 Racial attitudes: Racial prejudice

| Racial Attitudes | Analysis | Language devices |
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| Racism against Indigenous people (Jasper Jones)  ‘They reckon I’m just half an animal with half a vote’ pg 23. | Corrigan views toward Jasper are twisted by their prejudice and values towards Aboriginals. Their views are clouded and filled with negative feelings and therefore they don’t see Jasper as a person but as an animal. | Dialect racial implications ‘they’ us VS them  colloquialization ‘reckon’  metaphor |
| ‘left astray...waylaid by the devil’ pg 6 | Through the harsh language that describes Jasper as a devil and the negative connotations that come along with the word ‘devil’ we can see the hate and disgust that society harbours against Jasper. Jasper is the excuse that every kid uses when they get in trouble for they know that they’ll be let off with a small lecture about staying away from Jasper. | Metaphorically referring to Jasper as the devil (the uttermost evil) emphasizing Jasper's rebellious nature. |
| Labelled by the town as ‘a thief, a liar, a thug, a truant... a feral and an orphan... an example of poor aptitude’ pg 5 | These comments support the modern stereotype of an Aboriginal involved in petty crimes and drinking, lazing around and a bad attitude towards the world  around them and society | The technique used here is cumulative listing suggesting he is corrupt in a variety of ways. Listing all the bad qualities of Jasper causes tension to build as each description emphasises the ones before it and creates a negative image of Jasper The modern Aboriginal stereotype is reinforced and expressed through Society’s perspective on Jasper |
| Racism against Chinese people (Jeffery)  ‘Someone kicks Jeffrey’s ankle and yells 'fuck off, cong.’ –pg 62 | A reference to the Viet Cong. The reader is shown the reality of race and ethnicity, and the difficulties for minorities within the town of Corrigan. The reader is positioned to feel compassion towards Jeffery. | Derogatory language, omnipresent racial slurs. Silvey has purposely used a racial slur to make it very clear to the reader that the reason that the team doesn’t like Jeffery is because he is Vietnamese and not because he isn’t good a cricket. |
| ‘He’s involved. He’s red. He’s a red! Fucking! Rat!’He leans forward and spits those words at An Lu. ‘He’s got a … card. I know it. He’s probably killed that young girl. Go back to Hanoi, rats.’’ pg. 211 | One of the men who destroys An’s garden has lost his job for drunkenness, yet chooses to blame the sponsored An for his unemployment. The men who attacked An Lu call him a ‘red rat’ because currently Australia is involved in a war with Vietnam where they are fighting the Communist North Vietnamese. Because An Lu is Vietnamese, the men accuse him of being Communist. | Red symbolises the negative stance on communist values. The term ''rat'' represents the perception of An Lu to the spreading of disease and an infestation to society. This phrase dehumanizes An Lu and acts as a justification for senseless destruction. This attack on Jeffrey's dad was Corrigan's western, small town values scapegoating someone of Vietnamese descent. |
| ‘he barks and waves as though Jeffrey is a disobedient sheep dog’ pg 174 |  | Simile |

How do characters challenge these stereotypes?

| Jasper Jones | Jeffrey Lu |
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| * Jasper Jones refuses to resign himself to their perspectives of him. * He maintains his own pride and identity despite the town’s cruelty. * ‘I matter. And I know I’ll be alright. Because I got a good heart, and fuck this town for making me try to believe otherwise’ (149). * The town believes that Jasper Jones should be ashamed of himself and where he comes from. By believing in himself and being proud, Jasper Jones subverts dominant representations of race. | * Despite Jeffrey’s talent in cricket he is excluded from the team * ‘But Jeffrey Lu is uncanny. His skills are so impressive I'm not even envious. The things he can do with that red rock in his hands are amazing. Really... If he ever gets the chance to play a real game, he's going to be brilliant’ (50). * He does not give up. ‘...pressing on with infinite optimism... resilient and impressive. * He is finally allowed to join the team and wins the game for the town. Only then is he recognised as an equal. * Therefore, he is courageous enough to keep trying, and he is one of the most talented sportspeople in Corrigan, despite their perceptions that his race excluded him from sporting talent |

Questions: (provide evidence and examples)

1. Use the Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the different attitudes that people have towards Jeffrey and Jasper?
2. Why is Jasper at times respected in the town irrespective of his race and ethnicity?
3. How might the Jasper Jones story have unfolded if Jasper were not Aboriginal?
4. The attack on An Lu’s garden occurred just after Jeffrey’s success on the cricket field? What effect does this have on the audience?
5. Explain the contrasting attitudes of the townsmen that were responsible for the attack with the neighbours who intervened to help An Lu? What does this tell us about the people of Corrigan?

Jasper Jones

| Racial Attitude | Analysis | Techniques |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ‘They reckon I’m just half an animal with half a vote’ pg 23. |  |  |
| ‘left astray...waylaid by the devil’ pg 6 |  |  |
| Labelled by the town as ‘a thief, a liar, a thug, a truant... a feral and an orphan... an example of poor aptitude’ pg 5 |  |  |

Jeffrey

| Racial Attitudes | Analysis | Evidence |
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| ‘Someone kicks Jeffrey’s ankle and yells '… off, cong.’ –pg 62 |  |  |
| ‘He’s involved. He’s red. He’s a red! Rat!’ He leans forward and spits those words at An Lu. ‘He’s got a .. card. I know it. He’s probably killed that young girl. Go back to Hanoi, rats.’’ pg. 211 |  |  |
| ‘he barks and waves as though Jeffrey is a disobedient sheep dog’ pg 174 |  |  |

How do characters challenge these stereotypes

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