs

Plot Summary: Nugget is out helping Lyle at the 'Cromies, When he receives a phone call from Dibs, telling him that Julia's car had broken down. While Nugget agrees to help, Lyle approaches him and asks if he would be willing to go 50/50 on a combine harvester worth \$100,000. Nugget refuses, citing reasons of logic as to why they should avoid the purchase. Lyle proceeds to insult Nugget, and as Nugget exits the scene, Lyle is left scheming.

Key Ideas or Themes:

- Family conflict: Nugget and Lyle are at odds debating the merit of purchasing an expensive combine harvester.
- Financial hardship: Lyle is wishing to purchase a harvester that he can't afford, and with the farm's output being quite low, it would be an irrational purchase.

Important Quotes:

- Lyle: You can't wait for things to come to you, you know. You've got to make things happen.

Scene 9

Characters: Julia and Felix

Plot Summary: During this scene Julia and Felix talk about their generations and how they are different. This is shown when Felix says "Your generation is just soft." Julia has more of a connection to Allendale (farm) as she lived there in her childhood. While, Felix is a city boy and doesn't have a real connection to the farm, this is an urban/ rural divide.

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Important Quotes:

- "Your generation is just soft." (Felix to Julia)
- "Since we are suspended in the limbo between Being and Nothingness." (Felix to Julia)

Scene 10

Characters:

Plot Summary:

Key Ideas or Themes:

Important Quotes:

Scene 11

Characters: William, Dibs and Nugget

Plot Summary: The scene begins with Dibs and William discussing the situation of the farm, he asks Dibs if she has told everyone the plan of selling the farm and she replies with no. This scene involves the reoccurring issue of who is going to take over the farm eventually. They then follow on to discuss what nugget will do if the farm is given up, this is shortly followed by the theme of never taking Nugget's opinion into consideration.

Key Ideas or Themes: Issues regarding the farm, family and relationships

Important Quotes:

- "Oh for heavens sake. Nugget is a grown man"
- "you don't understand how truly awful it would be for him to leave the farm"

Scene 12

Characters: Ashleigh, Maureen, Girlie and Brianna

Plot Summary: In this scene Ashleigh asks if she can have one of Girlie's suitcases when she dies, Ashleigh then goes through the suitcase to look at all of Girlie's possessions.

Key Ideas or Themes: The key ideas or themes that are addressed in this scene are Inheritance and family conflict. Inheritance is addressed by Ashleigh asking if she can have Girlie's suitcase after she

dies and Family Conflict is present once Ashleigh starts going through the things in the suitcase and puts on the Santa Suit which is the suit that Norm Myrtle was wearing when he killed himself.

Important Quotes:

- “We’re all gonna die, Mum.” – Ashleigh page 18, this quote is important as it helps bring the theme of inheritance into this scene.

Scene 13

Characters:

Plot Summary:

Key Ideas or Themes:

Important Quotes:

Scene 14

Characters: Dibs, Farley, William

Plot Summary: Dibs is making Farley try on a new pair of pants that she purchased in a garage sale for the party. Farley does not understand why he has to wear new trousers for such a thing. William, being from the fancy city, tries to explain the necessity for this and the two end up arguing. It is seen that Farley does not value education as he stated during the argument. William reminisces about old memories of him and Farley. The story he tells highlights Farley's hatred for spending money and unnecessary items, such as the jumping spider, whereas William is more interested in having a good time.

Key Ideas or Themes: A key theme in this scene is the rural/urban divide. It is clearly seen as William and Farley come into conflict when discussing the certain social expectations about wearing "new trousers" for a special occasion. It is obvious in this scene that there is a difference in values, for William is willing to spend money on things he believes are important, such as a new pair of trousers for a fancy party and having a good time, whereas Farley is not willing to spend his "hard-earned money" on something that is not necessary, such as a jumping spider, or in his opinion, education.

Important Quotes:

- Farley: "Frittering away all that money. On education. Good God. The waste." - This quote highlights the rural/urban divide theme and also surfaces one of Farley's most important values. It shows how Farley does not value education at all and sees it as a "waste".
- William: "It's not as if you can't afford it." - This quote highlights Williams values in terms of appearance and social expectations. William being from the city, believes that it is important to look the part, and at a dinner party you should wear new trousers. By saying "It's not as if you can't afford it.", it draws attention to the difference in the two men, that be Farley and William, and that William is willing to spend his money on some unnecessary.

- Farley: "If you're going to spend my hard-earned money on rubbish. I'll take it back." - This quote also emphasises Farley's value for only spending money when it is necessary.

Scene 15

Characters:

Plot Summary:

Key Ideas or Themes:

Important Quotes:

Scene 16

Characters: Lyle, Maureen, Ashleigh, William, Brianna

Plot Summary: Ashleigh tells Lyle what she heard; that the Hamiltons are selling Allendale. Lyle confesses that if Allendale is sold, the Delaneys will no longer be able to support themselves. Maureen then confronts William.

Key Ideas or Themes:

- Financial Hardship
- Family Conflict
- Rural/Urban Divide

Important Quotes:

- "If they sell Allendale, we're up shit creek"
- "Who says life is fair? Life is not fair"
- "I just wrote you people a cheque for six thousand dollars to run our sheep on land which should be ours"
- "Mate, the land belongs to the people who work it. Not to the banks. Not to the multinationals. And certainly not to a pampered city boy who turned tail because he couldn't hack it."

Scene 17

Characters: Lyle, Brianna

Plot Summary: Lyle and Brianna are riding their bicycles, haring along a track on the farm, with their pigeons in baskets. They pull to a stop, and Brianna asks if she can be first to release her pigeon. Lyle agrees, but Brianna is concerned that the pigeon may not make it back to the house. Lyle then states

that they have put in the work training them up, and as long as there are no Hawks, the pigeons will be fine. Brianna simply releases her pigeon, but interestingly, Lyle kisses and talks to it as if it were a person, before gently easing it into the air. The pair then race back towards home.

Key Ideas or Themes: Values: The peculiar attention and method that Lyle releases his pigeon raises more questions than answers. He treats his bird with almost disturbing levels of care, which contrasts greatly with how he treats people. The fact that his behaviour suggests that he cares more for a mere pigeon than a human makes the audience question his humanity, as well as his priorities.

Important Quotes:

- Lyle: You put in the work and you get your reward. But you gotta have a bit of faith too.

Scene 18

Characters: Maureen, Ashleigh, Girlie (Norm in her memory), Brianna, Lyle

Plot Summary: Maureen tells off Ashleigh for wearing a revealing skirt, the idea of going into Melbourne for clothes triggers Girlie to reminisce about her time in Melbourne. She didn't like it, Dibs did. Girlie spent 9 months of her time there in hospital with polio, she isn't a fan. Brianna and Kyle show up but Girlie immediately has a flashback showing how amazing Norm was with pigeons.

Key Ideas or Themes:

- We see the connection between Lyle inheriting Norm's love of pigeons.
- Girlie doesn't like the cities yet Dibs always liked Melbourne. Shows rural/urban divide and family conflict.
- We get hints of their financial hardship through Ashleigh's lack of clothes that aren't short or busted.

Important Quotes:

- "Never's too soon. If you ask me. It's bad luck, that place." -Girlie (talking about Melbourne) She could never change from rural to urban. Pg. 29
- "I don't know, love. I wish I did" -Girlie (she doesn't know why her father hanged himself)

Scene 19

Characters: Lyle, Ashleigh, Brianna, Maureen, William

Plot Summary: Ashleigh tells Lyle that the Hamiltons are selling the farm and a conversation ensues between the two of them and Brianna about who the farm belongs to. Lyle then tells Maureen and she gets annoyed that they're selling it instead of giving it to Lyle. William arrives at their house and an argument breaks out with Maureen claiming that Lyle puts more work in than the Hamiltons put together and finishes her rant by taking a dig at William moving to the city when he was young and not making it.

Key Ideas or Themes: The key themes and ideas that are shown in this scene are Inheritance, Rural/Urban Divide, Financial Hardship, Family Conflict, Prejudice, and Fate and Fairness. With the news that the Hamilton's are selling the farm, the Delaney's are under the belief that Lyle should inherit the farm being Girlie's son. We hear about the financial hardship that effects the Delaney's with them unable to buy the farm themselves, and this leads into the family conflict between Maureen and William, where Maureen states that because Lyle has put in more tractor hours than the Hamilton's put together, and the land doesn't belong to the Hamilton's, it belongs to the people who work it which is them. She also takes a dig at William calling him a pampered city kid who just couldn't make it. Lyle isn't on board with his wife's beliefs believing that life's not fair sometimes and they should just move on, resembling Fate and Fairness.

Important Quotes:

- Maureen - "Lyle has put in more tractor hours than all of you put together. Every school holiday, every Christmas, every weekend. And you walk back here after thirty years expecting just to clean up."
- Maureen - "Mate, the land belongs to the people who work it. Not to the banks. Not to the multinationals. And certainly not to a pampered city boy who turned tail because he couldn't hack it."
- Lyle - "Got three million dollars, have you? No. If they sell Allandale we're up shit creek."
- Lyle - "Our farm, Bri. But their land".

Scene 20

Characters: Girlie, Dibs, Young girlie, Young Dibs, Norm, Choir sings and a chorus of voices provide a voice over

Plot Summary: Mostly set in a memory of Norm talking about fate and luck with the girls(flipping coins). Girlie asks Dibs if she thinks about Norm. They flashback to a Christmas when they were children. They run to find their father. they find him, hanging from the rafters.

Key Ideas or Themes: This scene shows values. Norm's strong belief in fate and luck is a major influence in the play. (flips a coin over the farm)

A really important scene of the play, not due to its connection to key themes but we learn of how the girls found Norm strung up in the barn. Connects the readers with family.

Important Quotes:

- "That's the hardest lesson in life, I reckon. Accepting how the coin falls and making the best of it." –Norm. If every inheritance accepted this then it would be a very different play. The characters fight with fate and it doesn't work out for them.

Scene 21

Characters: Julia, Nugget, Farley, Felix, Dibs, William

Plot Summary: The scene begins with the arrival of Julia and Felix, who were picked up by Nugget because their car had broken down in the middle of no where. The conversation begins with Farley forgetting who his own daughter Julia, is. He mistakenly asks William, his homosexual son if Julia is his wife. As Farley gets distracted by the barking dogs who were aroused by the arrival of the guests, the others continue to greet each other and welcome one another to the farm. Farley questions Nugget about eight hundred wethers and whether they are ready for the boat, Nugget responds saying they are but they are not and Farley has just mistaken himself or forgotten. Everyone goes inside apart from William and Julia who talk outside. Julia questions Williams presence and what his true intentions are with the farm. Julia is protective of her mother, father and Nugget, saying that without the farm they won't cope and she doesn't want them to sell.

Key Ideas or Themes: In this scene, it is seen that William is desperate for the farm and is very self-entered, only looking at what he wants out of the farm. It is also brought up that Nugget will have no place if they sell the farm.

Important Quotes:

- William: "The prodigals return." - This quote identifies how William feels about Julia in saying that she wastes her money on unnecessary expenditure.

Scene 22

Characters: Maureen, Lyle, Ashliegh, Brianna, Girlie

Plot Summary: The Delany's are talking about how they hate the Hamiltons because they have a better education and a brighter future than them. They also discuss about Nugget inheriting the farm from Lyle

Key Ideas or Themes: Inheritance - Nugget inheriting the farm from Farley because he is his son and part of the family, Rural & Urban divide between the Hamiltons and Delany's (Hamiltons are better than the Delany's because of their education)

Important Quotes:

- " I would put it past Farley to leave the farm to him"
- " He must be one of the stolen generation"

Scene 23

Characters: Felix, Nugget and Farley

Plot Summary: Farley gets Felix to dispose of a mouse to try and expose a weakness from him that has come from living in the city, then Nugget and Farley start to reminisce about old times and the friends they used to have leading to a display of Farley slowly forgetting his life.

Key Ideas or Themes: The key ideas or themes that are addressed in this scene are rural/urban divide and relationship with the land. The rural/urban divide that can be seen in the scene is Nugget's opinion of Felix's University course (Cyber Societies) and Felix's reaction to the death and his disposal of the mouse. The relationship with the land can be summed up by Farley's quote "You've got to be big to own country like this."

Important Quotes:

- "Cyber Societies. That's a killer." – Nugget page 40, this quote fits into the theme Rural/Urban Divide as Nugget thinks that what Felix is doing is a joke and something that won't really help the rural community.
- "You've got to be big to own country like this." – Farley page 41, this quote addresses the theme of relationship with the land and shows that Farley does actually care about his land.

Scene 24

Characters:

Plot Summary:

Key Ideas or Themes:

Important Quotes:

Scene 25

Characters: Nugget, Dibs, Farley, Lyle

Plot Summary: Nugget and Farley are setting up for the party. Lyle, drunk, is bringing a keg over. Nugget is told by Lyle that Allendale is being sold. Lyle then complains about Nugget's farming ability to Dibs.

Key Ideas or Themes: Prejudice, Family Conflict

Important Quotes:

- "Never had to stand on your own two feet, you black bastard"
- "No one can teach you to be a farmer. It's either in you or it isn't"
- "...they make hopeless bloody farmers"

Scene 26

Characters: Julia, Maureen, Felix, William, Girlie, (Young Girlie), (Young Dibs)

Plot summary: Julia, William and Felix are discussing what happened when William lost his virginity, when they see Maureen and Girlie, trying to get people to sign a petition. As Julia approaches, Maureen and Girlie criticise the three while they're out of earshot. When all of them are standing together, they discuss the petition to get a transaction centre in the milk bar. They move onto the topic of Allendale, and Girlie has a flashback of how Dibs got the farm from a coin toss.

Key Ideas or Themes:

- Inheritance and fate - Girlie remembers how Dibs and she had flipped a coin to decide who would get the farm, and have to look after their mother. In the end, Dibs got the farm and the responsibility of looking after her mother, while Girlie was left to do what she wanted.
- Family conflict - Again, we see the characters fighting about selling the farm, who it belongs to and what will become of it if it is sold, or who will look after it if it isn't sold.
- Rural/urban divide - Maureen and Girlie don't like Julia, Felix or William, because they are city people, and Maureen thinks they don't know how to work hard, because they have had their whole lives easier than country people
- Financial hardship - Maureen and Girlie have set up the petition stand to get a transaction centre in the milk bar, because everyone who goes to the Safeway in Swan Hill and forgets something, then go into the milk bar and put something on a tab, meaning that the milk bar won't be able to run for much longer.

Important Quotes:

- Julia - "William was regarded as quite a stud back then" : this shows that Julia was quite close with her brother, and still is, and she is fine with the fact that he is gay
- Maureen and Girlie - "it's whining Julia and the pansy boy"
- "Is that Felix? He's a weedy looking bloke, isn't he? I see what you mean. He does look like a fairy" : this highlights the prejudice that Girlie and Maureen feel towards Julia, William and Felix, because of the fact that they are city people, and William is gay

Scene 27

Characters:

Plot Summary:

Key Ideas or Themes:

Important Quotes:

Scene 28

Characters:

Plot Summary:

Key Ideas or Themes:

Important Quotes:

ACT 2

Scene 1

Characters: Maureen

Plot Summary: In this scene Maureen is making a speech at The Rushton Agricultural and Pastoral Show she is the independent candidate for Murray. In her speech she tells the crowd that she is a true Mallee resident and she's saying the people of Mallee need to address a problem. She's basically addressing the problem that foreign interests who try to change Australian culture and don't want to live up the 'true Australian way'.

Key Ideas or Themes: This scene (Maureen's speech) refers back to one of the main topics of the play and that is discrimination, prejudice and racism.

Important Quotes:

- "we're not about to be bullied by foreign interests" - Maureen
- "Don't show your face around here" - Maureen

Scene 2

Characters:

Plot Summary:

Key Ideas or Themes:

Important Quotes:

Scene 3

Characters: William, Julia, Girlie, Dibs, Felix, Maureen, Lyle, Ashleigh, Nugget

Plot Summary: The majority of the Hamilton's and Delaney's come together for the funeral of Farley. Dibs has flash backs of all her good memories with Farley, especially her wedding day and when Farley goes off to the air force. Nugget and Lyle begin to talk about the man who made their best suits 'Nobby.' Also this included Nobby Taylor, Donger Maloney, Horny McDonald and Horse Horrigan. Maureen then brings up the topic of Farley having an affair with a 19 year old aboriginal girl called Joyce. Apparently Joyce is Nugget's mother and Farley is his Father. William doesn't believe anything of what Maureen had said. Maureen explains that Dibs would know and Julia and William wouldn't have known as they were sent to boarding school. Girlie then comes into the scene asking Julia about her Indian gentleman. Julia's Indian gentleman wasn't able to come to the funeral.

Felix becomes fascinated by what is being said about Farley's story, asks what happened to Joyce? Joyce died in a car accident. Julia and William agree that they must not tell Dibs and keep this information between them. Finally the minister comes and puts Farley to rest in his grave. Nugget and Felix talk and stand around Farley's grave. Nugget talks about his memories with Farley and talks about his mum, Joyce. He mentions that Joyce was a housemaid who worked for Dibs and Girlie. Felix then asks Nugget if he is Farley's son. Nugget replies that he is Farley's son and Dibs' son and that's how it has been since he was 10 year old.

Key Ideas or Themes: Inheritance comes into this scene as it shows who is blood or real family. There are many discussions on how Nugget could be blood, if the affair did happen between Farley and Joyce. Rural/ urban divide is involved as Dibs and Farley stayed on the farm, while William and Julia were sent to boarding school. The divide is shown as Julia and William don't have the knowledge of what happened at the farm as Maureen did, as they were sent away to boarding school. Family conflict is when involved as William, Julia and Maureen argue if Farley had an affair with a 19 year old aboriginal girl.

Important Quotes:

- 'Nugget was born on the wrong side of the blanket.' (Maureen to William & Julia)
- 'Farley's m'father. And Dibs is m'mother. That's how is has been since I was ten.' (Nugget to Felix)
- 'Dad used to say it was the silence that kept him here.' (Julia to Dibs)

Scene 4

Characters: Dibs, Julia, Lyle, Girlie

Plot Summary: This scene begins with Dibs and Julia discussing marriage and Dibs says she wishes that Julia stayed married to Hamish, despite that he was a homosexual and has sex with men. The two are sorting through Farley's old clothes to see if they can give it to anyone. The two end up discussing Julia's decision making about having a baby with her Indian boyfriend. A few times the topic of Nugget's mother and father is brought up. Julia talks about how she wants to work on the farm along with Nugget and William and Dibs frowns upon this idea as Julia has a good job in the Multicultural Commission. The conversation between Julia and Dibs continues as they discuss Williams idea for a boutique winery business. Julia comes to the conclusion that it is not William that wants this business as he is a restaurateur, but it is Kevin's and William is supporting Kevin's idea because he is scared of losing him.

Key Ideas or Themes: This scene explores the themes of prejudice and homophobia and also touches bases with how Nugget is in fact Farley's biological son. It is seen in this scene that Dibs believes that if Julia had just tried harder with Hamish, he wouldn't be a homosexual.

Important Quotes:

- Dibs - "Maybe you just didn't try hard enough". This quote shows the way in which dibs feels about homosexuality and how it can be changed and the only reason Julia couldn't stay with Hamish, was because she sampling "didn't try hard enough".

- Dibs - "You've made your life in the city." This quote highlights how Dibs believes that because Julia has made her own life in the city, that what happens to the farm now is out of her hands and she has no say in it.

Scene 5

Characters: Brianna, Maureen, Ashleigh, Lyle and Girlie.

Plot Summary: Girlie informs Maureen that Allandale had a visit from the bailiff and the bank has served them an eviction notice. Lyle, who is responsible for this exits in a bad mood. Their financial strife is due to Lyle's decision to buy the three-tonne seeder and tractor from Jack Cummins and put up the house as security.

Key Ideas or Themes: Financial hardship and poor decisions. Connection with the land - Lyle is connected with what happens to the land in terms of loss.

Important Quotes:

- "What a useless idiot" - Maureen, talking about Lyle
- "I'm married to a hopeless piece of trash" - Maureen, talking about Lyle
- "He's doing his best" - Girlie, talking about Lyle
- "Will we have to go on the doll?" - Ashleigh
- "We're gonna claim what's ours. That's what we're gonna do" - Maureen to Girlie

Scene 6

Characters: Dibs, William, Nugget

Plot Summary: William is looking for Farley's Will, with Dibs telling him that he wrote his Will 10 years ago. However, that wasn't the case as William reads the Will and it says that the majority of Farley's estate, including the farm now belongs to his son Neville Hamilton or also known as Nugget. Dibs doesn't believe it and re-reads the Will and rips it up into pieces. Dibs believes it was her farm in the first place and doesn't want Nugget to operate the farm. Nugget comes into the scene and asks where Farley's Will is as he knows that the Farm was left to him. Dibs, William and Nugget argue about who owns the farm and that Nugget isn't Farley's real son. Nugget believes he is and threatens he will take the farm off Dibs. Dibs says she won't let it happen as Nugget isn't family.

Key Ideas or Themes: Inheritance plays a big role in this scene as William, Dibs and Nugget are all fighting over the Will. Although, it clearly said that Nugget will get the farm and Farley's estate. Dibs and William believe that Nugget isn't family, when he is really related to them in some way. Relationship with the land is clearly shown as Dibs and William think that they more of a right to the farm than Nugget does. This is also related as Nugget inherited all the land owned by Farley. There is definitely family conflict and discrimination towards Nugget as he was adopted and Dibs and William feel that Nugget was never really apart of the family.

Important Quotes:

- 'I give my entire remaining estate to my son Neville Hamilton, known as Nugget.' (Farley's Will)
- 'Frankly, this fantasy you've dreamt up- I find it quite an affront. I mean, who do you think you are?' (William to Nugget).

Scene 7

Characters: Julia, Felix, William, Dibs

Plot Summary: Julia, Felix and William are talking about what their dad did to the aboriginal woman. They also discuss selling the farm. Julia mentions how Nugget is not part of the family and he does not deserve to have the farm.

Key Ideas or Themes: Inheritance of the farm & Family hardships Nugget not being accepted as part of the Hamiltons or even part of the family

Important Quotes:

- "Dad is not Nugget's Father"
- "Nugget has no claim on this farm"

Scene 8

Characters: Lyle, Dibs, Julia, Will and Felix

Plot Summary: In this scene Lyle goes to offer his help to the Hamilton's after Farley's death.

Key Ideas or Themes: The key idea or theme addressed in this scene is financial hardship as the Delaneys have been evicted from their house and have come to live with the Hamiltons.

Important Quotes:

- "Since Farley's... passed away, you're gonna need a farmer. I'd be willing to help you out" – Lyle page 80, this quote is important as Lyle is trying to hide that they were evicted by saying that he wants to help them rather than he needs them.

Scene 9

Characters: William, Dibs, Ashleigh, Felix

Plot Summary: William is arguing with Dibs since he believes they shouldn't be helping the Delaneys. He thinks they're parasites whilst Dibs is loyal to her family. Felix then enters and provides comic relief by being terrified of mice.

Key Ideas or Themes:

- The rural/urban divide is unbelievably evident in the clear discrimination from William to the Delaneys.
- It's also an indication of the loss of the family conflict.
- It's also an example of financial hardship in the case of the Delaneys loss.

Important Quotes:

- "They're parasites" -William
- A harsh insult showing his prejudice and the divide of rural and urban

Scene 10

Characters: Lyle, Ashleigh, Brianna

Plot Summary: In this scene Ashleigh is complaining to Lyle about how they had to move and about how much she hates it in Allandale. Brianna is sticking up for her dad, but ashleigh continues to complain about her dads poor financial choices.

Key Ideas or Themes: This scene relates back to the main theme on financial problems in the play and how if Lyle didn't borrow money he wouldn't have to live in such poor conditions.

Important Quotes:

- "even a baby knows you don't borrow money when you're like up to your eyeballs in debt" - Ashleigh

Scene 11

Characters: Lyle, Julia, Felix, Maureen

Plot Summary: Felix, Lyle and Julia argue about Nugget, with Lyle telling Felix that its more complicated than he thinks. Felix then goes to argue with Maureen after she enters and Lyle leaves, arguing about Maureen's racist/prejudice Policies

Key Ideas or Themes: The scene is focused on Rural/Urban divide and the difference between the city, the white/coloured rural

Important Quotes:

- “We live in a ghetto...We all think the same, but out there - they hate blacks, they hate wogs, they hate brown people (Felix) pg 83
- “Because your from the city, you think you know everthing. its’s a big joke out this way (maureen top of pg85)
- “Listen, there’s nothing racist about my policies. Aboriginals are just the same as what we are...its just the extra privileges they get which make people round here mad.” (maureen pg 84)

Scene 12

Characters: Dibs, Girlie

Plot Summary: In this scene Dibs is sobbing over the news and tells Girlie that Farley had changed his will so that Nugget would inherit the farm and also said that she had torn it up. Girlie then tries to persuade Dibs to take a few days away from everything but fails. Dibs then gets mad at Farley for wanting to give the farm to Nugget which Dibs is having none of that.

Key Ideas or Themes: Discrimination/intolerance and values (racism and pejudice)

Important Quotes:

- “I've done something terrible.(pause.)Farley changed his will. William found it this morning.(pause.)He left the farm to Nugget” (Dibs pg 85)
- “Tell you What. Why don't you and me nick off...Leave them to it. it'd do you good, dibble”
- “...He expects me to hand over my farm to his bastard son. What sort of man does that? I’m not giving Nugget a single handful of this dirt” (dibs pg 86)

Scene 13

Characters: Nugget, Farley

Plot Summary: Nugget begins conversation with Farley, remarking about his past. Nugget came home with a black eye from school one day, and Farley had said that a kid like him needed to be able to defend himself. Nugget proceeds to discuss his loss of identity and culture, while Farley is lost in his own world. When Nugget mentions that the farm should be his, due to him being Farley's son, he is bluntly rebuffed.

Key Ideas or Themes:

- Family conflict: Nugget is denied his right to the farm and some acceptance into the family due to Farley refusing to tell that Nugget as his son.
- Discrimination: Nugget feels as if Farley has discriminated against him because he is aboriginal, and hence will always be an outcast amongst the family.

Important Quotes:

- Lyle: A kid like you needs to know how to defend himself
- Lyle: Some things are best left unsaid mate

Scene 14

Characters: Lyle

Plot Summary: Lyle Delaney is in a paddock drunk and alone. This scene is filled with self loathing and frustration as Lyle reflects upon his farm and finances.

Key Ideas or Themes: Financial hardship, relationship with the land, family conflict.

Important Quotes:

- “His expensive, powerful car stereo is blaring Country an Western music.” - Scene description
- (Example of financial hardship - poor decision making, rural/urban divide - country and western music)
- “What’s a farmer without a farm?” - Lyle
- “I love this place. And I’m not going to fucking die in the dole queue.” - Lyle

Scene 15

Characters:

Plot Summary:

Key Ideas or Themes:

Important Quotes:

Scene 16

Characters: Brianna, Felix, Lyle, Maureen

Plot Summary: This scene involves Felix and Brianna having a relaxed and harmless conversation, however when Lyle comes in he believes that Felix is doing something harmful towards Brianna as she is crying and he isn’t completely in a good state as he is drunk. Lyle gets out of hand and rages eventually whipping Felix in the face repetitively. The scene ends with Maureen coming in and shooting a gun into the air and making Lyle leave the farm for good.

Key Ideas or Themes: relationships and family

Important Quotes:

- “I don’t need to own it, mate. That’s the difference between us black fellas and your mob”
- “if your name isn’t on the title – they’ll shaft you

Scene 17

Plot Summary: Set in the Grand Mildura Hotel, Dibs and Girlie are discussing Lyle. They talk about when Lyle was born and how he was such a ‘good kid.’ Lyle was born 3 weeks premature on the farm, making him grow up to be a solid farmer, although now he has grown up he needs a ‘leg up.’

Key Ideas or Themes: Relationship with the land is discussed when Girlie and Dibs are talking about how Lyle was born prematurely on the land, which can be ‘the difference between a good farmer and a bad farmer.’ Since Lyle was a young boy, he was picked to be closest to the land.

Fate and luck is not strongly discussed throughout the scene, but comes through in the play when Girlie says that Lyle needs a bit of ‘Lady Luck’ for once in his life

Important Quotes:

- “Lyle’s the one who needs a leg up” – Girlie
- “There’s your farmer, Girl” – Wormie McCallum
- “That’s the difference between a good farmer and a bad one. Three weeks. All in the timing.” – Girlie
- “He just needs a little help from Lady Luck”

Scene 18

Characters: William, Julia, Ashleigh, Brianna

Plot Summary: Felix has come back with fourteen stitches in his face. Ashleigh and Brianna report seeing Lyle driving the tractor down the main street at full pelt and crashing into the front of the bank.

Key Ideas or Themes: Family Conflict is present in this scene as Julia is angry at Lyle for whipping Felix causing him to have to receive fourteen stitches to his face. Also that she wants her brother to be put in jail. There is also financial hardship as Lyle doesn’t want anything to be taken away from the bank so he ruins the tractor as well as the bank.

Important Quotes:

- “I’ve never hated anyone as much as I hate that animal and if I saw him now I’d go at him with a knife.” - Julia talking about Lyle
- “I’m sorry, but I’m going to make sure that they lock him up.” - Julia talking about Lyle
- “ ‘You want the tractor. I’ll give you the fucking tractor.’ ” - Ashleigh quoting Lyle

Scene 19

Characters:

Plot Summary:

Key Ideas or Themes:

Important Quotes:

Scene 20

Characters: Ashleigh, Brianna

Plot Summary: Stage directions describe how the two girls (Ashleigh and Brianna) walk into the wool shed to find their dad (Lyle) has hanged himself. We also hear Dibs and girlie singing a song as they drive along the highway coming back to Allandale after their time away.

Key Ideas or Themes: This scene ties all themes together, we see that Lyle is dead this ties back to his financial troubles and alcoholism. Also we understand the matter of the farm has settled into Lyles hands.

Important Quotes:

- no quotes

Epilogue

Characters: Maureen, Julia, Felix, Nugget, a commentator, a statistician

Plot Summary: Julia, Felix and Nugget are watching the Federal Election on TV. Maureen is discussing her campaign, and how she sold her family farm, Allendale, to finance it.

Key Ideas or Themes: Inheritance, Family Conflict

Important Quotes:

- “We’ve all heard the reports that you’ve had to sell the family farm to finance the campaign.”
- “...who wouldn’t sell their farm to save their country.”