



**ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
Queensland Branch**

Judges' Notes

Charlotte Serisier, *Flies*

At an outback roadhouse, a boy goes missing. Despite a parade of local characters, no one seems to know anything. This is sophisticated Australian gothic storytelling – short, punchy paragraphs; stripped-back dialogue; and stark images with the cinematic qualities of film noir. A clever prediction device, for example, “In six days, Ray will …”, propels a growing sense of unease about the whole situation.