



SAMUEL
WAGAN
WATSON

MIDNIGHT'S BOXER

Poetry Analysis



MIDNIGHT



MIDNIGHT'S BOXER

The first poem we are going to focus on is 'Midnight's Boxer' by Samuel Wagan Watson.

Before reading the poem, it will be useful to do some research to help your understanding. Go to the website below and complete a 3 2 1 Summary.

3 2 1 Summary

- 3 Key Facts
- 2 Interesting Ideas
- 1 Question you have

<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/nitv-news/article/2017/02/03/round-or-two-pound-or-two-touring-tent-boxing-circuses>

Annotated Reading

STEP 1

Circle words and phrases you don't understand. Look these up and make a note.

STEP 2

Underline and label language features including:

- Metaphors
- Repetition
- Interesting punctuation
- Imagery.

STEP 3

Make notes any further notes about your interpretation of the poem.

Small Group Discussion Questions

Working in a small group, students discuss and answer the following questions:

1. Why do you think he is called 'Midnight's Boxer'?
2. Why do you think the word 'He' is capitalised?
3. What do you think the 'scars that can't' heal are?
4. What does this line mean? "*He wouldn't know how to sink in the 'boot', A tender honour picked-up off the battlefields of assimilation*".
5. What perspective of Australia does Watson present in his poem?
6. What attitudes/values/beliefs about Australia are revealed?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

READ

Read the lyrics to the Midnight Oil Song 'Jimmy Sharman's Boxers'.

<https://songmeanings.com/songs/view/133993/>

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Take notes comparing and contrasting the two texts. In particular consider:

- Representations of concepts, identities, times and places.
- What attitudes, values, beliefs and cultural assumptions underpin the texts.

WRITE

Write an introductory paragraph and a body paragraph in response to “Literary texts do not exist in isolation.” Discuss how reading intertextually enhances our understanding of ideas