

## GROWING UP POOR – DOCUMENTARY NOTES

### Structure

Preview Footage of Corby family home

Interview Footage of Brooke Corby

Kerry O'Brian presenting

Landscape footage of claymore

Introduction of all children

Introduction of all children and families

Shot of Jessica doing her nails

### Content

Camera tracking mother feeding the children, this with all the kids and the noise create a chaotic environment

Indirect interview – cannot see interviewer

Background – shows she does not have a lot of item, no bedding, messy floor, paint peeling of walls

Said she is scared of the dark because her mum cannot afford electricity, no lights at night  
“um, it just makes me scared”

Costuming – school uniform, suggesting they don't have the money for other clothing

Background noise – diegetic noise of other kids creates the scene of chaos

Direct to audience

“in a nation of plenty, poverty has many faces”

Starts with statistics, and emphasises his previous point by mentioning ‘each one a person’  
2.2 million Australians live below poverty line

+ 600,000 under 15 children live in households where no one has a job

“Bob Hawke promised to end child poverty” labour party

“giving a voice to children who are often silenced”

“children who have had no say in the **misfortunes** that have shaped their **destiny**” - things that are out of control for the children

Establishing extreme Wide shot showing scenery clouds with sun trying to shin through them

Pathetic fallacy - Representative of the fact there is sunshine shining through the dark clouds that always hand over them

Montage of lots of different clips of claymore, establishing a faceless community

Sarah Ferguson's voice over “as far as social experiments go, claymore was a disaster”

Leading you to blame the gov “in the 1970s the gov created this place” \*continues with

montage\* “planners had created a welfare ghetto”, we are shown people wearing hoods, someone pushing prams, old cars, hooligan looking people, graffiti, dilapidated, close up of doll head – this creates/establishes poverty and crime

Montage moves from terrible conditions and moves to the topic of children

Eery audio, - “has highest proportion of children”

Why are there so many fights “because is claymore, this is claymore”, the violence is entrenched in the society

Quick snippet of interviews with the children

*Interview with 3 boys* – combination of costuming, worn out clothing, looking of camera, and how they produce their words, very stunted, background music, mellow tone

“five families allowed us into their lives, this is their stories”

Close ups of her nails.

Selection of detail – producer has chosen to include this, prompts the viewer to question why she is not at school ad questions her values

Voice over “today Jessica has lost her school bag” – why is value of education so low?

“I can't go to school with no books, cos I'm just gonna' to get into trouble for that” – shows cycle of poverty, education being undervalued

“it was an 'scursion, and I really wanted to go, I was gonna ask but I didn't, I thought they needed the money for something else” – her diction and syntax contributes to her uneducated voice

Interview with Hayden	With puppy and body language (hunched looking down), softens him Editing – Hayden and Bret, being juxtaposed together, comparing them
Girls talking about having babies and going to school	“I went to school for one period, then I got sent home” Voice over “they know a lot of older girls here get pregnant before they leave school”- the girls are playing in a ditch talking about a very mature topic, jarring Viewer response – they’re okay with the idea of going to school with a baby, they very naïve, evokes a sense of judgement on these people because they think life is so easy
Interview with Jada	Voice over - “more than half families in claymore have one parent”, concerned voice and very blunt, just presenting facts
Laura’s interview	Laura’s view – that there is potential kids can still succeed, optimistic, voice = naïve
(interview) Cheyenne on the telephone	She has a laptop and phone and rings and background clothes are everywhere – raises questions as to why they are spending money on this technology. Resistant reading Contrast with her violence at school (outside family unit) then how she interacts with love and protection within the family unit
Shot of dog Scene	Dog looking through cracked glass – symbolic of broken life They have so much technology and clothe, soft drink, junk food, phones, iPod, massive tv, DVDs and CDs, and sound system, she has to bring up all these kids on welfare? leading to question of why is money being spent of these items and not on looking after the family investing In their future and fixing living conditions
Interview with Alana Vignette	Has pillow over herself, always protecting herself You get vignettes/windows into people’s families, see a glimpse then you begin to ask questions then it changes to another family before you get to invested with questions You see snapshots of those in poverty
Corby family	Wanted kids early so she could get on with her life, both parents are unemployed Bredon (family) – can’t read or write, similar juxtaposition to child “its easy” as he reads then goes to shots of father who is illiterate – hope for younger generation Resistant reading – her family is based around herself,
Interview with Damion Content v audio	He says “I don’t want to work” what will you’d do “nothing” – they see work as optional They were in disharmony – there’s no mother figure, they are in contrast with each other, emphasising the fact they live in fear
Voice over = interview with Rebecca	Voice over “the people of claymore say these problems were bound to happen when you build a community this way”
Children looking out the door to rainbow	Rainbow = symbol of hope, the children are always optimistic
Voice over at barbeque	“it’s safe here on barbeque day, otherwise the park can be a frightening place for children”
Direct narration	She starts to bring a face to her perspective and makes her voice more there “why is so much pain and disadvantage concentrated in one suburb” – diction attached to pain and fear = strong
Next voice over	Talks about government – blames pain and fear on government
Interview with Hayden -	“there’s always anger inside me” – while holding a puppy

Interview with Brett	“Brett used to beat his wife. And the children see it” He knows it’s affecting his children, yet his father contributed to domestic violence, but he didn’t do anything to stop the cycle
Interview with Dale	He escapes from a violent reality through a violent video game – he has the control
Interview with Jessica	Parents are splitting up “most people don’t have a happy ending” - entrenched attitude “good job, with good money, I’ll be a decent mum, and a husband with no violence, you know, but like that will ever happen” – hopeless cycle
Jada	Jada blowing dandelion, symbol of wishes and hope Wants to be teacher – wants to be like her teacher, her role model
Jacob	“you can whatever ya want, you can live the life you want to, you just need to try” Jacob looks for four leaf clovers with his brother → searching for more luck “it would be good to think state and federal governments can agree to fix the problems in Claymore and other communities.. too make sure that luck isn’t the only thing our poorest children can rely on”
Finish with Kerry O’Brian	Finishes off conveying the perspective