



COMPASS

All things through Christ



Prelude *It is with great pleasure that I present to you Mia Owens' feature article assignment task for Year 11 English. Mia is an outstanding writer and I would like to share her well-crafted article for your reading pleasure for my Principal's message in this issue of Compass. Well done, Mia!*

Peter Connell

Born identity?

The well-known novel 'To Kill a Mockingbird' reflects the shaping of personal identity and continues to in modern-day Australia.

By Mia Owens

Personal identity is a topic that many of us have pondered upon at some stage in our lives, and we all have likely asked questions along the lines of, 'Am I born with my identity or is it something I create for myself?', 'Where does my identity come from?', or 'What even is identity?'.

We are brought up strongly influenced by the world around us, and we tend to make decisions based upon the world's beliefs. These beliefs contribute to defining who we are and the shaping of our identity.

The word, 'identity', generally refers to the stable defining characteristics of a person that makes them an individual.

We have all heard about the 'Australia Day Controversy', and I'm sure this has sparked a few conversations within your household. The bold opinions regarding the backlash has inspired the formation of this article. But how is any of this relevant to the shaping of identity you may ask? Well, these kinds of questions are explored through the themes of race, morality and social justice present in the well-known novel, 'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee.

Every Australia Day, we discover what it means to be Australian. Reflection about this national identity has been a major misunderstanding, with Australians of different races having differing views and opinions on the day.

It is not unusual for our identity to be misunderstood. Harper Lee understands that and the implications of this misunderstanding.

Harper Lee conveys her story by consistently utilising useful aesthetic and stylistic devices to grow our understanding of how the identity of the character is shaped. As well as, inspiring an emotional response to the themes presented in the novel. I mean, who doesn't like getting to know the characters on a more personal level, right?

She uses these devices in a sophisticated, yet child-like first-person perspective, through the eyes of the young protagonist, Scout Finch, a nine-year old tom-boy from the Finch family, as her juvenile innocence interferes with her expedition of self-discovery.

People of today's day and age can be brutally judgmental, racist, and even lacking in any moral code in general. The characters in *To Kill a Mockingbird* are no different.

To Kill a Mockingbird is described as a "vehicle of morality" as it contains characters that demonstrate what is considered right and what is considered wrong.

I think we can all agree that Atticus should be described as the 'moral compass' of the novel, as it is strongly shown in chapter 10 when he states: "*Shoot all the blue jays you want, if you can hit 'em; but remember, it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.*" (p.99)

This statement can be metaphorically applied to explain to Jem and Scout the importance of protecting innocent, defenceless beings. This likewise correlates with innocent beings in our society being 'influenced' by the backlash of Australia Day, thus, defining an element of our identity that has an influence on our moral judgements.

Atticus' judgements between right and wrong are similarly and continuously presented throughout the entire journey of the novel.

Obviously, racism is a major theme of the novel and our society. Harper Lee uses a form of allegory to elucidate Jem and Scout's journey towards the formation of their social identity and understanding.

An effective use of allegory in the novel is the building of a snowman by Jem and Scout. To resolve the problem they

encountered with the lack of snow, Jem made a foundation out of dirt and covered it with what snow they had.

Scout is flabbergasted when she notices the brown snowman and she utters, "Jem, I ain't never heard of a nigger snowman!" (pg.72), Jem replies, "He won't be black long." (pg.72).

Jem did not see it as abnormal and he 'scooped up some snow and began plastering it on' (pg.73). Scout's perspective, however, indicates the strange nature of the snowman which is half-black and half-white.

Lee's tactic of shifting from black to white can be considered as a merging of two races into one. The change of colour (black to white) proposes the superficiality of the colour of skin, which should not be a criterion for judging people.

Lee's use of allegory gives us as the reader knowledge of where Jem and Scout are at with the maturing of their attitudes and social identities.

This racial divide that the world creates, continues to heavily influence our beliefs. The differing opinions regarding the changing of the date on which Australia Day is set are based on personal values and judgement, and without consideration of the underlying story of colonisation and ongoing racism.

Moreover, the siblings become further aware of the overt racism in Maycomb after they experience the unjust Tom Robinson trial.

The repetitive (a rhetoric device) depiction of social injustice throughout the novel creates an intense emotional response in

favour of the mockingbirds because we know that their innocence is being destroyed by the town's unjust beliefs and morals.

The recognition and acknowledgement of the past treatment/ social injustice towards Australia's first nation people have allowed many of us to re-evaluate our preconceived values and beliefs. Therefore, influencing our identity.

For example, the overwhelming support by non-indigenous Australians to change the Australia Day set date. This contrasts with the support Atticus had throughout the Tom Robinson Trial.

'I looked around. They were all standing. All around us and in the balcony on the opposite wall, the Negroes were getting to their feet', was the thoughts pondering through Jem's mind towards the end of chapter 21 (pg.223). "Miss Jean Louise, stand up. Your father's passing" Said Reverend Skye's (pg.223).

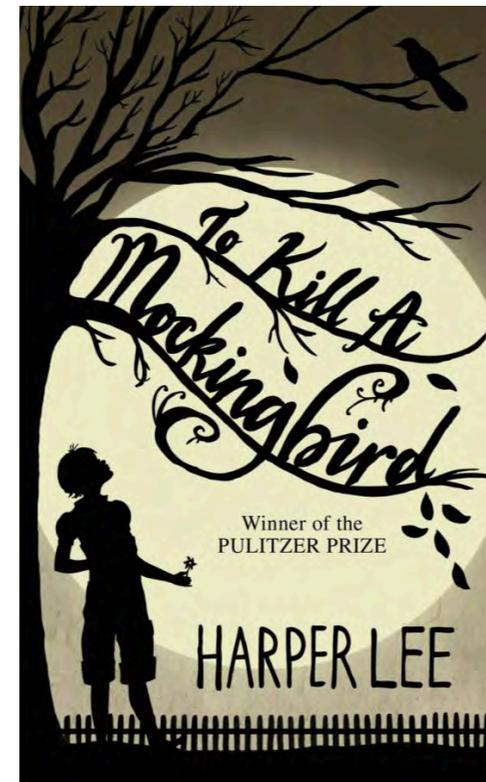
This is one of the most powerful and influential moments in the novel. Lee uses the device of 'vignette' to fulfil the goal of illustrating the way the black community identifies and respects Atticus for his defense of Tom Robinson, and how they demonstrate their admiration and appreciation for Atticus's efforts by standing as he walks past them.

As a result of this, both siblings lose their childhood innocence in that sense that they see the world of adults. Meaning their sense of personal identity was greatly influenced

by the socially injustice decision concluded by the 'white' court jury.

We aren't just born with our identity already there, and that is a fact! In the three years that To Kill a Mockingbird covers, the characters slowly develop/grow their identity through the impacts of race, morality and social injustice. Is this the same in 2020 Australia? Yes, it is. As we navigate through life, our identities are formed through choices we choose and the decisions we make. However, as you have learnt, these choices and decisions are not protected from the influences of around us, so with what decide to

from the the world be vigilant path you choose!



Meet our new Prep-Teacher



My name is Bonnie Gibson.

I was born in Whyalla, north of Adelaide and grew up in South Australia before moving to Queensland as a teenager.

Before coming to Cooktown, I lived in Chinchilla for over three years. I miss the people there, the scenery and the weather, but I'm also enjoying exploring north Queensland, doing lots of swimming in lovely warm water and making new friends.

There were six children in my family growing up so we kept ourselves pretty busy and had lots of adventures together.

I left my previous teaching role at the end of last year with the plan to spend a few months furthering my skills and qualifications in classroom music education. However, it says in the Bible, "The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps," and this year, despite my plans, God made it clear to me that I was to come to Endeavour when a teacher was needed in Prep.

I enjoy catching up with friends whom I can talk to about the good and hard things in life and who can give me godly advice. I also enjoy practising violin and piano and learning about new games that involve singing, clapping and teamwork.

One of my favourite accounts in the Bible is the story of Job. Job was a godly man and yet he went through a time when he had to endure great hardship and loss. However, Job learned that the God who created all things knows so much more about the world than any human does. We don't have to understand why bad things happen to us, but we can rest assured that God knows and we can trust Him because He is intimately familiar with every part of creation, holding it together in the palm of His hand. Some of the questions God asked Job were, "Can you raise your voice to the clouds and cover yourself with a flood of water? Do you send the lightning bolts on their way? Do they report to you, 'Here we are'?" (Job 38:34-35) I know I can't do those things. How about you?



Parent Teacher Interviews

Tuesday 24 March to Wednesday 25 March.

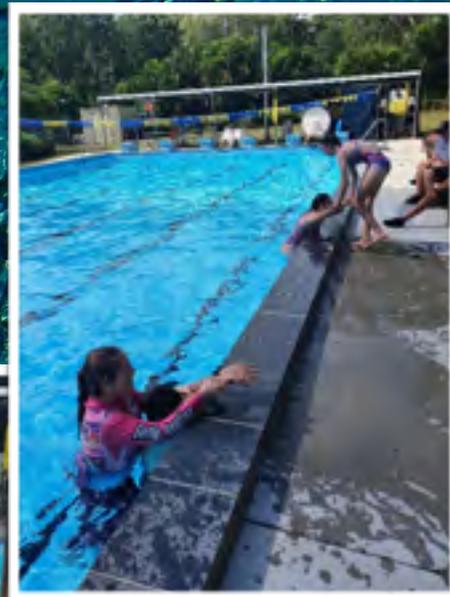
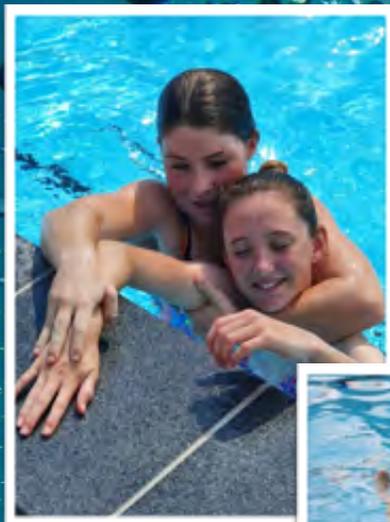
If you have not already done so, please book a time with Teila at reception: 4082 0600 or admin@endeavour.qld.edu.au

Marine Studies

Students in 7, 8 and 9 have been practicing swim safety and water recovery.

This can be very difficult when you are fully clothed in jeans and long sleeves!

Well done everyone.





Dylan Stewart (Year 10) is on a noble quest to honour his good friend Hudson Riley Steer.

Unfortunately, Hudson lost his battle with leukaemia

recently and Dylan has said: "I sadly lost one of my good friends to cancer last month, but now he has no pain and is playing for heaven's b-ball team and flying high."

On Friday 13th March, Dylan had his hair cut in front of the entire school! Dylan has raised \$243.50 in his jar plus an additional \$700 online!

Well done Dylan!



Creative writing by James Coventry (Year 4)

Dangerous robot

Be careful that robot is dangerous!

It has stomped over the city killing millions. My name is Alex Ryder, there has to be a way to stop it and I'm about to find out. I've been tracking down that robot ever since it killed my best mate.

He gave a mysterious device before he died. It has to be the way to stop it I just don't know how. I think it's a master kill switch.

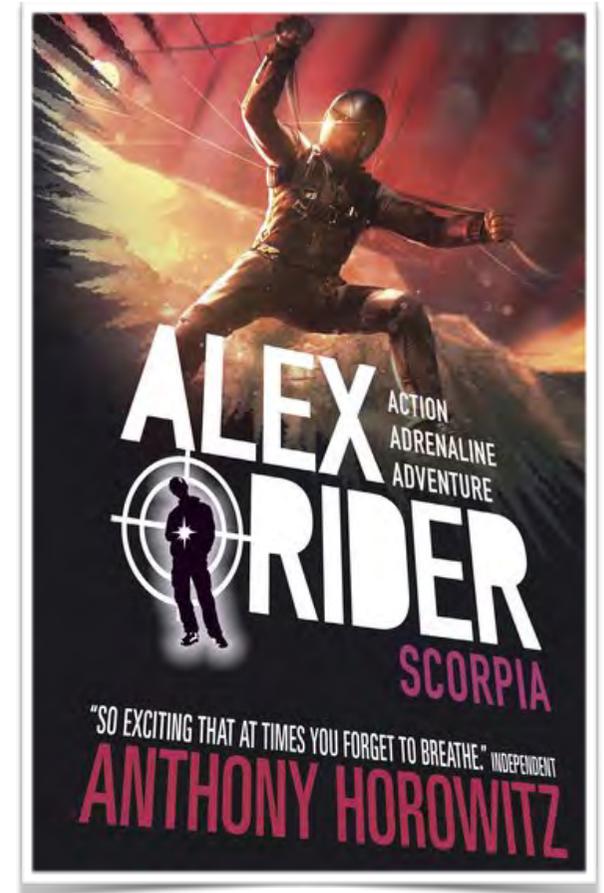
I have a plan. I need to get on top of the robot and find the master kill switch plug and put in jail whoever made it.

Here it comes, better get in my helicopter...approaching the robot now...GO GO GO !!! Me and Roger were going to jump onto the robot.

The robot went mad luckily it couldn't hit us because then it will hit itself.

I saw the master kill switch plug in the middle of the crusher if we were going to do it then one of us was going to die.

Me and Roger started fighting over the master kill switch but Roger won and died a Hero.



No Limits ECC 2020



On Tuesday 17th March the boys on the No Limits course went for a day excursion up Mount Cook. No Limits is a youth development program that encourages young people to make healthy decisions

regarding their lifestyles and behaviour through accepting responsibility for their own lives and future. Using an Experiential / Adventure based learning model, students discover the value and importance of appropriate behaviours in order to develop respect for themselves and others. This program is run in two eight-week blocks in Terms 1 and 2.

The band of merry men departed the school grounds at 9.30am and returned just before the end of school at 3pm. Everyone worked together to make it to the top and return safely. It seemed like we may have been some of the first people to walk to the

summit this year, judging by the amount of spider webs and fallen trees across the path.

The boys proved to be adept at transferring theoretical learning into real-life situations. A first aid emergency drill at the beginning of the walk payed dividends as a legitimate medical situation presented itself on the walk down. One of the team needed rescuing by his team-mates after a close encounter with some oversize wait-a-while. The boys around him swung quickly into action. The victim was freed from his spiky entanglement and the first aid kit proved its worth. The boys did a fine job calming and reassuring their patient before administering faultless first aid to patch up their friend. The leaders did nothing but supervise the procedure. Well done boys!

Mr Gary McLelland provided the boys a prime example of stamina and perseverance and his pearls of wisdom at timely moments were incredibly valuable. At times Mr Gary provided encouragement and support to the boys, and at other times the boys provided encouragement and support to Mr Gary. A number of insights into personal development emerged that we can build on as the course progresses. We look forward to the rest of the course and the next day excursion planned for late in Term 2.

Morgan Slykerman

School Chaplain



Year 3/4 show and tell

Esme Sail brought in her Joey to share him with the Year 3/4 class during show and tell!

It's always fun to see something different during show and tell...

Thank you for sharing, Esme!

Year 1/2 Geography



In Geography Year 1/2 have been learning about natural, constructed and managed features.

Did anyone notice all the green and blue signs around the school identifying ECC's natural and built features?

We also went on a 'Bunyip Hunt' where we trekked through the long, swishy grass, around the prickly, bushy trees, through the scorching quick sand and finally arrived at the huge, shadowy rocks.

The bunyip eluded us so beware if you are brave enough to venture to the rocks as it may or may not still be there!





Cooktown RSL and Sub-Branch

Jim Faye, Cooktown RSL Sub-Branch President, generously presented \$1500 to Cassie Grover, from Endeavour Christian College, for the fund raising efforts of Year 9/10 Sydney- Canberra trip.

These funds will assist students in travel, accommodation, entry fees and meals.

Students have been working hard cooking up a storm and washing hundreds of cars on their weekends. They are very proud of their fund raising efforts and sense of self-achievement.

They wish to send their heart felt thank you to the Cooktown RSL and its members for the valuable support they have shown towards their endeavours.



Sports Corner:

Cross Country

ECC Cross Country will be held on Tuesday 24th March 2020. Starting time for 9-19 years old will be 8:35 am and conclude just after 9:00 am with normal classes resuming after that. Our 5-8 years olds will run from around 9:10 am. Students can wear their sports uniform or house colours. Students are allowed to wear their joggers and bring school shoes to change into.

AFL

AFL Cape York has informed our school that they will not be able to make the Session 5 next Wednesday as it has been cancelled due to health concerns. This will also affect the after-school Auskick program and the Crusaders cup scheduled for Week 10 (Years 5/6 students only).

Important notice: All representative school sport cancelled until further notice

All representative school sports programs, including district, regional, state, national, interstate and international competitions, are cancelled until further notice from 17 March 2020.

