**“We Are Going” – Questions**

1. Explain why they are “silent and subdued”.

2. How are white men represented? Why?

3. Why should the mention of “the estate agent” be so ironic in this poem?

4. Why is the “bora ring” (lines 4 and 7) an important image in this poem?

5. What effect does the repetition of the first person plural “We” have in this poem?

6. Explain their reaction in line 8.

7. “We are the **shadow-ghosts** **creeping back** as the **camp fires burn low**” (line 18). How do the three images in bold convey meaning to you?

8. What is the effect of the word “scattered” in line 20 have?

9. In what ways has the white man destroyed this environment?

10. What effect does the decreasing line length at the end of the poem give do you think?

11. Why is the use of the present continuous tense in the poem effective?

**Vocabulary:**

**Bora ring/ground** – a sacred area of land where Australian Aborigines carried out their initiation ceremonies such as circumcision

**Corroboree** – A noisy Australian Aboriginal dance festival held at night to celebrate tribal victories or other event

**Dream Time** - The time of the creation of the world in Australian Aboriginal mythology: "Aboriginal myths tell of the legendary totemic beings who wandered across the country in the Dreamtime . . . singing the world into existence" (Bruce Chatwin).