End of Story *Fiona Scott-Norman*

Read the article and highlight all the taboo words, idioms, colloquial and *other* strange words that you don’t understand.

* Taboo words - *Julia Gillard’s arse, bee’s dick, fucking cereal*
* Colloquial – *nice one, bee’s dick of a nanosecond, other kettle of cray cray, holy crap, smidge, get whacked, out of the wazoo*

Write a list of words that are not familiar to you and find their meaning.

* *rolling recap = a continuous repetition of what has been previously said*
* *a bee’s dick of a nanosecond = an extremely small unit of time (negligible)*
* *smidge (smidgin) = very small amount of something*
* *my old beat = the place where I used to work or spend time*
* *death eaters are in the house (characters from Harry Potter) = people who create a new order by spreading fear*

Do you think it’s typical of what is written by many journalists in Australia? Give one reason.

For example, but not limited to:

* *no, because the content is critical of Australian newspapers, many of which belittle their journalists by restricting what they can write about*
* *another reason it is not typical of what is found in newspapers, is the number of taboo words that are used (arse, fucking)*

Choose a sentence from the piece that you like/dislike and briefly explain.

* *‘It breaks my heart to see so many people who believed they were building a cathedral being told they’re just laying bricks’ = Australia’s education system, workplaces and society in general, restrict individualism, passion and creativity, and place greater emphasis on the collective end product, no matter how uninspiring it is*

What is the article about? Write a short 50-60-word summary on what the article means.

* *Journalists all over the world have passion and integrity and are willing to go to jail or be killed in order to write the truth.*
* *It is thus a shame that today’s newspaper corporate thinking undervalues such passion and integrity and simply focusses on the profitability of their stories, rather than their substance*

What does the author mean in the following sentence? Look at the article to understand the meaning in context.

*…So why keep exposing corruption and criticising the powerful? Stick to the safe stuff, lady; those fashion and celebrity cooking articles don’t write themselves….*

* *Even though logic and self-preservation would dictate that it is not worth risking your life and security writing about crime and injustice perpetrated by the rich and powerful, the author is being utterly sarcastic when she ironically suggests to write lifestyle articles.*
* *The entire article reflects the author’s respect and admiration for the highly dangerous and life risks that many journalists undertake in many parts of the world, not in Australia.*

What does the author mean by her allegorical story of the stonemasons with identical jobs?

* *People/professionals with passion, optimism and a sense of vision for their work/art are no longer valued today*
* *What seems to be of more importance today is playing a small role in a larger organisation, whose end results/profits are none of your business*