



Question 24, part C.

Tim warbur Cloudstreet is, in a sense, an epitome of human existence. This is because in the broad sense, Cloudstreet is about ordinary people living ordinary lives, and continuing the struggle that most of us face every day.

This brings us to the most important aspect of everyone's everyday life and daily struggle - that of relationships.

Of the many intense relationships in Cloudstreet, the relationship that is the most important and centre of the story of Cloudstreet, is the relationship between Quick and Fish Lamb.

In the beginning, before Quick fish draws, Quick feels humbled by him and looks up to him because Fish is smart, good-looking and fun, all the things Quick is not. After Fish draws, Quick, more than anyone else, sees and recognises



the loss of potential on Fish's behalf, but more than anything, he mourns the loss of Fish for everyone else - a truly unselfish act.

As Fish grows older, and becomes more frustrated with his rebuffed existence, Quirk begins to realize that Fish is only partly in the real world - the rest of him had been taken into the spiritual world "the water" when he almost drowned. Quirk sees that it is a torment for his physical and spiritual vessel to be separated for so long - but he still wants his brother to be around.

This is Quirk's one selfish act, and in the end he realizes this too and lets Fish go.

Quirk feels great torment at the troubled existence of his brother, and part of this is Quirk's guilt for his ~~in~~ drowning. He feels that he could



have done something to prevent it, or that it shouldn't have happened and that if he could go back he would put himself in Fish's spot, because he saw Fish as a more valuable person than himself.

Quick takes time to himself when he goes away from home to become a professional kangaroo ~~hunter~~ shooter, but becomes homesick, both from the separation of Fish and his family.

From there on, he cannot bring himself to be away from Fish because he knows how hard it is on him, and feels as if he has a duty of care for Fish.

Towards the end of the book, Fish becomes increasingly agitated with his 'half' existence and longs to return to the water so he can become whole once more, and know those brief moments of being a man. Quick can see this,



and at the end as the 2 families are united ~~and~~ as one and enjoying 20 years of Cloudstreet, Quirk sees Fish, who has been forgotten for the moment in the excitement, running towards the water where he has been longing to return, and Quirk knows what Fish wants and what will happen. Rather than stop him, as he had been doing all his life, Quirk feels as if he owes it to Fish to let him have his release and be free once more, and lets him go to the water.

This final, unselfish act shows the love that Quirk showed for Fish and the level of understanding they had with each other. Although many other relationships in Cloudstreet are more dramatic, the relationship Quirk and Fish showed was the most important of all. There was one that continued throughout



the novel, and as Cloudstreet can be interpreted as Fish's life flashing before his eyes in the moment of his death before he is reunited with his last spirit, the Robe Quirk plays and his unconditional love and devotion to his brother, coupled with his heart-breaking decision to ~~let~~ finally let Fish go and be happy despite the loss he feels himself, shows that Quirk and Fish ~~are~~ ~~were~~ understood each other and trusted and loved each other to the end, and that is what made Cloudstreet the place it was