1. Where and when was Cath Walker born? 1920 QLD North Stradbroke Island

2. Why did Cath Walker leave her job in domestic service? To join the WWII war effort.

3. What were Cath Walker’s main concerns? Racism; discrimination against aboriginal people, civil rights

4. Why did some people question whether Cath Walker’s writing and poetry was her own work? White people were impressed with the quality of her poetry and therefore they were disbelieving that it was her own work. Walker’s poetry was critical of white society and its oppression of indigenous people, which was another reason for white people to not want to believe that Walker wrote the poetry. Questioning her poetry’s authenticity meant they were devaluing her poetry and its message.

5. Why did Kath Walker change her name? Kath Walker changed her name to Oodgeroo Noonuccal as a protest against European settlement and culture in Australia. She changed her name at the same time that she refused a prestigious award from the Queen of England. This was in 1988, at the time of the bicentennial celebration of European settlement in Australia.
6. What do you think Oodgeroo Noonuccal’s poetry will be about?
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Further research (prep) (hand write your responses)

7. What is ‘the stolen generation’?
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8. What is ‘assimilation’ and how did it relate to Aboriginal Australians?
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9. What was the White Australia Policy and what did it aim to achieve?
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10. What are some of the current day repercussions (consequences) of the stolen generation and the white Australia Policy?
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11. Why do you need to know about these things, in order to study the poetry of Oodgeroo Noonuccal?
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Listening test: Oodgeroo Noonuccal