

Practising inferring

What is inference? (1 mark)

Task 1: Carefully read the following passage, taken from *Introducing Wendy* by Oliver Phommavanh.

I hate surprises, especially when they involve Dave. He hasn't said anything since we hopped on the train after school. Bryan's also taken a vow of silence.

'So where are we going?' I ask.

'Just chill out, Benny,' Dave says, ogling a couple of girls at the back of the carriage.

I groan. Dave is a player, and I don't mean the computer games kind. Perving at girls is one of his main hobbies, followed closely by flirting with girls, and dating girls.

'We're going to Rashays,' Bryan says.

I blink. It's the coolest hangout in town. Though I wouldn't know first-hand.

'Just the three of us?' I say.

'I'm meeting Claire there,' says Bryan, avoiding my eyes.

I glare at Dave.

'Oh, and Wendy is coming too,' Dave shrugs casually.

I stand up. 'I'm getting off.'

'It's an express train to Liverpool,' Dave says.

I swing my backpack over my shoulder. 'I'll jump off then.'

Dave pulls me back down. 'Come on, man, what have you got to lose?'

'My dignity, my time and my money. In that order.'

'What if I shout you a smoothie?' Bryan says.

I liked it when we were back in primary school, talking about less complicated things like Pokémon.

'I'm okay with being alone.'

'That's what loners say,' Dave says. 'Our formal is in a few weeks. You need a girl and almost all of the ones from school are taken, even the ugly ones.'

'Who cares?'

'Trust me, Wendy's your type. Whenever we have a shift together she always has a thick book tucked under the cash register.'

I raise my eyebrows. 'No angels or vampires on the cover?'

'I swear, man, not one. I know how you hate those books,' Dave says. 'She's just like you.'

Make an inference: What kind of relationship does Benny have with Dave and Bryan? (1 mark)

Provide your observations: What textual clues did you use to infer this? Use direct quotations from the text to assist with your explanation. (2 marks)

Make an inference: How does the Benny feel about Wendy coming to Rashays? (1 mark)

Provide your observations: What textual clues did you use to infer this? Use direct quotations from the text to assist with your explanation. (2 marks)

Make an inference: Roughly how old are the characters on the train? (1 mark)

Provide your observations: What textual clues did you use to infer this? Use direct quotations from the text to assist with your explanation. (2 marks)

Make an inference: How does Dave know Wendy? (1 mark)

Provide your observation: What textual clues did you use to infer this? Use direct quotations from the text to assist with your explanation. (2 marks)

Task 2: Carefully read the following passage, taken from *Cloud Busting* by Tara June Winch.

Goulburn, '67. All my brothers and sisters had been put into missions by then, except Fred who went and lived with my mother's sister. And me, I was with my mother, probably because my skin's real dark, see – but that's another story, you don't need to know that. So old Mum and me were sent to Goulburn from the river, to live in these little flats. Tiny things, flatettes or something. Mum was working for a real nice family, at the house cooking and cleaning; they were so nice to Mum. I would work with her, used to sit outside and play and wait for her to finish.

When we came home Mum would throw her feet up on the balcony rail, roll off her stockings and smoke her cigarettes in the sun. Maybe chat with the other women, but most of them were messed up, climbing those walls, trying to forget. It wasn't a good time for those women, losing their children.

Examine the following graphic.

Australia's Stolen Generations

When?

1890s – 1970s

Aboriginal children were stolen from their families, creating the "Stolen Generations".

Who?

"Half-caste" children

Mainly children of mixed descent, i.e. 'half-caste' Aboriginal children, were taken.

How many?

Tens of thousands

Australia-wide tens of thousands of children. Government estimates 10% of Aboriginal people aged over 25.

What happened to them?

Used as cheap labour

Raised on missions or by foster parents, without education, girls were trained to be domestic servants, the boys to be stockmen. Many were physically, emotionally and sexually abused.



1 in 6

Girls ran away.



1 in 11

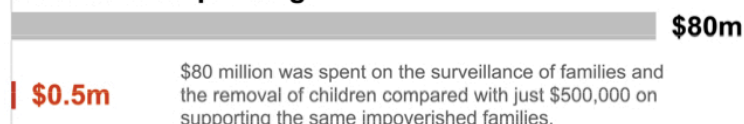
Girls became pregnant while apprenticed.



1 in 12

Girls died.

Government spendings



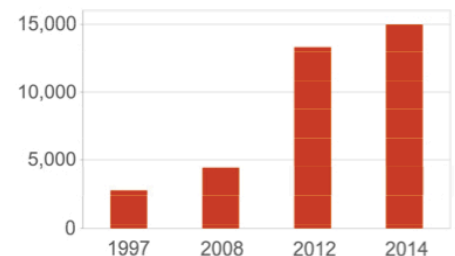
\$80 million was spent on the surveillance of families and the removal of children compared with just \$500,000 on supporting the same impoverished families.

What were the effects?

Loss of identity
Mistrusting everyone
Internal guilt
Substance and alcohol abuse
Depression and other mental illnesses

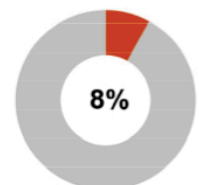
Difficulties parenting
Intergenerational trauma
Violence
Loss of cultural affiliation
Loss of language

Even more are taken away today



The number of Aboriginal children living in out-of-home care is rising constantly. In 2008 it was 4 times the number of 1969.

8% of Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over were removed from their natural families in 2008.



Institutions (selection)

1887 – 1986	Parramatta Girls' Home
1908 – 1981	Bomaderry Children's Home
1911 – 1969	Cootamundra Girls' Home
1920s – 1970	Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Home



Using quotations from both the passage and the graphic, provide three inferences you can make about the passage from *Cloud Busting*. (9 marks)

Total mark: ____ / 22