 Big World Reading Guide

1. What kinds of turnings occur in “Big World”?
2. How are these turnings significant to the characters and to us the responders?
3. What is the register of the narrative voice and how does this influence our reading?
4. Identify two examples of symbolism and explain the meaning that is shaped.
5. What is the importance of setting in conveying the connections between place, landscape and identity?
6. How do you interpret the following quotes:
* “Some days I can see me…anchored to the friggin place, stuck forever.”
* “The longer we drive the more the sky and bush open up.”
* “And suddenly there we are…with…the horizon around our ears.”
1. In the desert at the end of “Big World”, the characters sense that there is more to life. Think about the turnings in your own life, e.g., from primary school to secondary. To what extent do we leave everything behind when we make a significant turn in our lives, and to wat extent does the past travel with us?
2. How does this short story operate as a metaphor for identity?