



READING

Read the following poem, by Kiwi doctor Glenn Colquhoun.

Bred in South Auckland

I drive a car that is falling apart.
There is a bog in the body.
There is rust in the doors.
Occasionally it does not have a warrant.
Sometimes I sleep in large rooms full of people.
I eat too much fried bread.
I am late to meetings
I go to housie.
My nose is flat.
I say Raw-tore-loo-uh.

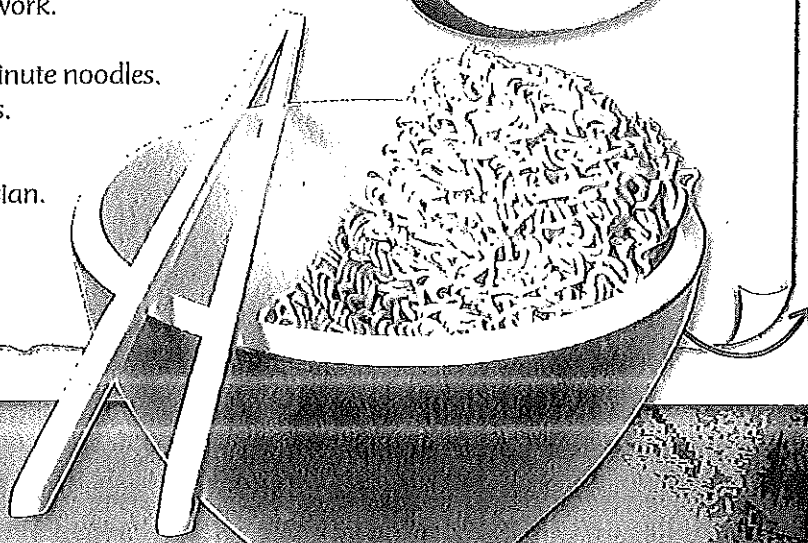
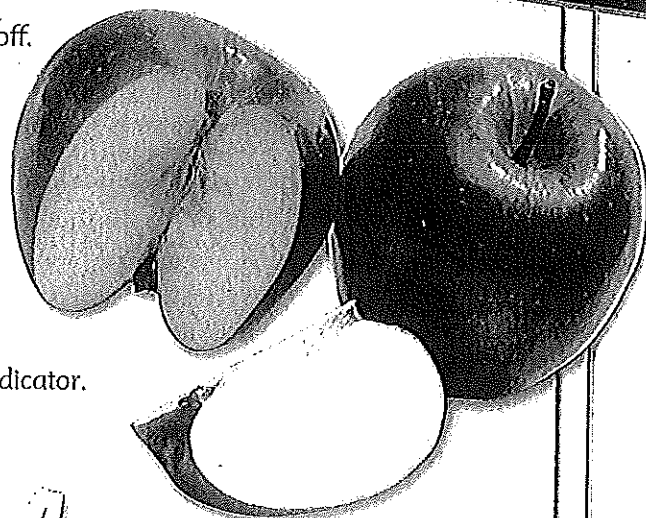
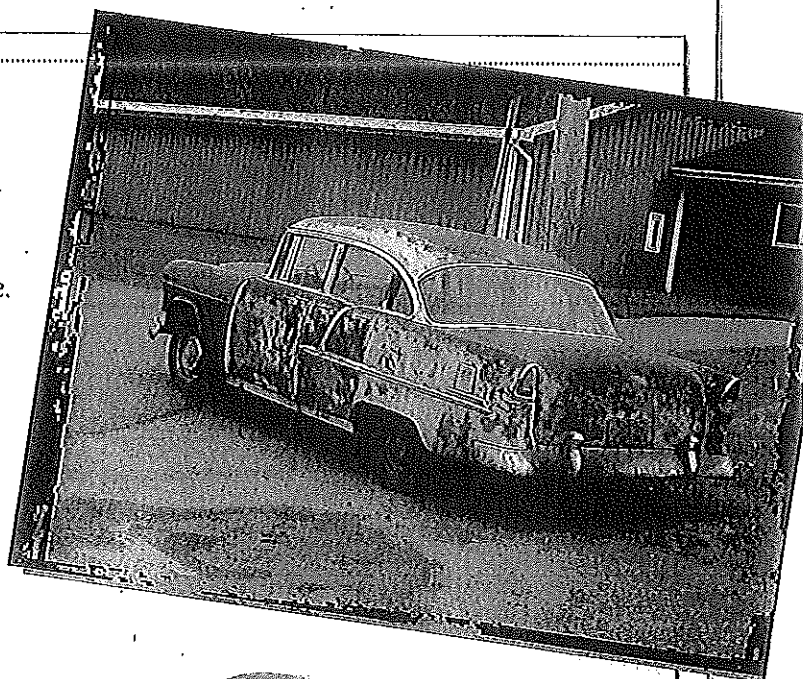
Some people think I am a bloody Maori.

I have been to university.
I have a student loan.
I photocopy my tax returns.
Most mornings I read the newspaper.
I make lists of things I have to do and like to cross them off.
I cut apples into quarters before I eat them,
Then I cut the pips out.
I put my name on things.
I listen to talkback radio.
I use EFTPOS.

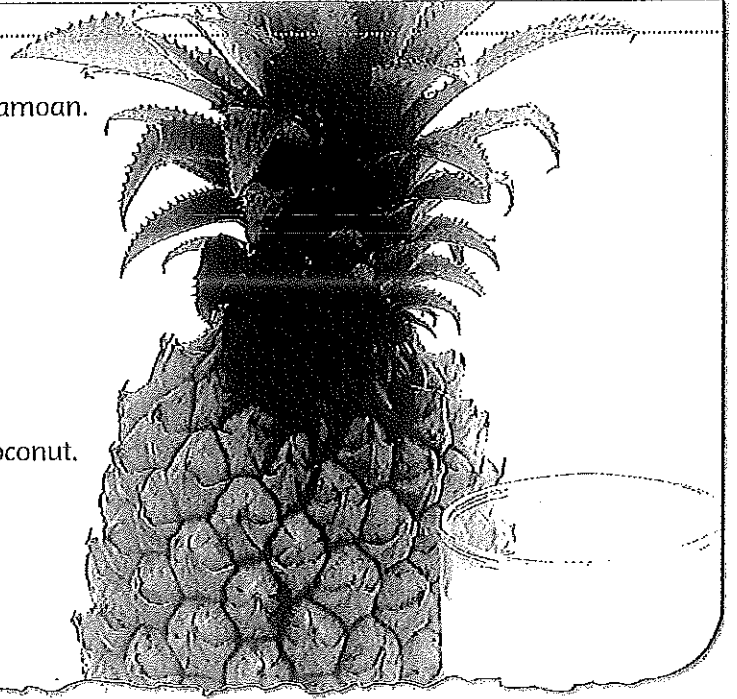
Some people think I am a typical Pakeha.

Last week I drove into a red light,
I did not slow down at a compulsory stop,
I changed lanes on the motorway and did not use my indicator.
When I was a boy I went to see Enter the Dragon,
I took one lesson in kung fu.
My parents made me do my homework.
My brother gave me Chinese burns.
I like beef and pork flavoured two minute noodles.
I light incense when the house smells.
Once I dug a garden.

Some people think I am a blasted Asian.



When I was a boy I learned to swear in Samoan.
I went to school in Mangere.
I played rugby in bare feet.
Sometimes I shop at the Otara markets.
My family come from overseas
I used to work in a factory
Once I helped cook an umu.
When it is summer I wear a lavalava
I drink pineapple juice.
I like to eat corned beef.
Some people think I must be a flaming coconut.
I think I am the luckiest mongrel I know.



CLOSE READING QUESTIONS

Answer questions 1–4, or write a paragraph for the Deep Thinkers' Option.

Showing Understanding

- 1 What are the four cultures or ethnicities that the poet talks about in this poem?
- 2 Which one(s) of these cultures does he say he belongs to?
- 3 The poet uses a derogatory word before mentioning each of these cultures. Why does he use these words?
- 4 Why does he call himself the 'luckiest mongrel I know'?

Making Inferences (Deep Thinkers' Option)

Do you think Glenn Colquhoun is racist? Why or why not? Explain, using evidence from the poem to back up your points.