Colour Bar by Oodgeroo Noonuccal

When vile men jeer because my skin is brown,
This I live down.

But when a taunted child comes home in tears,
Fierce anger sears.

The colour bar! It shows the meaner mind
Of moron kind.

Men are but medieval yet, as long
As lives this wrong.

Could he but see, the colour-baiting clod
Is blaming God

Who made us all, and all His children He
Loves equally.

As long as brother banned from brotherhood
You still exclude,

The Christianity you hold so high,
Is but a lie,

Justice a cant of hypocrites, content
With precedent.

1. Prejudice exists in this poem. Where do you see it? What is occurring?
2. Locate a quote; label the technique being used and state how it demonstrates prejudice.
3. The poet uses religion ironically to express her anger at society. Explain this irony.
4. What is the overall tone of this poem? Do you feel that Oodgeroo Noonuccal is justified in her ideas and feelings?
5. What is your opinion of the injustices served in the Indigenous? Is this poem a good representation of the maltreatment of a race? Justify.