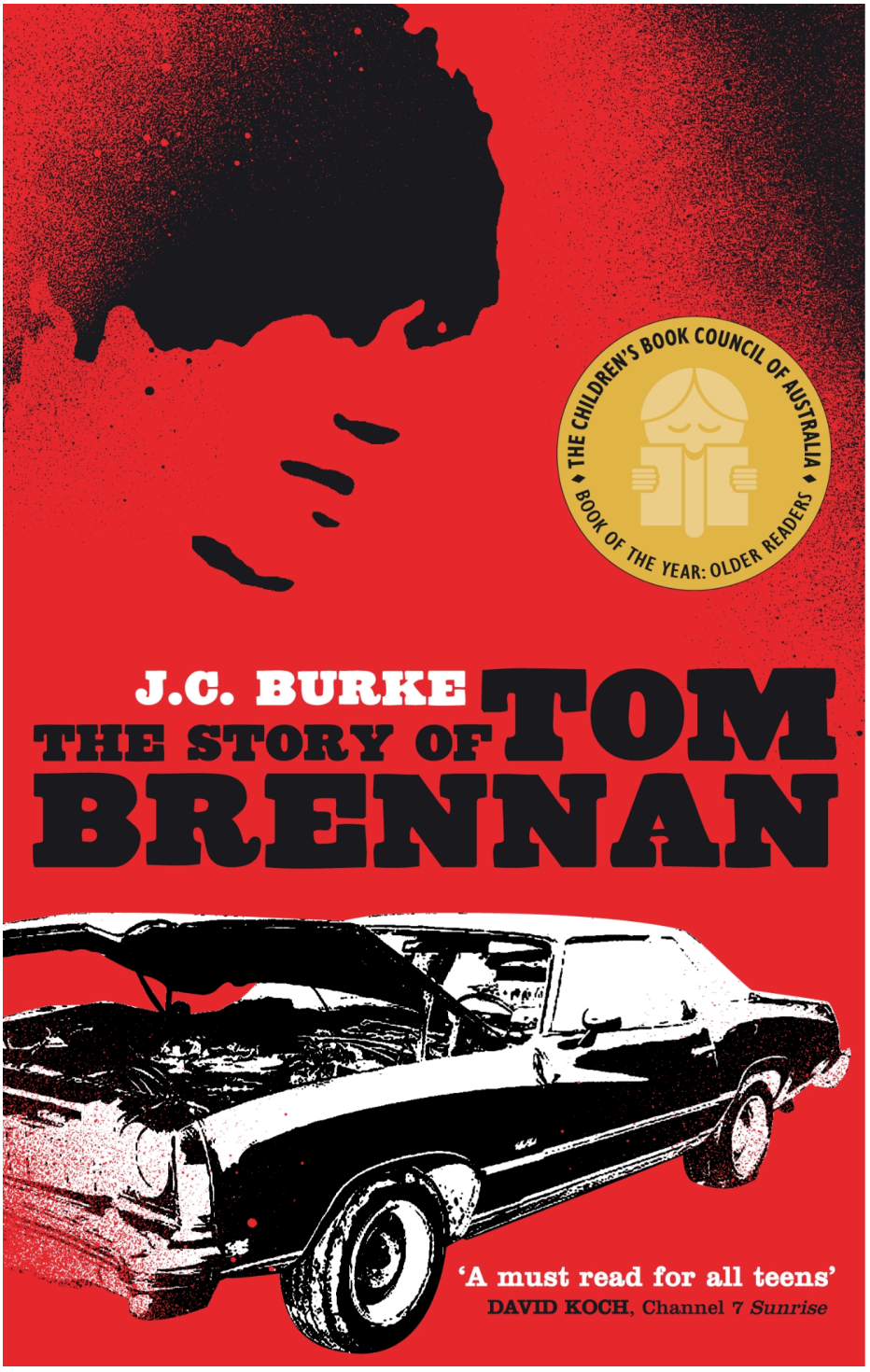

THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA
BOOK OF THE YEAR: OLDER READERS
J.C. BURKE
THE STORY OF TOM BRENNAN
'A must read for all teens'
DAVID KOCH, Channel 7 Sunrise

NOTES ON ALCOHOL ABUSE

Statistics from Australia

Alcohol is widely used by teenagers in Australia. Adolescence is typically a time of experimentation, and around 73 per cent of Australian teenagers try alcohol at least once. Although alcohol is tolerated as a socially acceptable drug, it is responsible for most drug related deaths in the teenage population.

Alcohol is one of the most commonly used drugs in Australia. Estimates suggest that half of the population over the age of 14 years drinks alcohol at least weekly.

However, it has been estimated that in 2019, 3,430 Australians died due to alcohol use and in 2016 there were 64,782 alcohol-related episodes that needed care in hospital. Both of these statistics represent more than those attributed to illicit drug use.

Car accidents are a leading cause of death for teenagers. In 2018–19, one out of four drivers or riders killed or injured in road accidents in Victoria were over the legal limit for blood alcohol concentration.

Statistics from the United States of America

Teenage drink driving is a serious concern in the USA. It is the cause of one quarter of all motor vehicle accidents and is the leading cause of death for people aged 15 to 20. It is estimated that one teen is killed every hour in the United States because of teenage drink driving.

Approximately 70 per cent of all teenagers in the USA have consumed alcohol before their twenty-first birthdays. In 2019, it was estimated that ten million drinkers were under the legal drinking age. Underage drinking accounts for 10 to 20 per cent of all alcohol consumption in the United States and fourteen per cent of all fatal motor vehicle accidents involve teenage drink driving.

Teenage drink driving is more likely to occur during night-time hours (between 9 pm and 6 am) when more than one teenager is driving in a motor vehicle. Males are more likely to be involved in teenage drink driving accidents than females, though the percentage of females involved in teenage drink driving accidents is increasing.

Teenage drink driving poses a threat to everyone on the road. Teenagers put themselves at greater risk of injury when involved in drink driving situations because they take greater risks and exercise less caution. For instance, 75 per cent of teenage drink driving participants were not wearing their seatbelt at the time of an accident.

A Light In Dark Places: One student's story about the consequences of drunk driving

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Il6A_Uruh-g

1. Describe the impacts of this kind of trauma on:
   - The drunk driver and their family:
   - The victim's family:
   - The community:

2. Which group do you think experiences the worst of the trauma from this event and why?

3. Do you believe someone who commits this crime has a possibility of redemption? How so?

4. What could audiences learn from Marshal Gregory's story?