OUT OF THE DUST  
-Assignment-

Choose **THREE** of the following assignments (**one from each section**) to complete.

Learning Intentions:

* To appreciate how authors create effective characters and relationships and uses them to communicate with the audience.
* To understand by what methods authors communicate messages such as themes
* To understand how tools such as setting and style are used by authors to communicate information to audiences
* To realise that as a writer and speaker you need to know what tools you have and how to use them in order to be an effective communicator

Characters:  
(all answers should be 500 words)  
  
**1) Write a monologue from the point of view of one of the characters in the novel that reveals his or her feelings about an event from the novel.**  
  
 *A monologue is where one character is giving a speech to an audience about their life. What they say represents their inner thoughts and feelings. A monologue is not a conversation, but is just one character’s point of view. When you write this monologue, decide what he or she are thinking and feeling inside. What would they tell the world if it would listen? Also, set the scene. Before the monologue, in a short paragraph, tell who the speaker is, where he/she is (set the scene visually), and in one or two sentences, tell what has happened in the life of this character so far. Make a point of revealing the character’s personality in your writing.***2) Write a letter from one character in the novel to another.**  
  
 *The letter should be written as a personal letter and should include all the important details you think that person would include in a letter. To help you decide what to write about, ask yourself what person A has to say and why. Think about the relationship between the two people in the novel. Make a point of revealing the character’s personality in your writing.*  
**3) Write a eulogy for one of the characters in the novel.**  
  
 *A eulogy Is a speech given by someone who knew the person well or by someone in his/her family. A eulogy is generally more personal and the audience is all the people in attendance at the funeral or memorial service. The main purpose of a eulogy is to honour the life of someone who has died. Make sure you think about which character is giving the eulogy and how they would present it; don’t just think about the character who has died.*  
**4) Write a journal entry of one event in *Out of the Dust* from the point of view of one of the characters.**   
  
 *A journal entry is a very personal account of what has happened to the character writing it. It includes intimate details about how the character is feeling about their situation and how they feel about the characters in their life. Also include what he/she would tell the world if it would listen. Your entire journal entry should be from one character’s point of view. Make sure you are writing your entry in the same style as Billie Jo does – using the structure of free verse poetry. Remember, free-verse poetry does not have to rhyme.***5) Write a journal entry in the style of Out of the Dust about events in your own life which have made a mark upon you.**  
  
 *As above, a journal entry is a personal account of what has happened to the writer. It should include intimate details about how you felt about the event and/or people involved in the event. What would you tell the world if you would listen? Make sure you are writing your entry in the same style as Billie Jo does – using the structure of free-verse poetry. Remember, free-verse poetry does not have to rhyme.*

Relationships:  
*(All answers should be about 800 words in essay style)* **1) Imagine that things went differently, and Ma got injured but did not die. How would this have affected the relationships in the novel?**   
  
 Think about the relationships between 1) Ma and Daddy, 2) Ma and Billie Jo and 3) Daddy and Billie Jo.  
  
**2) Examine the relationship between Billie Jo and Arley Wanderdale. How does it change throughout the novel?**  
 Explore how Arley treated Billie Jo and helped her overcome her difficulties both before and after the accident. You can also talk about how Mad Dog influenced Billie Jo and inspired her to do better – this was orchestrated by Arley to an extent.  
  
**3) Examine the relationship between Billie Jo and her father over the course of the novel. How does it change throughout the novel?**  
  
 What difficulties did they encounter after Ma’s death, and how did this make Billie Jo feel towards her father? What was his behaviour like, and how did Billie Jo react with her own feelings and actions? How did these difficulties then become resolved, and how can you describe the relationship by the novel’s end?  
  
Themes / Setting / Writing style:  
*(All answers should be about 300 words)*  
  
**1) Find one theme in the novel and write one paragraph (not included in the world count) explaining how this is an important theme in the book. Use lots of examples from the text of where this theme is present. Now use this preparation to write 300 words on the what the author is trying to say by using this theme. Remember to draw attention to the author and their decisions.**  
  
 *Examples of theme can be: hope, love, trust, hardship, family. You may find others in the novel – feel free to use one you find instead. If you are unsure if a theme you want to write on will be enough, please ask. When writing your 300 words, include your examples from the book.*  
**2) Draw (or create a model of) a setting (or setting were a specific event takes place) from the book. Then comment on the impact of the setting on our understanding of the story and why you thought it was an important setting to focus on. Remember to draw attention to the author and their decisions.**  
  
 *It should be obvious that you have put a lot of effort into your drawing/model. Drawing should be at least A4 size with annotations attached on a separate page (or labelling the model). Your description should be about why you selected the scene or setting and how you felt it was important to focus on.***3) Look at the style the novel is written in. Explore the different ways this style helps make the story more effective.** **Remember to draw attention to the author and their decisions.**  
  
 *Explore how the writing is poetry, taking particular note of phrasing and the way lines are structured. A notable example is the chapter about the accident (p.60). How does the style of the book tell the story in so few words? You should also discuss the effect point of view has on the story (we only see Billie Jo’s perspective). Look also at the tone of the novel. There are negative events, but is the tone of the novel negative? Why/why not?*