

Task for *The Divine Wind* by Garry Disher

Coming of age extracts

***My Brilliant Career* by Miles Franklin**

“This was life – my life – my career; my brilliant career! I was fifteen – fifteen! A few fleeting hours and I would be old as those around me. I looked at them as they stood there, weary, and turning down the other side of the hill of life. When young, no doubt they had hoped for, and dreamed of, better things – had even known them. But here they were. This had been their life; this was their career. It was, and in all probability would be mine, too. My life – my career – my brilliant career.”

(The narrator, Sybylla Melvin, observes her parents and a few neighbours hard at work on a dairy farm.)

(Broadview Editions, Canada, 2008, p. 66)

***Boyhood* by J. M. Coetzee**

“He loves to listen to his mother and his uncles going for the thousandth time over the events of their childhood on the farm. He is never happier than when listening to these stories, to the teasing and the laughter that go with them. His friends do not come from families with stories like these. That is what sets him apart: the two farms behind him, his mother’s farm, his father’s farm, and the stories of those farms. Through the farms he is rooted in the past; through the farms he has substance.”

(The writer, through the focalising character ‘he’, gives some information about this character’s background in rural South Africa.)

(Vintage Books, London, 1998, p. 22)