

Task for *Don't Take Your Love to Town*

Retrieval Grid

(Note 'domestic violence' and 'police violence' could be treated as part of 'family dysfunction' and 'negative black-white relations' respectively; however, they are major topics so have been separated out here).

Topic	Quotes/page references	Notes/analysis
Family dysfunction, alcohol and substance abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation – the relationship with Gordon sours, Peter is showing interest in her, she is reliant on men for income and protection out in the bush with all her children (p. 81) • Men are seen as useless, no help, no protection (pp. 92, 95, 96) • Instability, unsettled and transient life: “another example of me being moved about by other people’s needs” (p. 105) • Ruby’s reliance on drinking after losing Pearl (p. 152) • Ruby’s children turn to drugs as a coping mechanism, representing endemic dysfunction as a result of their experiences trying to succeed in the urban, ‘white’ environment (p. 219, 227) 	
Domestic violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic violence – Ruby’s father addressed her mum’s assault (p. 53) and tried to address Sam’s violence to Ruby (p. 61) • Nerida’s experiences (p. 58) • Corroboree/Phaedra chapter – some similarities between the corroboree story, Lance and Ruby’s story and the Ancient Greek story of Phaedra • Lance and Booker punished Ruby and Nerida for going to the bar they were ‘not allowed’ in – made to walk home (pp. 114–5) • Violence at the Empress Hotel – Ruby and Lance fighting due to jealousy (pp. 118–9) • Final straw with Lance – beaten up and taken to hospital, police assist her to charge him (p. 144) • Sons bashing their women – cycle continues (p. 179) 	

Positive aspects of family life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Living with Aunty Nell – stricter family, children seen and not heard, expected to work hard, but cared for (p. 10)• Worked for a month to save money to buy Aunty Nell a mother’s day present (p. 21)• Ruby’s father’s family reunion – the mob together – stealing fruit, drinking – a welcome relief from hard life? – seen as positive by Ruby, how would the wider population have seen it? (pp. 32–3)• Welfare note how well Ruby kept family and house, offered a APB house – attentive and caring mother (p. 108)	
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