Evaluative language devices: ‘True Blue’

Sheet 6

Read the song lyrics for John Williamson’s ‘True Blue’ and answer the following questions about the use of evaluative language devices to express ideas about Australia’s peoples and cultures.

Colloquialisms

1. Identify the meanings of some everyday colloquial expressions in the song. Identify six expressions and list them below.

Everyday expressions in the song	My interpretation of the meaning of everyday expressions

2. How does the use of colloquial language in ‘True Blue’ represent Australian people and culture?

3. Sometimes spelling is used creatively in texts for particular effects. What is the term ‘smoko’ an abbreviation for? What does it mean?

4. How does the spelling of ‘smoko’ work to represent the Australian people and their styles of speech?

Sheet 6

Symbolism and metaphors

5. Why should the load be tied with wire rather than string or rope?

6. How is the ‘sponge cake’ an example of symbolism?

7. What aspect of Australian culture does the ‘sponge cake’ represent?

Rhetorical questions

8. Why is the author or singer asking rhetorical questions of True Blue?

9. How does the use of rhetorical questions in the song work to create a representation of Australia’s people and their cultural attitudes and behaviours?

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