



## **ATAR course examination, 2024**

# **DRAMA**

## **Text booklet**

## **Section One**

**Drama text**

*Sunshine Super Girl: The Evonne Goolagong Story*, written by Andrea James, was first performed by Performing Lines and premiered in Griffith, New South Wales, in October 2020 before travelling to the Sydney Festival.

**Contextual information**

Evonne Goolagong is from Wiradjuri country, the largest Aboriginal nation in New South Wales. 1971 was the year when most of Australia and the rest of the tennis world would hear of Evonne Goolagong for the first time. She lost the Australian Open tennis title to Margaret Court, but went on to win the first of her two Wimbledon titles in 1971 with her second in 1980. Her 1980 win made her the first mother to win Wimbledon since 1914, under her married name of Cawley. Who would have thought this young Indigenous girl from the bush would go on to win 82 singles titles, 53 doubles titles and six mixed doubles titles!

NOTE: Scene 3 has been omitted from this excerpt.

**The cast**

The cast consists of five actors with roles distributed as follows:

Actor One	EVONNE
Actor Two	KENNY (DAD), MR DUNLOP
Actor Three	LARRY (BROTHER)
Actor Four	LINDA (MUM), DANCER ONE
Actor Five	BARBARA (SISTER), DANCER TWO

**Setting**

The set is a tennis court, red dirt and a high-rise umpire's chair. Some fruit boxes standing on end make do for the players' seating. There is a crude string net with an emu feather woven into it here and there. Two clothes lines either end. One line with a big, white bed sheet and the other with a few tiny 1970s tennis dresses and frilly undies fluttering in the air. The audience is seated along two sides of a traverse stage.

---

**Script excerpt**

---

**ACT ONE****ON COUNTRY***PROLOGUE—CENTRE COURT FISHING*

*Darkness. We hear the sound of a tennis match and commentary. It's the closing stages of a tie-breaker between Evonne Cawley and Chris Evert-Lloyd. We hear the 'toc, toc, toc' of the tennis ball and classic 1980s TV tennis commentary.*

*Lights very, very slowly illuminate a brilliant tennis court. Luminescent green. A holy grail. The sounds of the tennis game and commentary become louder and louder. The audience cheers.*

*EVONNE GOOLAGONG CAWLEY enters with a suitcase and fish-basket. Returning to Country, she looks around, puts down the suitcase, ascends the umpire's chair and throws a hand line into the court.*

*Silence.*

EVONNE: This is a good spot here. This is Mum's spot.  
That current there? Swirling around and around? That's the backwater. Leaves and twigs and bugs. That's what the fish are after and that's what I'm after.  
The fish.  
My dad told me about the magic of fishing at the backwater.  
He used to say, 'See that bog hole down there? Plenty of fish. Big ones. That's where you go to catch a fish.'

*A fish bites. She scrambles to hook it, but misses.*

Missed him!  
When I throw in a line and I'm waiting for a bite, it's like I'm on the court.  
In the zone.  
Your hearing changes – like you're underwater.  
Your muscles shift and tighten. Ready for anything.  
Your vision is sharp. Every twitch, every flutter.  
And when everything aligns, that ball moves in slow motion and comes up to meet you. Like an old friend.  
And when you hit that sweet spot:  
'Toc'!  
It's like pure heaven.  
That ball flies like a bird.  
You watch your opponent scramble and before she hits the ball.  
Wham!  
You're there. You know where to be.

*She winds in her line, gets down from the umpire's chair, walks to the centre of the court and picks up a handful of Wiradjuri dirt.*

**See next page**

**SCENE 1: MANGY<sup>1</sup> BALL**

*A car horn sounds. KENNY, LARRY and BARBARA join EVONNE in the car.*

EVONNE: I'm three years old and we're travelling on a dirt road back from town to our little tin shack, when suddenly ... Dad's car conks<sup>2</sup> out.

ALL: Ohhhhhh.

KENNY: Don't worry, kids. I'll get it fixed in a jiffy<sup>3</sup>. Barbara, you steer.

*BARBARA hops in the front to steer and KENNY pushes the car.*

That's it, my girl. [*Puff, pant*] Now turn her gently to the right. To the right! That's it. [*Puff, pant*] Now brakes, Barbara. Brakes!

EVONNE: And little Larry, quick as a whip, jumps in the front, gets down on the floor and pushes the brake pedal with his hand.

*The car thankfully stops.*

KENNY: Good girl, Barbara. Good boy, Larry. That's my boy.

*KENNY lifts the car bonnet and tinkers<sup>4</sup>. LARRY and BARBARA amuse themselves by the side of the road.*

EVONNE: And here I am. In the middle of the bush, under a gum tree in Dad's big dusty old car.

KENNY: Larry, come and hold this hammer for a minute. Don't lose those clips!

EVONNE: I put my grimy little hands into the back of the backseat and explore the universe there...

*The DANCERS dance the universe and bring objects to EVONNE.*

A spring.  
A daddy-long-legs spider.  
A coin.  
A matchbox.  
A newspaper.  
Some fluff.  
And then ...

*A DANCER puts a grimy old tennis ball into EVONNE's hand. She lifts it high into the air.*

My little treasure.  
Round and small.  
Abandoned from previous owners.  
Kinda brown and bald.  
I hold that ball and squeeze it tight.

*KENNY slams the bonnet down.*

<sup>1</sup> Mangy – dirty, grimy, old.

<sup>2</sup> Conks – breaks down.

<sup>3</sup> Jiffy – short period of time.

<sup>4</sup> Tinker – attempt to repair something in a casual way.

---

**SCENE 2: BALL ON TIN**

---

*A corrugated<sup>5</sup> iron wall is wheeled in. LARRY hits the tennis ball against the wall with a broomstick with a clang, clang, clang. EVONNE joins him and they take turns to hit the ball against the wall.*

LARRY: First one to hit five without missing wins!

EVONNE: Okay.  
Our little shack with the tin walls and dirt floor was a bit rough around the edges, but it was my first home. I don't remember it much ...

*Evonne's mum, LINDA, enters with a washing basket and hangs a white sheet on the clothesline.*

LINDA: Evonne! Larry! You've been at it all day! Will you find somewhere else to play with that ball?!

LARRY: First one to hit ten without missing wins.

EVONNE: Okay.

KENNY: Evonne! Larry! Will you take that game somewhere else?! You're driving ya mother and me spare!

LINDA: Has anyone seen my broom?

LARRY: Yeah, Dad! In a minute! First one to hit twelve without missing wins!

EVONNE: Wins what?

LARRY: I dunno! Nothing. Just wins the game.

EVONNE: Okay.

LINDA: I said, has anyone seen my ...?

*She spots the broom and grabs it off LARRY.*

There it is!

---

<sup>5</sup> Corrugated – rippled, tin that is bent into ridges and grooves.

**SCENE 4: EVONNE'S WALL**

*BARBARA and LARRY wheel in a corrugated iron water tank. EVONNE hits her ball against it with a wooden bat, tentatively<sup>6</sup> learning the strokes. BARBARA and LARRY help her and hit the ball against the tank with the familiar and noisy clang, clang, clang.*

EVONNE: Backhand ...  
 Forehand ... Forehand.  
 Backhand.  
 Every night after school and during the weekends, I'd hit the ball with my fruit-box bat<sup>7</sup>.  
 Backhand ...  
 Forehand ... Forehand.  
 Backhand.  
 Up against the butcher shop wall, the fence in our backyard, the water tank and the brick chimney.  
 Backhand ...  
 Forehand ... Forehand.  
 Backhand.  
 Our neighbours at Barellan are Mr and Mrs Dunlop!

*MR DUNLOP appears over the fence and waves.*

MR DUNLOP: Hello, Evonne!

EVONNE: Hello, Mr Dunlop!

MR DUNLOP: That forehand is looking pretty good.

EVONNE: Thanks, Mr Dunlop!

MR DUNLOP: I tell you what. To get your backhand up to speed, how about I lend you my tennis racquet?

EVONNE: Really?!

MR DUNLOP: Here ya go, love.

*MR DUNLOP gives EVONNE the tennis racquet and it immediately improves her play.*

EVONNE: Thanks, Mr Dunlop! Wow!

**End of drama text**

<sup>6</sup> Tentatively – hesitantly, uncertainly.

<sup>7</sup> Fruit-box bat – bat made from the side of a wooden box to hold fruit.

**This page has been left blank intentionally**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Contextual information

Information from: Burney, L. (2021). *Sunshine Super Girl: The Evonne Goolagong Story* [Playscript]. Currency Press, pp. vi–ix.

### Setting & Script excerpt

Adapted from: James, A. (2021). *Sunshine Super Girl: The Evonne Goolagong Story* [Playscript]. Currency Press, pp. xiv, 1–4 & 7–8.  
Reprinted with the permission of the Publisher.  
Copyright (c) Andrea James, 2021.

### Copyright

© School Curriculum and Standards Authority, 2024

This document – apart from any third-party copyright material contained in it – may be freely copied, or communicated on an intranet, for non-commercial purposes in educational institutions, provided that it is not changed and that the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) is acknowledged as the copyright owner, and that the Authority's moral rights are not infringed.

Copying or communication for any other purpose can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with prior written permission of the Authority. Copying or communication of any third-party copyright material can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with permission of the copyright owners.

Any content in this document that has been derived from the Australian Curriculum may be used under the terms of the Creative Commons [Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) licence.

*Published by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority of Western Australia  
303 Sevenoaks Street  
CANNINGTON WA 6107*