

Task for *The Divine Wind* by Garry Disher

Model paragraph about point of view in *Deadly Unna*

The use of point of view in *Deadly Unna* is used to position readers to make preferred meanings of characters events and themes in the novel.

In the novel *Deadly Unna*, the protagonist, Gary 'Blacky' Black, who is also the first-person narrator, is represented sympathetically by the author. This character is constructed within a theme of 'youth', which is opposed in the novel to a theme of adulthood. Most of the adult characters in the novel are represented in a quite unsympathetic way by the author. On the other hand, readers are positioned to sympathise with young characters associated with Blacky, such as his friend Pickles, his Aboriginal friend Dumby Red, and his brothers and sisters.

This is a 'growing up' novel about one year in Blacky's life. It deals with the usual problems which a 14-year-old boy might have (family problems, what to say to girls) but through Blacky's friendship with Dumby Red, one of the local Aboriginal boys, he learns important lessons about racism, justice, death, courage and friendship.

- Readers are positioned to read the story of the novel from the point of view of the main character Gary 'Blacky' Black who is the narrator of the story.
- This is the story of Blacky's personal growth and his struggles against racism and his family situation. Readers are encouraged to empathise with Blacky, perhaps because of his youth, innocence and his vulnerability. Other young characters who are associated with Blacky such as his friend Pickles, his Aboriginal friend Dumby Red and his brothers and sisters also gain readers' sympathy.
- The character of Blacky is open and engaging. He has to deal with many everyday issues facing young adults in the community.
- Readers are encouraged to accept Blacky as a 'reliable' narrator, someone whose views readers can trust.
- The issues facing Blacky are universal.