



**Judith Wright
1915-2000**

BULLOCKY

Beside his heavy-shouldered team,
Thirsty with drought and chilled with rain,
he weathered all the striding years
till they ran widdershins in his brain:

Till the long solitary tracks
etched deeper with each lurching load
were populous before his eyes,
and fiends and angels used his road.

All the long straining journey grew
a mad apocalyptic dream,
and he old Moses, and the slaves
his suffering and stubborn team.

Then in his evening camp beneath
the half-light pillars of the trees
he filled the steeped cone of night
with shouted prayers and prophecies.

While past the campfire's crimson ring
the star-struck darkness cupped him round,
and centuries of cattlebells
rang with their sweet uneasy sound.

Grass is across the waggon-tracks,
and plough strikes bone beneath the grass,
and vineyards cover all the slopes
where the dead teams were used to pass.

O vine, grow close upon that bone
and hold it with your rooted hand.
The prophet Moses feeds the grape,
and fruitful is the Promised Land.

SAMPLE SLIDES

1950s

Beyond the cultural cringe

Reaffirming a national identity

H. M. the Queen has graciously accepted 'The Swainart Country', which has been especially written by the Society of Australian Writers in England as a tribute, combined with the thought that the book would be helpful for Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh on their tour through Australia.

Introduction to the life, work and achievement of the writer and activist, Judith Wright. Presents Wright and her work within the context of Australian history, society and culture. Traces the development of poetry from first White settlement through the 19th Century to Federation, the Great War, the Depression, Post War Nationalism etc to the Bi Centenary and Multiculturalism by considering changing attitudes towards common themes. The Australian landscape and the country's Indigenous peoples and their culture are explored in particular detail through examples of art and poetry.