

Task for *Songs That Sound Like Blood*

Chapter summaries

Chapter	<i>Rows highlighted in this way, are the focus chapters for close study and forensic reading in class.</i> <i>Rows not highlighted are not given close study, and while all students are encouraged to read the entire novel, those who do not will still be able to address and succeed in class activities and assessment.</i>	Characters' initial appearances and the setting for the chapter
Chapter 1 (pp. 1–4)	Roxy Redding, doing washing, discovers unfamiliar knickers and realises her Dad must be seeing someone. Aunt Linny and Trav visit. Aunt Linny complains about Uncle Johnny from whom she is separated. Roxy's dad, Maxie, gets home from his work in the Botanical Gardens. Roxy, who had already planned to go visit her friend, Helen, agrees to babysit Trav for Aunt Linny for an hour beforehand.	Roxy; her father, Maxie; her Aunt Linny and her son, Trav <i>at Maxie and Roxy's home in Port Augusta, South Australia</i>
Chapter 2 (pp. 5–9)	Aunt Linny doesn't keep her promise and does not arrive home till morning. It's clear she has been drinking heavily.	<i>at Aunt Linny's home</i>
Chapter 3 (pp. 10–11)	Roxy and Maxie play in a local club and the 'woman' she suspects her father is seeing arrives. Her name is Angie and she is young, beautiful and a local lawyer for Aboriginal Legal Aid.	Angie and her lawyer colleague, Mel <i>at a local club</i>
Chapter 4 (pp. 14–18)	Roxy and Helen relax while her parents are out – they watch TV, snack and when they go to bed, talk about post-school options because they have only a few weeks remaining. Roxy is hoping to study music in Adelaide after a school trip to the city earlier in the year. Helen discusses how much she likes Justin.	Helen, Roxy's friend <i>at Helen's home</i>
Chapter 5 (pp. 19–21)	Roxy and Helen find their friend, Justin, at Roxy's the next morning and when they go inside they all meet Angie who Roxy has just seen kissing her dad.	Justin, Roxy's friend and Helen's crush. <i>at Roxy's</i>
Chapter 6 (pp. 22–28)	Roxy and Lorna Jane get into a fight over Justin – because Helen likes him. A discussion leads to Miss Bardon and Uncle Marv committing to finding out how Roxy can pursue a career in music. Only six weeks of school remain.	Miss Bardon; Uncle Marv <i>at school</i>
Chapter 7 (pp. 29–34)	Uncle Johnny (Aunt Linny's ex) comes over and he and Max discuss Roxy going to university in Adelaide, Aunt Linny's problem with drinking and Max's new girlfriend.	Uncle Johnny <i>at Max and Roxy's</i>
Chapter 8 (pp. 35–41)	Roxy, Max and their band play in the best local pub and get a great reaction, even from Lorna Jane, but Aunt Linny undermines Roxy, suggesting she shouldn't have big ideas about going to university.	The band; Roxy's cousins, Gina and Michelle <i>at a local pub</i>
Chapter 9 (pp. 42–47)	Roxy's mother, Joanne, texts asking to catch up. Chatting with Aunt Linny, it is revealed that Roxy's mother had an affair when Roxy was a baby, and left town.	(References to Roxy's mother, Joanne) <i>at Aunt Linny's</i>

Chapter 10 (pp. 48–52)	Maxie takes Roxy and Justin to Adelaide for an audition for a university music course.	Tom, Aboriginal support worker; Josh <i>on the bus to Adelaide and at the city hostel</i>
Chapter 11 (pp. 53–60)	Roxy and Justin go to their audition and impress the lecturers. There is concern for Justin who has little family or financial support, but Roxy steps in for him, even though finances will be a struggle for her as well.	Charlton and Jill, Music lecturers <i>at auditions in Adelaide before catching the bus home.</i>
Chapter 12 (pp. 61–72)	On Christmas Day, Roxy discovers her mum has sent her a beautiful dress, and Maxie brings Angie to meet the family. She is from a privileged family and keen to support Aboriginal communities and so there is a discussion about politics and the law. Aunt Linny has too much to drink and is difficult. Next morning Roxy wakes up to find her dad had given her a beautiful guitar (named Lucille).	Gil (Poppa) and Lorraine (Nanna) <i>at Poppa and Nanna's house and at home the next morning</i>
Chapter 13 (pp. 73–79)	Roxy and family attend a big NYE party with 100 extended family members, and some cousins and aunties accuse her of abandoning her life in Port Augusta. She and Justin get into the uni course, and when they tell Helen, she asks them to leave – she and Roxy cry but Helen is unforgiving. Roxie and Maxie continue to prepare for her departure, when Maxie's car dies. Roxy decides to busk at the local shopping centre to give him some money, but he rejects it.	The Redding extended family <i>at home, at Helen's and the local shopping centre.</i>
Chapter 14 (pp. 80–84)	Roxy and Justin are seen off at the bus stop by the family, and Helen appears and she and Roxy make up.	<i>at the bus station and on the bus</i>
Chapter 15 (pp. 85–90)	Roxy and Justin get involved in orientation programs for Aboriginal students at the uni campus, where Roxy decides to do politics. She loves the people and the experience of learning about life at uni.	Kelly, a goth drummer; Jules and baby Amanda; Josh; Simon; Alicia Nancy, Aboriginal support person at uni. <i>at Roseworthy and uni in the city.</i>
Chapter 16 (pp. 91–98)	Roxy and friends attend the uni Orientation Ball and afterwards they get involved in a dispute over a taxi they had claimed first and are racially abused by a blonde man and some girls. Police are on the scene and take the side of the blonde man and the girls and get them into the taxi, while Josh is handcuffed and taken to the lock-up.	Blonde man and girls; police officers. <i>at uni Orientation Ball and nearby street with cafes/pubs.</i>
Chapter 17 (pp. 99–103)	Josh explains the racist treatment he received at the lock-up and Roxy is increasingly aware of how racism is shaping her experience. Because she is also broke and home sick, Nancy arranges to get her on a bus to go home to see her dad.	<i>at the hostel</i>

Chapter 18 (pp. 104–110)	Roxy arrives home, and Aunt Linny tells her she's changed and that Uncle Johnny is thinking of returning; Roxy visits Helen and is concerned that she is going to the pub and not able to find work.	<i>at Roxy's and Helen's homes</i>
Chapter 19 (pp. 111–114)	Roxy, Justin and Kelly, the goth drummer from the hostel, get a share house but it doesn't begin well with Roxy trying to study and sleep, while the others sit around and drink and don't commit to study. Justin gets a job.	<i>at Roxy's city share house</i>
Chapter 20 (pp. 115–121)	Desperate for money, Roxy sings for free in a couple of city pubs but nothing comes of it. She is annoyed at how the English sat upon the traditional lands to create a city. She rings her dad, who convinces her to go on a long beach run. It works and Roxy feels rejuvenated and sleeps well.	<i>at city pubs and the beach.</i>
Chapter 21 (pp. 122–125)	Charlton and Jill help Roxy make a demo and she sends it off and gains work playing in pubs, which not only pays but makes her feel confident and happy.	<i>at uni and a pub</i>
Chapter 22 (pp. 126–133)	Roxy goes back to the country for the two-week mid-semester break and is challenged by a cousin who claims she has changed and thinks she's too good now for country life, and by Helen who is drinking too much and being careless with men, who may be taking advantage of her.	<i>at Maxie and Roxy's home, local pubs and a coffee shop</i>
Chapter 23 (pp. 133–137)	Roxy, Helen, Maxie, Angie, Aunt Linny, Trav and Uncle Johnny go bush for a day trip into the Flinders Ranges and collect bush food to have with the picnic they brought from home – it's a time to connect with their traditional lands.	<i>in the Flinders Ranges, South Australia</i>
Chapter 24 (pp. 138–139)	First day back at uni, the students are required to form a soul band and rehearse and Roxy loves it; she also got a paying gig at the uni bar and after her set, she meets Ana, a music writer for a magazine. Ana invites her to see a band the following night.	Ana, a writer for a music mag. <i>at uni and the uni bar.</i>
Chapter 25 (pp. 145–151)	Roxy and Ana have a great night, and Ana kisses her tenderly when they part. Kelly abandons her goth look for the soul band and they discuss Kelly's crush on Justin. Ana texts Roxy to invite her out to breakfast.	<i>at a music venue and at Roxy's city share house</i>
Chapter 26 (pp. 152–156)	Roxy and Ana meet for breakfast and not only is there sexual chemistry but also a shared interest in the politics of race across Australia and New Zealand where Ana's family comes from.	<i>at a cafe</i>
Chapter 27 (pp. 157–161)	Roxy visited Ana's house – very beautiful and expensive and they eventually kiss and sleep together – Ana's parents know and accept that she is gay and Roxy doesn't get concerned because she is just happy to enjoy the moment.	<i>at Ana's house</i>
Chapter 28 (pp. 162–166)	Roxy is blindsided by her feelings for Ana, and tells Justin who fails to really understand and they discuss how her family will cope. Justin assures her that Maxie will be fine with her being gay, but they agree that Helen and her extended family might be challenged.	<i>at Roxy's city share house</i>

Chapter 29 (pp. 167–172)	Charlton and Jill heap praise on Roxy's essay and encourage her to consider journalism and teaching via an Arts degree, as a backup to a career in music. Ana tries to talk Roxy into trying out for a reality music show, something Maxie thinks discredits young musicians.	<i>at uni rehearsals and a pub</i>
Chapter 30 (pp. 173–175)	Roxy is invited over to meet Ana's family and it's relaxing and fun. She feels accepted and worries about how her own family will react if and when they meet Ana.	Ana's mother, Naomi; her father, Jordan; and sister Em <i>at Ana's home</i>
Chapter 31 (pp. 176–182)	Roxy arranges to talk to Jill to discuss her same-sex attraction and relationship with Ana. She wants and receives advice and support in relation to coming out to her family and friends.	<i>in Jill's office at uni</i>
Chapter 32 (pp. 183–191)	Roxy opens up to Ana about her fears about coming out, and Ana is understanding and they bond even further. Roxy rings her father and ends up telling him about Ana and he is supportive but cautious on her behalf.	<i>at Roxy's city share house</i>
Chapter 33 (pp. 192–196)	Roxy auditions for 'Starbright', the reality music program, and is selected to go onto the Sydney round, Ana commits to paying for it. Roxy worries about telling her dad, who hates such programs.	<i>at 'Starbright' auditions and at uni</i>
Chapter 34 (pp. 197–201)	Roxy flies in a plane and leaves South Australia for the first time in her life. She performs brilliantly in her round, and she and Ana celebrate on Oxford Street, dancing the night away in a gay club.	<i>in Sydney</i>
Chapter 35 pp. 202–212	Maxie and Angie travel to Adelaide to watch Roxy and the other Aboriginal Music students perform in their Soul Band. It was a success, as was the meeting of Ana and Roxy's families.	<i>at Roxy's city share house, the music venue and surf beach</i>
Chapter 36 (pp. 212–223)	Before heading to Port Augusta for the weekend, Roxy learns that 'boutique' courses like hers, and Aboriginal support units are under threat of being dismantled, and she hopes she won't be affected. Roxy and Ana head off on their road trip, have a night of footy at Maxie's, and then dinner with the family and Helen and Aunt Linny. She is drunk and guesses that Roxy and Ana are a couple; it descends into abuse until Helen and Aunt Linny walk out on them. The rest of the family, including Poppa, give them support and comfort, but they know it will be hard to come out to family and local friends.	<i>in Adelaide then travelling to Port Augusta where they spend the weekend.</i>
Chapter 37 (pp. 224–227)	Maxi gives the girls a fish, and tells them it will all be OK before Roxy and Ana head back to the city. When they get back to Adelaide they see Justin and Kelly cuddled up watching TV.	<i>Port Augusta to Adelaide road trip and Roxy's city share house</i>
Chapter 38	The Aboriginal music group stress about a 3,000 word essay but Roxy is confident, and especially when she learns	

(pp. 228–237)	Ana has set up an opportunity to review a favourite artist, and more so again when she knows that it is paid work and can count towards her essay. At the same time, Roxy is aware that other students are facing big challenges. The time comes for her 'Starbright' episode to appear on television... and she still hasn't told her father that she is in it because he regards it as a 'shame job'.	<i>Uni, at Roxy's city share house and a music venue</i>
Chapter 39 (pp. 238–244)	Roxy goes for a long run to relax herself before the TV screening of her performance on 'Starbright'. The reaction of Ana, Justin and Kelly is so positive and then her mother rings to congratulate her and Helen too. She apologises to Roxy and they commit to remaining friends. Roxy still has not told her father about the performance.	<i>on the highway to the beach and at Roxy's city share house</i>
Chapter 40 (pp. 245–253)	At uni, Charlton and Jill surprise Roxy by playing footage of her TV performance to the group, but follow up with bad news regarding the dismantling of the Aboriginal Music group and mainstreaming for all Aboriginal programs. The students and friends, including Ana, organise a protest.	<i>at uni and Ana's home</i>
Chapter 41 (pp. 254–261)	Maxie rings Roxy to say he saw her performance and is proud of her for singing from her heart; she's offered \$750 to play at Angie's Christmas Party in Port Augusta. Roxy attends a protest meeting and gets a great response to her second appearance, but worries that if she is voted to keep going, it will clash with the protest planned for the following week. She gets lots of text messages and Facebook friend requests, but also discovers that racists are trolling her. Finally, she gets a call from Aunty Linny who is drunk but apologises and tells her she loves her. Roxy begs her to get support and to invite Uncle Johnny to help her.	<i>at a protest meeting and at Ana's home</i>
Chapter 42 (pp. 262–265)	Crowds and police gather for the rally, and with TV exposure, Roxy gets loud support as she sings 'From little things, big things grow'.	<i>at the uni</i>
Chapter 43 (pp. 266–275)	The Aboriginal Music students learn that the course will close down and options are more limited for some, but not for Roxy who got high grades. She plants some seeds from her dad to calm her, and as she does so, Helen walks down the drive, having decided to leave Port Augusta to find work in the city; Roxy says she can stay with them. Ana and Roxy celebrate her great results and talk about moving in together near the beach for running and surfing. Roxy doesn't get past two episodes of 'Starbright', but it did get her name out there and as the novel closes, she is about to hit the stage at a Survival Day concert and sees her family walking towards her – her dad, Angie, Aunty Linny, Trav, Uncle Johnny – who have driven down to the city for the day to see Roxy perform. When she goes on stage she sings the 'blackest of black' songs she knew.	<i>at uni, Roxy's city share house, a beachside restaurant and at the Survival Day Concert.</i>