**Close Reading the Text Answer Guide**

**Task Sheet 1: Scenes 1-15; DVD Ch. 1-6**

**Scene 1**

1. **What can we learn from this opening shot? from the sound effects?**

It is dawn (light, cock crows); suburban street; scruffy section between tidy houses; style of architecture neither modern nor expensive

**Scene 2**

1. **What is shown in the first long slow TRACKING shot in Burt's shed?**

the Indian, a group photo on a beach, words ('Offerings to the God of Speed'), and bits and pieces: pistons, broken engine parts

1. **What is the effect of the slowness of this shot?**

the camera moves lovingly over them as if they are sacred relics in a church or a museum

1. **What does it tell us about Burt that he sleeps in the shed?**

he has little money, and/or that what he has is spent on his bike; and/or that he prefers to be where he works; and/or that he likes a simple life. [In fact, he owned a house that he rented out; he chose to live in the garage, but this is not mentioned in the film.]

1. **What is the effect of the DISSOLVES?**

suggests a dream sequence

1. **What is the significance of the shot on the salt pan?**

Burt is now awake, so it is a conscious dream, an ambition

1. **How is light used in this sequence?**

Initially strong chiaroscuro – early morning but also dramatic, suggesting reverence; golden light when Burt turns in the light; blue/white in his vision of Bonneville = not yet real

**Scene 3**

1. **What is the purpose of this scene?**

Establishes Burt as self-centred, thoughtless, interested in only what he wants to do. Not considerate of neighbours at 5.30 in the morning. An obsessive.

Sets up conflict with the neighbours: noise, the lawns

1. **Three other characters are introduced. What immediate impression is given of each?**

George: irascible neighbour (with good cause); conventional, good citizen, concerned with property values

Tom: seen only but his smile and wave suggest his sympathies are with Burt

Tom's mother: seen only fleetingly

1. **Is any more information added to what we have already learned about the setting?**

the accents identify this as NZ, and more specifically Southland.

the chickens, the dog barking, the lawns etc make it clear this is small town and not city

**Scene 4**

1. **What is the main purpose of this scene?**

Exposition: to provide background material, establish Burt's character and explain plot. Time - it is not long before Xmas.

1. **What important information is given?**

The importance of Bonneville, and Burt's ambition to see just how fast the Indian will go. [He tells immigration in L.A. that his ambition is to break the record, but this scene is more true - he just wanted 'one good run'.]