

3 Summary-Writing – Answer Key

Text: Craig Harrison, "Tomorrow Will Be a Lovely Day", from: Martin Arndt/Karl Sassenberg, *Australia and New Zealand Down Under On Top*, Viewfinder Topics (München: Langenscheidt, 2011), pp. 58f.

B TASK

Summarise the extract from the drama "Tomorrow Will be A Lovely Day" in about 220 words.

Model answer

The extract from the drama *Tomorrow Will Be a Lovely Day* written by the British playwright Craig Harrison (*1942) and published in 1974 presents the encounter between the Maori Matenga and his prospective parents-in-law, Bob and Joyce Marley in their seemingly exotic flat in the City of Dunedin in New Zealand.

Though having acquired information on the Maori culture and even having learnt their language (cf. l. 56), the White couple seems to be at a loss of how to approach the visitor, as becomes clear in the many pauses and the stage-directions ("Awkward pause"/l.55; cf. also l. 32). During their conversation the Marleys' views of Maori culture clash with reality. The type of music that should be played and the drinks that could be offered are irritating problems for the two non-Maori New Zealanders and obstacles to a cross-cultural understanding.

What is intended as an informal chat that familiarises the Maori bridegroom with his parents-in-law turns out to be a hostile and frustrating confrontation (cf. l. 114, 118) that fails to bridge the gap between the two cultures, since Matenga does not "fit the anthropological image" (l. 109) the Marleys have developed. Even the bride's appearance cannot solve the conflict. The family encounter ends in the separation of the young bi-cultural couple from the White adults.

(217 words)

(Martin Arndt)