Comprehending ‘True Blue’

Sheet 5

Read the song lyrics for John Williamson’s ‘True Blue’ and complete the following activities.

1. Answer the questions in the spaces provided.

   a. What is the song about?

   b. This country-style song is a lament about loss — a loss of what?

   c. What is the purpose of the song?

   d. Describe the Australian culture represented in the song.

   e. Who is represented in the lyrics of the song? (Hint: Identify the nouns and noun groups.)

   f. How does the song mythologise Australia?

A **myth** is a popular belief that has become associated with something, in this case Australia.

Sheet 5

2. John Williamson's song 'True Blue' represents Australia as a fair country where people are resilient, hardworking, honest and true. Consider whether you think the following groups of people are represented in the song lyrics:
   - people of all ages — young to older
   - people from all areas of Australia — the city and rural and remote communities
   - males and females
   - people from a diverse range of jobs — physical labour, office work, professional
   - people who were born in Australia and those who arrived as migrants
   - people from different cultural backgrounds.

   a. Which of the viewpoints of Australians listed above would you argue are represented in the text? Add these to the left column of the table below and use a quote from the song lyrics as supporting evidence.

   b. Which of the viewpoints of Australians listed above would you argue are not represented in the text? Add these to the right column of the table. Justify your answer.

Whose viewpoint <u>is</u> represented in the text?	**Whose viewpoint <u>is not</u> represented in the text?**
For example: • males and females *Supporting evidence*: • the song mentions supporting your mates if they are in a fight	

Whose viewpoint <u>is</u> represented in the text?	Whose viewpoint <u>is not</u> represented in the text?

Reference: True Blue (John Williamson) © 1982 Emusic PTY LTD.