

SACE 2 - English Communications

Task 2 Novel: The *Divine Wind* By Gary Disher

Gary Disher's novel, *The Divine Wind*, is set in ~~athe~~ typically Australian town ~~called of~~ Broome, ~~in the period prior to and before and~~ during World War II (WWII). The central characters, Hart, Alice and Mitsy ~~help allow~~ Disher ~~to~~ explore and establish themes regarding ~~the~~ numerous relationships ~~which occur within~~ society. Friendship is the first ~~type of relationship to be examined~~. Disher demonstrates that, ~~as time goes on, showing how with age~~ the foundations ~~to which these upon which friendships~~ are made ~~do not always prove cannot always be~~ strong enough to ~~last maintain friendships~~. ~~The other type of relationships are types of relationships investigated are~~ those relating to love. ~~A central theme of the novel is that of~~ Next ~~is~~ prejudice, which is ~~examined shown~~ through the relationships ~~between of the~~ white Australian citizens and ~~people of other ethnicities, primarily those who are not~~ Aboriginals and Asians. The ~~novel also delves into book finally shows~~ the theme of loyalty, ~~which is best demonstrated through the period durin particular during World War II WWII~~.

Formatted: Font: Italic

"We often make friends for the weakest of reasons – proximity for example, or shared experience, or laziness or need."¹

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Not Italic

This ~~quotation gives provides~~ readers ~~with~~ an understanding of the beliefs Disher holds regarding the formation of friendships. ~~As~~ well as portraying the theme of changing friendships. The friendship of the characters Mitsy, Alice and Hart ~~are is~~ formed at a young age, solely ~~through as a result of~~ proximity and need. ~~We see The reader sees~~ the ~~basis of this friendship is~~ alter ~~when as~~ they become adults, ~~as and~~ Disher shows the changing attitudes of each character. External issues such as race and loyalty to one's country are taken into consideration by each ~~other character~~, especially ~~due to with~~ the looming war. Disher ~~demonstrates his belief makes known t~~ that as ~~friendships people~~ mature, proximity and need are not ~~reasons~~ enough to sustain ~~that a~~ friendship. ~~The v~~ Views expressed by others, ~~(either by individuals or by society as a whole) or individuals~~, can affect the way we think about a friend, leading to a changed or destroyed friendship. A reflection of everyday life, can cause a breakdown. Classmates ~~who~~ in ~~Junior junior~~ school once ~~swear promised ing~~ to be 'together forever' separate through ~~changes~~ in beliefs and values.

"By the time I was fifteen, Ida had virtually stopped talking to my father."² (A reflection made my Hart about his mother's broken relationship with his father.)

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Not Superscript/ Subscript

¹ Gary Disher, G, 1998, *The Divine Wind*, Griffin Press, South Australia Adelaide, 1998, P.g. 21.

² Disher, *Divine Wind*, *ibid*, P.g. 13.

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

Formatted: Font: 10 pt

~~The Divine Wind describes~~ Love is described in the book as a form of blindness, reflecting on different social backgrounds, which can lead to failed relationships. ~~One An~~ example ~~being is~~ Michael and Ida. They meet and fall in love, ignoring their different upbringings. ~~Ida is's~~ formal and English, ~~while~~ Michael ~~iss~~ easy-going and Australian. As ~~the~~ love felt between them wains, they ~~begin to~~ see the need for their own lifestyles and, ~~consequently, they~~ separate. A further example is ~~the character of Alice,~~ ~~S~~she does not reflect upon Hart's dislike of Carl Venning, who she is madly in love with. Instead ~~she~~ realises ~~esing~~ later, ~~and~~ of her own accord, that their difference in backgrounds and opinions are too far apart. ~~As~~ Alice has a great sense of self and always stands up for what she believes in, she ends their relationship. During the ~~World War #WWII era,~~ ~~se times there wassociety held~~ a naïve view of ~~love,love:~~ feelings for another meant that you should be with them. ~~Even t~~Today there is still a blindness ~~involved in beingshown when~~ in love. Too ~~oftenoften,~~ ~~I have seen we see~~ heartbroken ~~girls-young women~~ who have misjudged a relationship, ignoring negative signs, ~~because they were too-and~~ focussed on the 'here and now'. A lasting relationship is one formed over time, ~~in whichwhere~~ aspects of each ~~-other's~~ lifestyles and ideas have to be accommodated.

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

~~“Oh, somewhere over in the east, shove ‘em in with the German’s and the Italians I suppose.”³~~

Formatted: Font: Not Italic, Not Superscript/ Subscript

†This ~~quotation~~ reveals the prejudicial treatment ~~towards-of~~ both the Aboriginal and Japanese people ~~at the hands of by the~~ Australian authorities in ~~the 20th-twentieth c~~Century ~~Australia~~. Disher accurately portrays how these attitudes were formed ~~in the hands of~~ ~~authorities~~, especially ~~as a result of with~~ the coming war. ~~Thise~~ prejudice was fostered by the indoctrination of white Australian people into the belief that these particular race's were set to 'ruin' Australia. When ~~World War #WWII~~ was declared, and Japan became Australia's enemy, concerns that Japanese ~~-Australian's~~ would turn against white Australians became widespread amongst society. In ~~particularparticular,~~ ~~the reader we~~ can see how Carl ~~Venning~~ is convinced by the authorities: “Your Abo is unreliable... he'll collaborate. He'll guide the Japs through the bush.”⁴ This indoctrination led to fear amongst people towards racial minorities. Prejudice still occurs in society today. A typical example is ~~the United States of America (USA)~~ and its ~~g~~Government's' ploy to instil fear into the American population by promoting the misinformation that Iraq ~~had-possessed~~ 'weapons of mass destruction' ~~in order to justify their invasion of the country.~~ ~~This substantiated their policy to go to war, as they wanted to control the leadership of Iraq.~~ ~~Personally I believe that in~~ In a contemporary ~~society-whichsociety~~ that has at its disposal, ~~with~~ a vast amount of knowledge ~~readily available~~ and ~~the ability to communicate with ease~~ ~~easy communication~~, we should not be fearful of others.

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Not Italic

³ Disher, *Divine Wind*, 107. Op cit, P.g. 107

⁴ Disher, *Divine Wind*, 76. Op cit, P.g. 76

~~“I hope your keeping an eye on those Japs you got at your house, sonny.”~~⁵

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Not Italic

This was a comment made to Hart for keeping Mitsy and Sadoko in their house. Disher tries to portray his view that loyalty is a highly regarded quality within relationships. The prejudice against the Japanese and the Aboriginals which that increased during the war against the Japanese and the Aboriginals revealed a loyalty within Hart and his father for their friends. Although there was speculation and name calling by the local Australians, the Penrose family stood were loyal to their friends. Disher reveals that regardless of whatever and whoever is sayingspeaks negatively of detrimental things about those who are close to you, these comments should be ignored, instead It is more important that you maintaining your beliefs in that person or people. This The serious issue of loyalty can either breaks down or strengthens a relationship or cause its demise.s amongst people. This is true oOn both a small scale, within friendship groups, or to a larger extent, between countries. The ‘Coalition of the Willing’ allowed Iraq to be invaded at first butand, as time has passed, it is the change in position of some countries as a result of a lack of loyalty that has+ believe that some countries change of loyalty to the cause as time has passed has weakened America’s the position of the USA.

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Relationships are the central issue explored by Gary Disher in his novel the Divine Wind explores the main issue of relationships in the book the Divine Wind. This theme issue is expressed examined through the themes issues of friendship, love, prejudice and loyalty. Loyalty can be either positive or detrimental in to a relationship. Friendship is explained as fluid and able to changes over with time. Love is expressed as a form of blindness. Relationships between races sometimes demonstrateshow prejudice, which is formed throughcaused by the views of authorities which authorities that instil fear of other races in the population. authorities views and is brought about by a fear of other races.

Formatted: Not Superscript/ Subscript

Word Count: 1,073,7989/1000

⁵ Disher, Divine Wind, 138. Op cit P.g. 138