

Task for *The Divine Wind* by Garry Disher

Three level guide

Read the first paragraph of the novel and then complete this exercise to improve your reading comprehension and to engage at once with the world of the novel.

Level one: These are the facts

Put a **T** for **True** against those statements which can be found in the paragraph, although the words may not be the same. Be ready to explain your choices. Otherwise put an **F** for **False**.

- () 1. Fear now made people see their old friends as strangers.
- () 2. The narrator says that people are no longer so certain about the past.
- () 3. The narrator's father offers shelter to a young Japanese woman, Mitsy Sennosuke, because his son is in love with her.
- () 4. Japanese bombs were falling.
- () 5. The narrator says that his sister is missing in a war zone.

Level two: Drawing conclusions

Put a **T** for **True** against those statements which are implied by the author. Be prepared to justify your choice. Otherwise put an **F** for **False** against the statement.

- () 1. On balance people hope that things will go on in the future as they have in the past.
- () 2. If the narrator's father had known that his son loved Mitsy he may not have offered her sanctuary.
- () 3. The missing sister is likely to be a problem between Mitsy and the father and his son.
- () 4. Maybe fear will finally come between the narrator and Mitsy.
- () 5. There is something significant about the narrator juxtaposing 'Japanese woman' and 'Japanese bombs' ('juxtaposing' means 'putting next to each other').

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Level three: Into the world beyond the text

Put a **T** for **True** against those statements that you think Garry Disher would agree with. Otherwise put an **F** for **False**. Be prepared to justify your choice.

- () 1. It sounds as if *The Divine Wind* is going to be a love story more than anything else.
- () 2. It's true that fear can make people act in strange ways.
- () 3. Major wars change things forever.
- () 4. A novel about race relations in Australia is a bit out-dated in the 21st century.