

# STUDENT WORKSHEET 3

## EXPLORE CONTEXT

ACT 1, SCENE 9 - 1955, THE CAFÉ

GOLDIE

YEAH, I'M - MAYOR! NOW THAT'S A GOOD IDEA...  
I COULD RUN FOR MAYOR...!

LOU

A COLORED MAYOR. THAT'LL BE THE DAY.

GOLDIE

YOU WAIT AND SEE, MISTER CARRUTHERS!  
I WILL BE MAYOR! I'LL BE THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN  
HILL VALLEY AND I'M GONNA CLEAN UP THIS TOWN!

### MAYOR GOLDIE WILSON

We first meet Goldie Wilson in 1955, when he is only 25-years-old and working in the café where Marty meets George for the first time. He is an aspirational character, singing the song 'Gotta Start Somewhere', all about how he is going to work hard to achieve his dreams. When Marty returns to 1985, he has been elected as Mayor of Hill Valley!

### CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

The Civil Rights Movement started in the mid-fifties and was a political campaign to abolish racial segregation and discrimination in the United States. This involved sit-ins and marches which lasted for well over a decade. Rosa Parks became known as the 'Mother of the Civil Rights Movement', when she refused to give up her bus seat for a white passenger. This key event took place in December 1955.

### THE AMERICAN DREAM AND THE AUSTRALIAN DREAM

"You can accomplish anything if you just put your mind to it." - George McFly (BACK TO THE FUTURE)

The American Dream is the belief that anyone, regardless of where they were born or their social class, can achieve success through hard work and determination. It is based on the idea that opportunity is available to all, and that upward mobility is possible in a free and fair society.

Australia has its own version of this idea, often referred to as the Australian Dream. While it shares similarities with the American Dream—such as the value of hard work, social mobility, and personal success—it is also deeply connected to concepts of egalitarianism, a "fair go" for all, and the idea of homeownership as a key measure of success. However, in both Australia and the United States, these ideals are often challenged by economic inequality, systemic barriers, and social change.

## DEBATING TASK

How do you feel about the idea of the American Dream today, and how does it compare to the Australian Dream? Is achieving success and upward mobility still possible and realistic in today's world? What factors—such as economic conditions, government policies, education, or social change—affect this dream in Australia? Consider recent events that have shaped your perspective. Have challenges such as the rising cost of living, housing affordability, job security, or changing societal expectations made it harder or easier to achieve success?