Let’s Talk Australian...

In Australia, we take pride in our various styles of language. One of these styles is commonly referred to as ‘Strine’.

The words, phrases and accent associated with Strine are recognised by most Australians.

For migrants, such as the diverse group drawn to Dampier in Red Dog, the language can be quite a challenging one to understand.

View the following tutorial, to practise ‘Torkin Strine’!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzneUfUXhol

Activities

1. Try reading these phrases aloud with a partner. Can you work them out?
   a) Sunz cairmin airt?
b) Warm-eye gonaddo?
c) Scona beer Gloria sty.
d) Jegoda footy?
e) Nar dingo. Sorten tv.
f) Carm bear klyter.
g) Gee sneely arpass snine.
h) Sorlwayz schoolina mornix.

2) Write down five common Australian phrases or sayings and convert them into strine? Can you understand those of your classmates?

3) Do Australians talk like this? Explain your answer.

4) What is a stereotype?

5) Can you think of some popular culture texts (eg. Films and television) that may have contributed to the ‘Strine’ way of speaking?

4) What knowledge might you need about Australian cultural contexts and social situations to comprehend Strine?

5) Why might migrants and visitors to Australia with different cultural backgrounds feel excluded from such language?