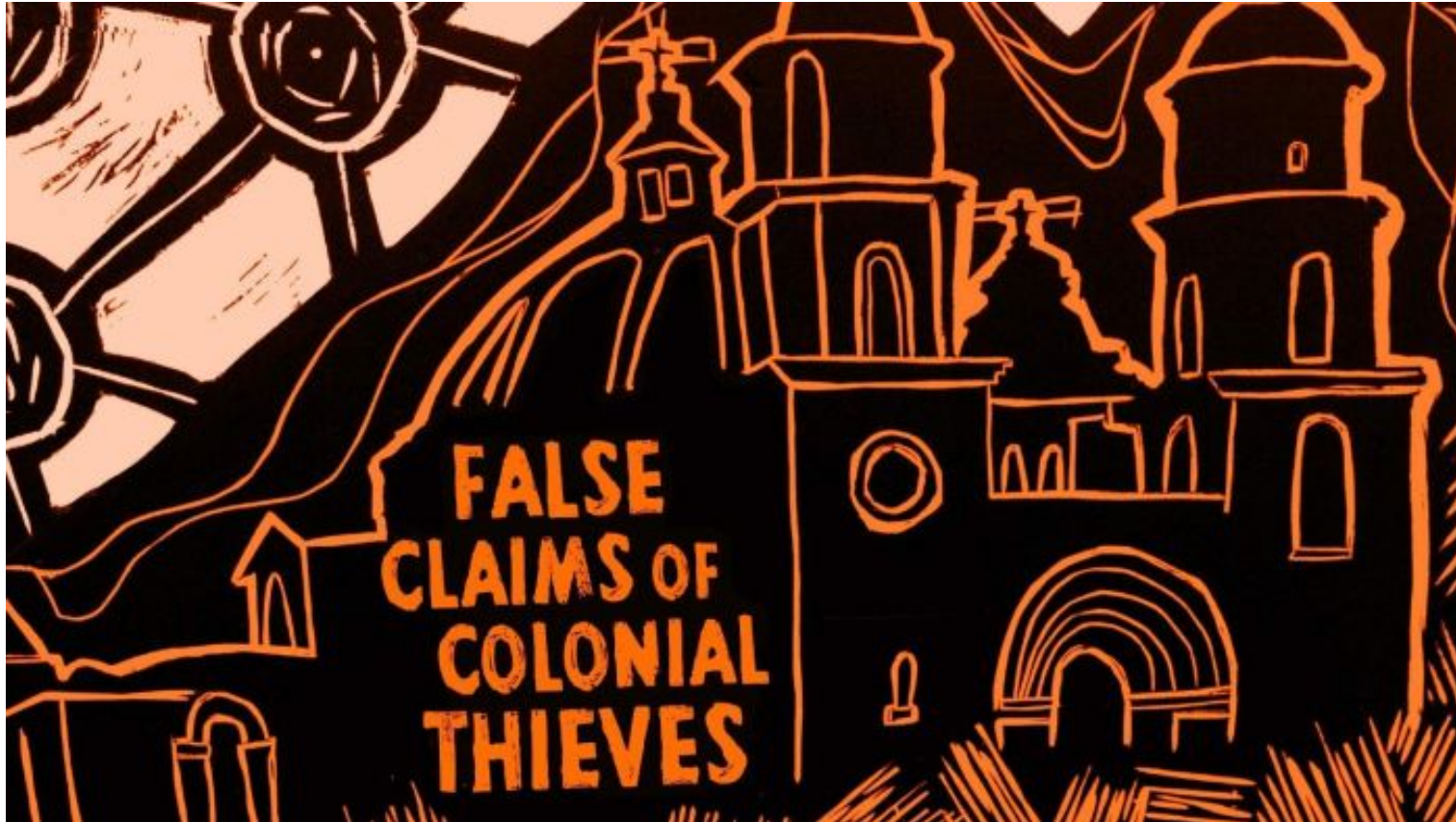


False Claims Of Colonial Thieves –
background research activities



LI: To understand the background of both Charmaine Papertalk Green & John Kinsella and how their backgrounds have influenced their poetry.

SC:

I know and can discuss:

- the significance of the title of the collection – *False Claims Of Colonial Thieves*, & the political nature of the poets & their poetry
- the central ideas/themes examined in their poetry
- the kinds of poems contained in this collection



The Poets – Charmaine Papertalk Green



Born in 1962 in WA is an Indigenous Yamaji woman who speaks Badimaya and Wajarri. 'Papertalk' is her mother's maiden name.

Her message is to restore her ancestors' histories and stories as 'paper talks everywhere now'. She exposes the concept of colonisation through her lived experiences and family stories.

Her dedication is to her brothers who died to cast relief on Aboriginal mortality rates that are 11.5 years lower than white males.

The Poets – John Kinsella

Born in 1963 in WA is non-Indigenous man who has Anglo-Celtic origins and has written over 30 books based on the WA landscape, colonisation, mining, family and conservation. He supports Indigenous rights, land rights and says he is a 'vegan anarchist pacifist'. His dedication is to Kim Scott a prize-winning WA Indigenous author of 'That Deadman Dance'.



Descriptions of Text

“From well-known poets John Kinsella and Charmaine Papertalk-Green comes a tête-à-tête that is powerful, thought provoking, and challenges what we think we know about our country, colonisation, and how we understand our land. Striking conversations surrounding childhood, life, love, mining, death, respect, and diversity; imbued by silken Yamatji sensibility and sublimely responded to by the son of a foreman from South Champion Mine.

“This extraordinary publication weaves two differing points of view together as Papertalk-Green and Kinsella’s words traverse this land and reflect back to us all, our many identities and quiet voices.”

“... challenging and unapologetic. Papertalk Green and Kinsella call into question what we think we know about our country, colonisation, land and identity. Each poem is part of a striking conversation that surrounds topics such as cultural diversity.

“It weaves two differing lives and experiences together and rarely pauses for breath.”

ACTIVITY 1: Check your understanding of key terms –

In pairs/small groups discuss the definition of the terms: Colonisation, identity, *tête-à-tête*

ACTIVITY 2: What indications of the text do these descriptions give us?

Themes in the text

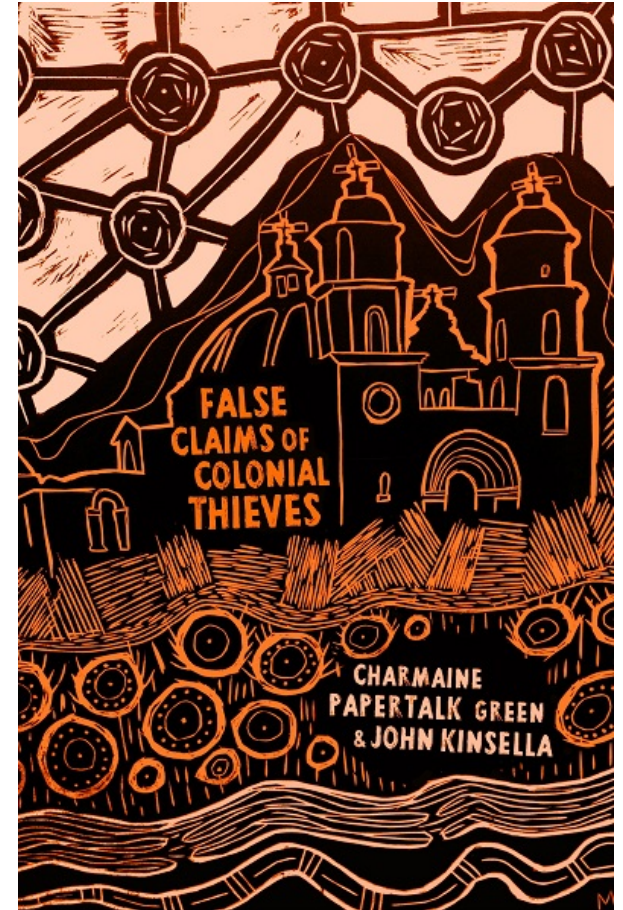
The overarching themes that is explored by poets in this collection of poetry are those of:

**COLONISATION/DISPOSSESION,
IDENTITY,
&
AN APPRECIATION/UNDERSTANDING OF THE LAND**

The Poets' inspirations

- ❑ Both poets write poems that are deeply personal and usually anecdotal – driving the narratives of their poems.
- ❑ But, they are also a comment on the wider schism in Australian society – the divide between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia in terms of perceived attitudes and prejudices.
- ❑ What might be the difference in mindset between someone who is of Indigenous heritage and someone who is not?

ACTIVITY 3: Discuss with a partner for 2 minutes. Then we'll share as a class.



False Claims Of Colonial Thieves:
Pair/small group research tasks

ACTIVITY 4: Find as much information that you can about both Papertalk Green & Kinsella in relation to:

- Their personal histories – where they came from, where they live
- Their early experiences [eg: how this shaped their thoughts growing up in Western Australia]
 - Their later lives – family, work, awards
 - Their inspirations for writing poetry
- Their search to giving a voice to Indigenous grievances
 - NB – include any relevant photos/pictures

MAKE a PowerPoint or Google Slides presentation of your research to be SHARED with other class members

Let's look at the title of this collection:
False Claims Of Colonial Thieves



- Who do you think are being referred to as “colonial thieves”?
- What do you think that the “false claims” might be?
- In what ways can this title be seen as political/subversive?

ACTIVITY 5: Discuss with a partner for 3 minutes, then we'll share as a class.

Let's look at the title of this collection:
False Claims Of Colonial Thieves



When reading the poems, look for the following:

- The physical (a location)
- The symbolic
- The metaphysical (identities, places that people attach meaning to)
- People, groups, culture, institutions

Let's look at the title of this collection:
False Claims Of Colonial Thieves



As we read the poems, consider what the title might suggest:

- What are the problems/concerns being expressed?
- Are any solutions being proffered?
- Are we being asked to make choices? Yes or No? Why do you think this is of importance?

Let's CONSIDER what we've learnt:

What is the significance of the title of the collection – *False Claims Of Colonial Thieves*, & the political nature of the poets & their poetry?

What is the central ideas/themes examined in their poetry?

What are the kinds of poems contained in this collection?

