

## Peter Skrzynecki: Old/New World

What it's all about in a nutshell:

This collection of Skrzynecki's poetry is primarily about his search for identity – who he is, where he came from: his childhood experiences and his “lived” experience in Australia all mingle together to give an impression of someone who has eventually come to terms with himself and his place in the world.

**So – OVERARCHING THEME:**

**IDENTITY**

As we examine the collection, we follow how his early experiences (both lived and observed) as a migrant influence him and the impressions these leave him with; we join with him in his exploration of his family relationships and his heritage; & we see the way in which he is able find solace and a sense of contentment in his “lived” Australian experiences and his attachment to Australian landscapes and what they represent.

**So – SUB-THEMES:**

**MIGRANT EXPERIENCE**

**FAMILY/HERITAGE**

**AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPES/“LIVED” AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCES**



# Peter Skrzynecki: Old/New World

## ❑ MIGRANT EXPERIENCE

Some poems:

[Migrant Hostel](#)

[The Polish Immigrant](#)

[Immigrants at Central Station, 1951](#)

[Translated into Polish](#)

[Sailing To Australia](#)

[Crossing the Red Sea](#)

## ❑ FAMILY/HERITAGE

Some poems:

[Feliks Skrzynecki](#)

[Mother And Son](#)

[10 Mary Street](#)

[Post Card](#)

[Birthplace](#)

[Ancestors](#)

[One Photograph](#)

[Family Portrait](#)

## ❑ AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPES/ "LIVED" AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCES

Some poems:

[Bushfires At Kunghur](#)

[Flying Foxes](#)

[Mount Warning](#)

[Scarborough Cemetery](#)

[Red trees](#)

[Styx River poems \(all\)](#)

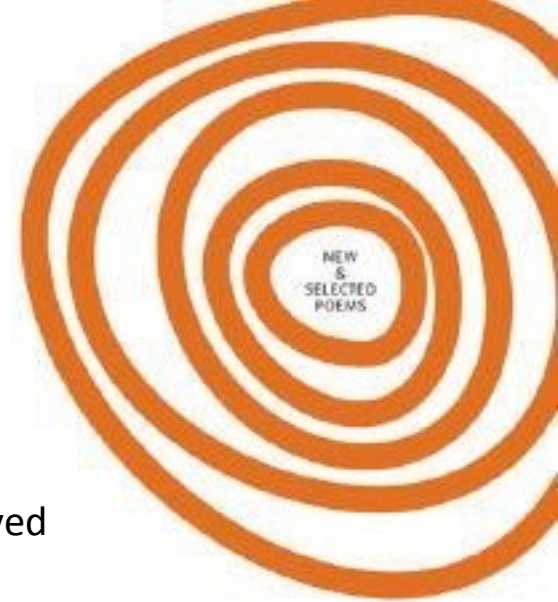


# Peter Skrzynecki: Old/New World

## ❑ MIGRANT EXPERIENCE

Short answer/dot point questions (use specific examples and quotes in response):

1. What picture does Skrzynecki paint of the experiences of newly arrived immigrants in Australia?
2. In what ways is a sense of racism explored in his poetry?
3. In Skrzynecki's poetry, what barriers are placed in the way of immigrants assimilating into Australian society?



# Peter Skrzynecki: Old/New World

## ❑ FAMILY/HERITAGE

Short answer/dot point questions (use specific examples and quotes in response):

1. What role does family, and his meeting expectations of his parents, play in Skrzynecki's poems?
2. What relationship does Skrzynecki have with his mother and adoptive father?
3. Why does Skrzynecki place such an importance in his heritage: memories and mementos such as photographs?

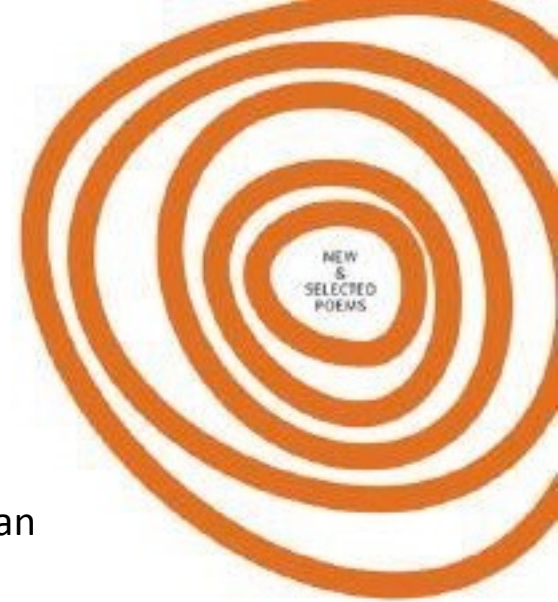


# Peter Skrzynecki: Old/New World

## ❑ AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPES/"LIVED" AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCES

Short answer/dot point questions (use specific examples and quotes in response):

1. What is the significance of Skrzynecki's pre-occupation with Australian landscapes/acquaintances in his poetry?
2. Why does Skrzynecki use the recurring symbolism of "rainbow trout" and other fish, and migratory birds in his landscape poems?
3. How does his contemplation on Australian images reflect on his sense of identity and belonging?



## Peter Skrzynecki: Old/New World

### ❑ PRACTICE ANALYTICAL TEXT RESPONSE PROMPTS:

1. To what extent do Skrzynecki's poems show the difficulties people have in adapting to new places and ways of life?
2. 'Skrzynecki's childhood is a key source of inspiration for his poems.' Discuss.
3. 'Personal insights gained from living in Australia are central to Skrzynecki's poetry.' Discuss.
4. 'It is the visual quality of Skrzynecki's poems that gives them their power.' Discuss.
5. 'Skrzynecki shows a deep appreciation of nature in his poems, but his view of it is conflicted.' Discuss.
6. 'Skrzynecki's strongest poems are those which are concerned with family life and domestic scenes.' Discuss.
7. "You create new memories/ as you travel/ but old ones follow you"  
'Skrzynecki's poems are about looking forward and looking back.'  
Discuss.
8. 'When reading Skrzynecki's poetry, we gain a strong sense of the connections between the past and the present.' Discuss.
9. 'The importance of memory is central to Skrzynecki's best poetry.'  
Discuss.
10. 'Skrzynecki sees the human being as only a small part of the entirety of life.' Discuss.

