QUESTION 3  Jane Harrison, *Rainbow's End*

An individual's sense of belonging cannot remain unchallenged and will evolve in reaction to the passage of time and the events which follow. The play *Rainbow's End* by Jane Harrison explores the changes in individuals' senses of belonging through the events and challenges the face over time. Similarly to this, the events which take place in the play, for example, the story of the turning by the Winton housemates and the changes brought with time will have an effect on individuals.

Challenges to the basis of belonging occur with the passage of time and will cause the individual's sense of belonging to change and evolve with it. In the cases of the characters Billy Gleeson and Mr. Bear in the play *Rainbow's End*, initially they lack shared base of belonging held by all three women in their community in the Flats of Moorooka. All three women will realise the importance of
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Being accepted within a group, where they differ in in their desire to be accepted within white society in the same way they are accepted in their Aboriginal society, in the cases of Polly and Gladys. This inner desire is explored through dream sequences which occur throughout the play. "Gladys presents a bouquet of flowers to THE QUEEN, instead of being formal, pulls her into a hug." While Gladys' search for acceptance lies mainly in her desire for Aboriginal culture to no longer be marginalised, Polly, due to her young age, mostly strives for acceptance on a smaller and more personal scale. The arrival of Fred causes Polly to express her dismay at the way she is treated by the white people in town. "I'm the one who has rocks thrown at her when I'm walking down the street. I'm the one who gets snide remarks!" For both these women, the passage of time brings Verevett, the flood, which sees a change in location to their Kumbarra house. This causes them to change their views in regards to the way they see their sense of place in society. The Kumbarra house is bigger and nicer than their humpy in the flats but the change highlights the value of the humpy as a symbol of the humpy as they their sense of belonging would not be
QUESTION 3  Jane Harrison, *Rainbow's End* continued

improved when they were more accepted into white society and rather when they accepted the value of their familial and community connections. "A home is where there are people looking out for each other. It doesn't matter if your floor is made of dirt." The Kumbalara home itself represents as further acceptance into white society as the repetition of "whiteness" is used in the house description.

And the significance it has with belonging is also explored in John Marshall's the Habbits. This partly allegorical story chronicles the arrival of the Habbits to the land of a group of other creatures. The story very much parallels the colonisation of Australia and the alienation of the inhabitants at the hand of the Habbits. It is very much similar to that of the character in Rainbow's End as they feel shafted "like a bandaid over a sore." Possession is a theme which runs through both texts. "I am not an interloper... This is my land." Ultimately, in the Habbits, however, the inhabitants do not retain any sense of identity as the
Jane Harrison, *Rainbow's End* continued

The passage of time will change the perceptions and viewpoints of the individual and will therefore also affect their sense of identity. Maturity is a factor which mainly affects Billy in *Rainbow's End*. At the beginning of the play, Billy has just finished high school and is faced with the challenges of what she will do after. Her future is not confirmed, she is getting married at this point but as the story progresses, this becomes an option for her. The arrival of Food and the ensuing romance between them causes Food to feel like he cannot move away from him and she refuses. Food is confused. "Tell me, are you just telling me you'd rather be in a hump by a river? Or are you asking when I'm offering you the world?" "You wanted. And you've just assumed your world is better."

As the story progresses however, Billy is faced with the challenge of...
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parent hood, her perceptions in regards to Enoch’s offer change as she had initially viewed it as a way to take her from the she felt she belonged. She then sees that he is not in fact the villain in this situation, a discovery which is exemplified in New Year's. This discovery that Enoch is not a red Indian which leads her to realize that not all white men are to be untrusted.

Eunice’s in the short story, the morning by Tim Winton, Eunice’s perceptions of her life are challenged with the arrival of Sherry, whose life starkly contrasts her own. Up until this point, Eunice had viewed her life with passive acceptance, it is only until the needs Sherry that she wishes for something more. Sherry has this seen when the first meet at the clothing store of the trailer park where she lives. "Her laundry was all button down shirts and silk boxes and delicate bras and panties while Eunice’s housed leather and bulked up by comparison." The contrast of "silk" aid "delicate" with "bleached and butchered highlights the way in which Eunice views Sherry from the first time they meet, Eunice eventually
QUESTION 3  Jane Harrison, *Rainbow’s End* continued

I discover that Sherry and her husband are Christian. "I was wondering what made you different from others you knew. Is religion what this diary led you to wish she could accept religion into her life or Sherry died and no longer wants to feel she belongs in the family and she feels they're suffocated by her life. He found it harder to picture him in his tattered little done and her in her little aluminum box, both trapped, hiding in a metaphor for her sense of insignificance and how she feels her and her ornament of Jesus belong together."

Then the passage of time is an important factor in the progression of the characters and their sense of belonging in *Rainbow’s End* and also the habits and the turning the events which occur over time cause them to evolve into if they belong and to what of where they belong. Whether they are successful in finding a sense of belonging or not, time will ultimately lead to a conclusion and constant evolution in their perception of belonging.
QUESTION 3  Jane Harrison, *Rainbow's End* continued

**Comment**

This response demonstrates a subtle, sustained and perceptive discussion, particularly in relation to the differentiation of the three female characters in *Rainbow's End*. It engages skilfully and confidently with the question, with 'time' explored skilfully in two of the three texts, while 'interaction with worlds' is explored skilfully in all texts, including the related material *The Rabbits* and *The Turning*. Connections between the texts are identified and developed creating a fluent and cohesive response.