

**Analyse how contrast** helped the author communicate an **important message or idea**.

Note: “Contrast” could include contrast between characters or settings; or contrast between different sections/parts in terms of style, mood, tone, pace, etc.

***Much Ado About Nothing***  
**Shakespeare**

*Full introduction identifies contrast of characters and main idea about love.*

In Shakespeare’s “Much Ado About Nothing”, a contrast in the relationships between two sets of main characters, Beatrice and Benedick, and Claudio and Hero helped to communicate Shakespeare’s message that love based on deep understanding and respect will be longer lasting than a shallow, superficial love.

*Mature insightful understanding of how readers/audience are situated maintained throughout answer.*

From the very beginning of the play, we can see that Beatrice and Benedick are very interested in each other, although they won’t admit it. When a messenger comes to say that an army is home from war, Beatrice’s first question is “Has Signor Mountanto returned from the wars or not?” Although she refers to him in a mocking, sarcastic way, it is clear to us as an audience that she is very interested in what has happened to Benedick, and eager to find out if he is okay. When Beatrice and Benedick first meet, they tease and mock each other, but play off of each other’s words. When Beatrice says to Benedick “You are a rare parrot teacher”, Benedick replies “A bird of my tongue is better than a beast of yours.” It is clear that they have known each other for a long time, as Leonato refers to their relationship as a “merry war”. The fact that they appear so contemptuous of each other at the beginning of the play serves to convince us that their love is one that is based on true respect and understanding, when they do eventually declare their love for each other.

*Makes inferences about author’s purpose.*

In contrast to our first impressions of this relationship, Hero and Claudio’s love seems much more shallow and superficial than that of Beatrice and Benedick. Claudio uses cliché over the top language to describe his love, such as “come thronging sweet and delicate desires”. The fact that he is declaring his love for her after only having seen her once, and not having talked to her convinces us that this relationship is not based on anything solid, and would easily be torn apart. Claudio also reveals another motive for the marriage, when he asks Benedick “Hath Leonato any son?”, proving that he is perhaps more interested by the money that Hero is destined to inherit, than Hero herself. We are convinced, as an audience that this love will not last, right from the very start of the play, as it is clear that it is a very superficial sort of affection.

*Fluently written, demonstrating strong command of language.*

*Answer clearly describes and analyses differences between couples.*

We are shown how deep Beatrice and Benedick’s love for each other is later in the play, when they are so easily tricked into falling in love with each other. In one scene, Benedick goes from saying “I will not be sworn, but love may transform me to an oyster,” to “I will be horribly in love with her,” when he is tricked into believing that Beatrice has expressed her affection for him. Beatrice also says “he must be requited”, when she too is tricked into believing that Benedick is openly in love with her. From this extremely quick change from seemingly hating each other, to expressing deepest love for each other, we see that they have had feelings for each other all along, but were not willing to express them. The fact that they know each other so intimately, from their stabbing insults at

*Comprehensive knowledge of text demonstrated through use of quotations and direct references.*

*Range of mature and perceptive comments about qualities of love and contrasts between couples throughout answer.*

*Essay is well structured and tightly focused on question.*

*Conclusion sums up the main points – covers all parts of question.*

each other convinces us that their love is genuine, and that they know each others flaws as well as their good side, so the love they feel for each other is one that will last.

The instability of Hero and Claudio's relationship on the other hand is shown when Claudio is so easily tricked into believing that Hero has cheated on him. When he was told that Hero had been unfaithful, Claudio said "If, I see anything tonight why I should not marry her tomorrow ... there will I shame her." When Hero hears his accusation towards her, and protests "I saw no man at that hour, my lord," Claudio is unwilling to believe her, calling her a "rotten orange." It is clear that there is no real trust or understanding that this relationship is built on, and this demonstrates how easily their relationship could be destroyed. Although when Claudio finds out that he was wrong, he feels guilty about what he has done, and says "sweet Hero," this episode leaves us certain that something similar will surely happen in the future, and that Claudio will never truly trust Hero.

Even after Beatrice and Benedick have gotten married, they are uncertain about their love for each other. Benedick says "I love nothing in the world so much as you, is not that strange?" Beatrice replies "I love nothing in the world so much as you, but believe me not, and yet I lie not." Even Beatrice has lost her ability to speak with eloquence, because of her confused emotions. Benedick admits later "thou and I are too wise to woo peaceably." It is their confused, and uncertain attitude towards love that makes their love seem so much more authentic than Hero and Claudio's love, and makes us believe that theirs is the relationship that will last well into the future.

There is a huge contrast in relationships in "Much Ado About Nothing". The reality of Beatrice and Benedicks relationship compared to the cliché, shallow "love" between Hero and Claudio helped Shakespeare to communicate the important message in the play, that love that is based on trust and mutual understanding is the love that will last. This message about love is still relevant in the world today, and the characters are easy to relate to, making Shakespeares work, and messages last into the twenty first century.

**Analyse how the presentation of conflict helped develop your understanding of an important issue.**

Note: “Conflict” could include internal conflict as well as conflict between characters, groups or ideas.

***Life of Pi***  
***Yann Martel***

*Introduction clearly outlines:*

- *presentation techniques*
- *types of conflict*
- *important issue.*

*Analyses how first technique [character portrayal] is used to present key idea [survival].*

*Perceptive inferences drawn about faith and survival.*

*Analyses how second technique [ 2 story lines] is used to present key idea.*

*Insight shown here and elsewhere*

- *links imagination and survival*
- *hypothesises*
- *symbolic interpretation*
- *awareness of positioning of reader*

In “Life of Pi” author Yann Martel presents the conflict of a young boys struggle with survival. Using the technique of two story lines and character portrayal Martel explores young boy Piscine (Pi) Molitor Patels conflicts with himself, his surroundings and the other characters. The way in which he deals with these various conflicts develops our understanding of the issue, survival and how we possess an extraordinary will to live. This existential novel follows Pi’s experience of being stranded on a life boat in the Pacific Ocean for 227 days. Through conflict Martel emphasizes the strength of the human spirit over adversity.

When Pi is stranded in the middle of the ocean, in complete isolation he faces conflict with the other characters on board the lifeboat as well as a conflict with himself. Martel reinforces the importance of faith when one is in an extreme crisis. An avid believer in three religions, Islam, Christianity and Hinduism Pi gets strength from the idea that there is someone watching over him. We as humans tend to turn to a higher force in times of troubles because believing in something increases our will to live. When Pi struggled with himself after killing a character he gains a bad conscience. He sometimes loses his will to survive. This is when he looked to God. “High calls low and low calls high. The lower you are the higher your mind will want to soar. It was natural that bereft and desperate as I was, in the throes of unremitting suffering I should turn to God.” It is then appropriate that the next sentence is, “When we reached land.” It suggests that by looking to God we will find salvation. Martels presentation for Pi’s conflict with himself and the other characters develop our understanding of faith, which is essential for survival.

Pi’s conflict with the other characters develop the theme of imagination which is another important aspect of survival. Throughout the novel we are led to believe Pi is on board the lifeboat with a tiger, orangutan, zebra and hyena. It is not until the end that the reader discovers “another story” where the animals were actually people. If this is the truth then instead of animals killing each other it was in actual fact humans resorting to murder and cannibalism. We wonder if Pi invented this “better story” to cover brutal truths “I held my mothers head in my hands.” Perhaps the conflicts of the characters board where, his mother is murdered and a sailors leg is amputated for bait was so unthinkable Pi had to escape mentally. In this story we regard Pi as the tiger. The tiger is a symbol of Pi’s fear and as he tames the tiger he is overcoming his fear, putting him in the state of mind to become the alpha male that will essentially dominate and ultimately be the lone survivor. Martel shows us how the conflict between the characters triggered Martels imagination which ultimately put him in the state of mind to overcome his fears and survive.

Most importantly the conflicts on Pi’s journey emphasises how we as

*Mature insight into author's purpose for using conflict.*

people possess an extraordinary will to live. The characters succumb to actions that we think of in our society to be unthinkable. The two parallel stories are therefore interesting reminding us that in times of crisis we too have animal instincts and will fight like wild animals. Even Pi, a person of good morals gave up his no killing, vegetarianism ways. Pi's conflict with survival led him to extreme actions so to escape death.

In "Life of Pi" Martel emphasises the conflict with the characters on board with himself, but most of all with survival. Through this he reminds us how important faith, imagination and great will is for the issue of survival. He also reminds us of how far we will in fact go to survive.

Analyse how the author’s **presentation** of ONE **important section/part** changed your **opinion** about a **character/individual OR issue**.

*Lord of the Flies*  
William Golding

William Goldings “Lord of the Flies” is an explanation of the true nature of man, it explores what happens when you remove the boundaries of civilization and are left with a primitive voyage.

*Identifies section of text and issue. States personal response.*

For me, the murder of Piggy was the changing point for my understanding of true human nature. Leading up to his murder there were still elements of civilization in both Ralph and Piggy, but after his death the boys atavistic regretion was complete. I was sickened, horrified and distressed at my new understanding of man.

*Quotations and details reinforce points about civilised behaviour.*

Leading up to his murder I still had hopes that although every man has the potential for evil it was more or less a matter of choice wether we were subconsciously drawn to savagery through the roots of our primitive past. At this point in the novel, Ralph and Piggy are still clinging on to the theories of democracy. Before going to confront the savages they talk about making themselves appear more civil, just like they used to when they arrived on the island. Ralph says “well we won’t be painted, because we aren’t savages.” Sure they haven’t reached the point of savagery that the rest of the boys have yet, but they have just participated in the brutal group murder of their friend Simon. Their comments and evidence that they still hold on to the tattered threads of civilization is an illustration of the gulf between them and the other boys.

*Insightful analysis of 2 key symbols as technique used to present idea.*

When they reach Castle Rock to demand Piggy’s glasses back they are met by an anonymous mass of painted faces – the remains of what was once their friends. Piggy confronts the savages saying “which is better to have fire and get along, or to hunt and kill?” Piggy a character who has spent the whole novel being picked on and mocked because of his unfortunate looks, his weight, glasses and asthma, is now finally standing up for himself. The last thing we see of Piggy is him standing, clenching the fragile conch it’s beauty and power faded, a symbol of the remnants of democracy, law and order. Roger “with a sense of delerirous abandonment leaned on the lever with all his weight.” Piggy is killed and the conch “shattered into a thousand pieces and ceased to exist.” The shattering of the conch is significant in that it is the symbol to the end of all democracy, law and order on the island. Piggy’s death and the shattering of what remains of his glasses symbolizes the end to all intelligence and logic on the island – the boys intention to hunt out Ralph is a method of self destruction.

*Strong sense of student engagement with text throughout answer.*

The development of Roger in this specific section was particularly important and significant in changing my opinion of mans innate evil. To begin with Roger is throwing small stones in between Sam and Eric “aiming to miss” Roger at this point is still restricted by the rules, and civilization of his old life. There is still an imaginary barrier that stops him hitting them, just as further on in the novel when he is throwing stones at the small boy Henry on the beach. In but a moment that barrier

*Second technique [character development] analysed.*

is broken and Roger with a sense of delirious abandonment leaned on the lever with all his weight.” The speed and lethal consequence of his actions astonished and sickened me.

*Conclusion sums up main points of the answer and makes final evaluative comments about Golding’s success.*

It was through the development of Roger, the symbolic death of Piggy, the destruction of the conch and the boys atavistic regretion in this section of “Lord of the Flies” that William Golding successfully changed my opinion on the natural tendencies of man and how when you strip away the outward trappings of society, man’s innate evil will flourish.

**Analyse how actions OR dialogue helped you to understand ONE main character/individual.**

***Macbeth***

***William Shakespeare***

*Introduction identifies character and development through use of dialogue.*

I understood the character Macbeth because Shakespeare created a truly intriguing and believable character. This was achieved by the changes which take place in Macbeth, these developments made Macbeth a realistic and understandable character. The development of Macbeth is evident through the use of dialogue, spoken by others, concerning Macbeth, or spoken by Macbeth himself.

*Quotations used to establish early impressions of M. Position of reader/audience acknowledged.*

At the beginning of the play, Macbeth has just returned from battle. We see Macbeth praised by King Duncan “Noble Macbeth, well he does deserve that name”. He is described as “valiant” and “worthy”. The dialogue used gives the reader a glowing impression of Macbeth. The reader sees Macbeth to be a “brave” soldier, deserving of the king's praise.

*Convincing analysis follows character's development.*

Macbeth meets the witches and after hearing their prophecies that he will become king he becomes confused. Macbeth is still an essentially good character but we learn through dialogue that he does have “black and deep desires”. Although Macbeth does not act on these desires, we learn through dialogue from Lady Macbeth that she is ambitious for Macbeth to become king. She knows she must encourage him because he is “too full of the milk of human kindness” to murder Duncan and become king without her persuasion. Macbeth is doubtful about the plan to kill Duncan, he feels that “as his host who should against his murder shut the door.” We understand through this dialogue that Macbeth would like to become king but knows it is wrong to murder Duncan.

*Quotation here needs explanation and context.*

Lady Macbeth is persistent and she “pours her spirits in thine ear”. Influencing Macbeth to do the awful deed. Macbeth becomes king, and his character develops further. Macbeth becomes paranoid and dangerous and feels that his reign as king is not as glorious as he had hoped. We understand that Macbeth feels threatened and unsafe as the new king through dialogue such as “to be thus is nothing but to be safely thus.”

Macbeth, who once fought courageously and served the king with patriotic loyalty has now murdered the king and ruthlessly and brutally he moves on to his next victims. We see a huge downfall in Macbeth's character because he now murders Macduff's innocent family. He is paranoid and jealous and wishes to “seize . . . up the fiend who trace him in line.”

*Some perceptive comments about audience reaction to Macbeth's downfall.*

As “Dunsinane Wood comes to Burnham” Macbeth realises he has been defeated. He realises the witches have tricked him. Although his character is now revealed in strongly contrasting dialogue to Act 2, he is now known as “Devilish Macbeth” and a “fiend of Scotland”. We realise Shakespeare's talent as the reader is remarkably left feeling sorry for Macbeth, as a glimpse of the initial warrior is seen. Macbeth remains determined to die fighting and shows no fear. As he says his final words to Macduff “before my body, I throw my war-like shield, lay on Macduff!” I understood through the dialogue in this final scene that although Macbeth's character has developed to a brutal murderer he is still a warrior and he

*Answer is well supported with apt details but lacks insight needed for excellence.*

*Conclusion sums up main points of answer.*

died a tragic hero.

The drastic development, from “valiant” to “Butcher” in Macbeth helped me to understand the character and how he reacted to events. The dialogue used throughout the play clearly showed this development. Dialogue other characters used showed how Macbeth was seen by others and the dialogue Macbeth used himself gave the reader insight on his thoughts and feeling; which helped to establish and understand Macbeth as a character.

### ***Next Steps***

#### **The student could:**

- provide more examples of dialogue in earlier part of essay to show Macbeth’s doubts.
- cover the reactions of others to Macbeth’s actions as a tyrant.
- evaluate whose dialogue is most useful in helping us to understand Macbeth – Macbeth’s or other characters’.

**Analyse how the author's choice and presentation of setting helped develop a main theme.**

***Lord of the Flies***  
***William Golding***

*Setting and theme/issue stated. [poor syntax in first sentence]*

William Goldings, Lord of the Flies his choice of particular parts of the setting including that it represents a microsm, the time period, the island itself and it is an allegory have helped to develop a main theme. The main theme that it has helped to develop is that there is an element of good and evil within all humankind and only some people can hold this back.

*Goes beyond text to draw parallels with world happenings at time.*

Lord of the Flies is set during the Cold War, at this time in the world there was division and hostility between nations. The novel reflected this so it is therefore a microcosm. Golding was a member of the navy during World War two so he saw first hand what he perceived as being the element of good and evil which is a part of everybody. At the beginning the boys played happily together but a major division began to occur. Two tribes were developed, these two tribes were divided and fought against each other. Although some of the boys had an element of good in them the element of evil showed up in all of them. This can be seen through Piggy and Ralph when they discard Simons murder as an accident. They blame this on being "caught up in the game". Meanwhile in the outside world much the same is happening. Countries are divided and are preparing to fight. Golding also believed that during times of hardship the majority of people would side with the person who has the most power. This can be seen in the novel when everyone apart from three bigguns join Jacks tribe. This reflects what has happened in the outside world in Germany's situation when the majority of people sided with Hitler. Goldings use of a microcosm has helped to develop the main theme that there is an element of good and evil within everyone. This is because the audience realises that this theme can also be portrayed in the real world as well, representing that evil can be a part of everyone.

*Answer is structured [introduction, body, conclusion] but first body paragraph has mixed focus in places.*

Lord of the Flies is an allegory for the Garden of Eden. The allegory of the Garden of Eden has also helped Golding to develop the idea that there is an element of good and evil within everybody. The boys are placed in an island paradise, they have all the food, water and shelter needed to sustain life. The only thing that would bring their downfall is themselves. The evil within themselves was first introduced through the beast. The beast is a "snake like creature". The beast eventually causes the boys downfall due to the different ways in which the boys believe it should be dealt with. The beast draws parallels to the Garden of Eden as Satan entices Adam and Eve as a form of snake. Golding has used the allegory of the Garden of Eden to show that the beast is not something physical but that it is the evil within boys. The evil within them lead to their eventual downfall. Golding once said himself that "Humans produce evil as bee produce honey". This quote from Golding shows that it is a very natural characteristic found in humans, the only thing that covers this up in normal day society is the thin veneer of civilisation. The allegory helped to develop the main theme that there is good and evil within everybody because of the use of the beast. The beast shows the audience that it is the evil within the boys minds that produces this fear.

*Accurate use of terminology and language.*

*Evaluates author's purpose to highlight issue/theme.*

*Answer explores setting from a number of different perspectives and makes convincing links to stated idea.*

The island itself also helps to develop the main idea that there is an element of good and evil within everybody. The island represents the personalities of the boys and their tribes and it also outlines their isolation. At Ralph's end of the island the water is blue and green, it is a calm Lagoon in comparison to Jack's end, which has violently crashing waves. Golding has used this to represent the evil and aggression that Jack holds within himself. Golding has purposely chosen an extremely isolated island. He has used this so the boys have absolutely no outside influence on them and their downfall is completely due to the evil within themselves which has been shown through the beast.

*More specific details needed here to support the generalisation.*

The final part of the setting that has helped Golding to achieve his desired theme is the time period the novel is set in. The time period has an effect on the way the boys think, talk and act. Golding had been a school teacher for many years, he understood the nature of them. He decided to use the boys to represent the evil which is a part of everybody due to his close relationship with them. At the beginning the boys try to set up a society the same as the one they left. But the fear of the beast and other fears such as being found by the "Reds" before the British overtook them. The ideas which the boys held were typical of the 1950's which is when Golding wrote the story. But Golding wanted to show us that no matter what upbringing the boys were brought up with when they leave the reins of civilisation they will always revert back to the savage and evil behaviour of their ancestors. The time period the novel is set in has also helped Golding to develop the theme of the good and evil which is a part of everyone. It has developed this theme by showing the audience that there is evil even within small children when they are not contained by civilisation.

*Conclusion sums up main points of essay.*

In The Lord of the Flies by William Golding the aspects of the setting including the time period, the island, the microcosm and the allegory have helped William Golding to develop the main theme that there is an element of good and evil within everybody.

### ***Next Steps***

#### **The students could:**

- look at the structure of the essay. Make the paragraphs more defined to improve clarity.
- use specific examples instead of generalisations about the 1950s and the Cold War.
- explain more fully how the island was similar to the Garden of Eden.

**Analyse how contrast** helped the author communicate an **important message or idea**.

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### *Wednesday to Come*

*Renee*

#### *Effective introduction*

- *clear statement of idea.*
- *clear identification of contrast and 2 techniques used to present it.*
- *brief overview of play.*

The contrast between characters in “Wednesday to Come” helped the playwright to communicate her ideas that women are stronger than men in the face of adversity. The contrast of the women and men characters actions and dialogue shows extreme examples of weak men and strong women. “Wednesday to Come” written by New Zealand feminist playwright Renee, is about a family of four generations of women struggling to survive life in the Depression.

Set in 1934 in New Zealand, it shows how the family cope after one of the women’s husbands – Ben, the breadwinner, commits suicide and the family are left to provide for themselves in a time where the only jobs for women were to “take in some washing, cut a pile of wood”. The main contrast between women and men that Renee used, was between Iris and her husband Ben.

#### *Awareness of author’s purpose and links this to crafting.*

Renee wanted to communicate this idea because she wanted to right the wrongs of history – she believes women are constantly forgotten in history and that this should be changed – “we’re the ones they leave out when they write up the books.” Renee used the actions and dialogue of the characters to communicate her idea that women are stronger than men in times of adversity.

#### *Details about Ben are relevant and supported.*

During the Depression – life was a struggle but people handled this in different ways. Ben Kaye, Iris’s husband who worked in a relief camp doing inhumane work and was underpaid for it, in terrible living conditions - “tents, dirt floors, everything wet through and cold, never felt cold like it” couldn’t cope in these times of adversity and killed himself - “One day he just went out and hung himself.” This action of Ben’s, communicates Renee’s point of view that men are weak in times of adversity by giving an extreme example of weakness. It is the contrast of his wife Iris, however that heightens the idea of the strength of women.

Iris, is determined and hard-working, and is so strong both emotionally and physically even after her husband’s death. She continues to be strong for her family and her sheer presence in this play in contrast with her husband’s absence shows how strong she is “Because it takes a whole lot more to go on living.”

#### *Comprehensive knowledge of play. Makes extensive use of quotations.*

Iris also opened up Ben’s coffin and addressed the problems they had together – something which takes emotional strength, that Ben himself did not possess. Her strength to face up to these problems and see her husband’s dead body is a huge contrast to Ben’s lack of strength – lying in the coffin. “I’m not frightened. It’s still Ben isn’t it? Whole or broken it’s still Ben.” She confronts the issues of how they raised their children and the problems in their marriage.

“We did well with them didn’t we? Not so well with each other though. Could never understand why, you said . . .and fooling around with Molly, your one last attempt to make life do what you wanted to ...”

*Makes inferences about the author’s intentions.*

*Perception shown here but not sufficiently maintained for excellence.*

This shows her emotional strength and she also carries Ben’s coffin out of the house at the end of the play which shows her physical strength. Renee wanted to show there are many ways of being strong – not just the typical idea of strength – muscle and how heavy a weight one can carry.

Iris even says “I’ll bury him myself if I have to” which again highlights her strength in comparison to Ben who didn’t even have the strength to keep living. Other characters that help communicate Renee’s idea that women are stronger than men in the face of adversity are Iris and Ben’s children – Cliff and Jeannie. Jeannie, after losing her father shows strength by facing up to her father’s death and not trying to run away from it.

*Some analysis of a second pair of contrasting character.*

“Dad might’ve left a note or something.” Cliff, Jeannie’s brother is the complete contrast of Jeannie – “Don’t talk about it Jeannie.” Cliff’s actions also show weakness – he plays the mouth organ in order to escape the reality that his father died.

*Convincing analysis*

- *2 pairs of characters*
- *2 presentation techniques*
- *range of details*
- *clear links to idea.*

Renee gives stage instructions for Cliff to “cram the mouth organ into his mouth and play” as Jeannie tries to understand why her father committed suicide.

The contrast between Jeannie’s acceptance of the situation and Cliff’s denial again communicates Renee’s idea that women are stronger than men in adversity.

### ***Next Steps***

#### **The students could:**

- try to interweave quotations into sentences rather than ‘dump’ them. Would it be more effective to use keywords from some of these quotations in places? [e.g the long quotation which refers to Molly.]
- look at the structure of the answer – paragraphing could be improved by better grouping of ideas and the use of topic sentences
- finish with a conclusion that summarises the points made and includes some evaluative comments about how successful the student feels Renee has been in achieving her purpose.

**Analyse how actions OR dialogue helped you to understand ONE main character/individual.**

### ***To Kill a Mockingbird***

***Harper Lee***

*Simple introduction identifies technique [actions] and character [Atticus].*

*Point here not convincingly developed [needed for merit].*

*Point here clearly analysed and supported with reference to text.*

*Point here underdeveloped –needs to be put in context.*

*Point here is convincingly developed.*

*Straightforward conclusion.*

In To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, Lee uses actions to help understand the character, Atticus Finch. A Lawyer in a small town, Maycombe, who has strong human values he stands up for.

Atticus' son Jem and his actions helps readers understand Atticus better. When at the beginning of the story, Atticus teaches Jem not to judge a man until "you walk a day in their skin". When a racist Mrs Dubose hassles Jem about Atticus defending a black man, Jem attacks her beloved azaleas. On the surface it seems that Jem is defending his father but Jem is really standing up for what his father has taught him. This emphasises Atticus' lack of prejudice.

Jem is sent to read to Mrs Dubose as a punishment. Atticus guises this as a punishment but his real intentions is for Jem to witness true bravery. Atticus proves to be a caring father who will teach his son the values of life in the most effective way possible. As Jem reads to Mrs Dubose, he witnesses the pain she endures battling her morphine addiction. Thus he is able to understand the lectures Atticus taught him about true bravery, how true bravery is "when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what". We learn here that Atticus opposes society's portrayal of physical strength but has found the meaning of true bravery which is of mental struggles and achievements.

When Atticus is given Tom's answer, he is reluctant to take it. "I had hoped to get through life without a case of this kind but he overcomes his fears and worries and takes it. Atticus shows here that he is true to the lessons he teaches Jem. By standing up for the words Atticus is able to gain respect from readers as "walking the talk" without acknowledgement is a highly regarded act.

In the court case of Tom, a fair trial is not granted because of a prejudiced white jury. During the court case Atticus swears and for the first time takes off his suit and watch. This represents the caring nature of Atticus as he is faced with defending a person's life and at the prospect of losing he loses his calm and control. This is the only act in the book which causes him to do so: even a pressuring shot to kill a made dog did not affect him so much. This emphasises that Atticus cares for people and regards highly their values and lives. In times, when lawyers are told to distance themselves from clients, we can further understand that Atticus does not always do what the brain is taught to do. Rather he does what his heart tells him to do.

Actions around and by Atticus all help further the understanding of him and gives in depth detail. Lee portrays Atticus as a great character who leads the other characters in the book by example and teaches a few vital lessons about life to the readers.

### ***Next Steps***

#### **The student could**

- look at paragraphs 3 and 5 and use them as models for developing the other paragraphs.
- use topic sentences to tighten the focus of the body paragraphs - a structural acronym such as LEER [lead statement, explanation, evidence, relevance] could be useful.

**Analyse how contrast** helped the author communicate an **important message or idea**.

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### *Ender’s Game*

*Orson Scott Card*

*Introduction states characters’ contrast and idea being explored.*

In the novel “Ender’s Game” by Orson Scott Card, the main character Ender is contrasted with his older brother Peter, to help communicate the idea of compassion, and how it is important for humanity.

*Nature of contrast established.*

Ender’s Game is about Ender, a young child who is selected to go to battle school, to be trained for the war against the Buggers, an evil alien race. The idea of compassion is shown by many of the characters in “Ender’s Game”, but not by Ender’s older brother, Peter.

*Contrast developed.*

Peter is Ender’s older brother. He is intelligent and ruthless like Ender. But unlike Ender, Peter does not have the compassion to balance his ruthlessness. Peter resents Ender for getting selected for battle school, as he was also considered but was turned down as he was deemed to dangerous. Peter’s resentment and meanness towards Ender cause Ender to dislike and fear his older brother, and to associate him with evil. Peter is important in looking at the idea of compassion, because he allows us to see what a person is like without compassion, and how you can lose your humanity. I feel that Peter is less human in the novel than the Buggers, because at the end of the novel it is revealed that the invasion was a mistake, and they show compassion towards Ender. At the end of the novel Peter still has not shown compassion, and therefore he has not got humanity which the Buggers have.

*Student has engaged with text – makes evaluations linked to topic.*

Ender is intelligent and ruthless (when he has to be) like his older brother, but unlike him he has compassion which is his redeeming feature. Ender will do things that need to be done, but then feels bad about it afterwards, unlike Peter, who does not care what consequences his actions have on others.

*Answer keeps focus on character contrast.*

*More specific references needed throughout answer for merit.*

Ender himself is aware of the importance of compassion. At several points during the novel, when Ender has had to act ruthlessly he worries that he has lost his compassion and humanity, and says to himself “I am just like Peter”. But by worrying about losing his compassion it shows that he still has it.

*Insightful comments about author’s purpose.*

The main idea that Orson Scott Card is communicating by contrasting these two characters, is how important compassion is. To have compassion is to have humanity. In the story, Ender’s compassion, coupled with his ruthlessness and being manipulated, allowed him to save Earth and humanity. Ender’s compassion caused him to learn about the Buggers and not to underestimate them. Therefore, when the time came, he knew what to do and was able to kill the Buggers and save humanity.

But Ender’s compassion saved his own humanity as well. After destroying the Buggers, Ender could easily have become a killing machine or power hungry like Peter, but instead his compassion allowed him to feel bad about what he had done, and saved his humanity.

*Uses insight into character's actions to highlight the main idea.*

In the novel "Enders Game", Orson Scott Card contrasts Peter, a human who has no compassion with Ender, a human that has compassion as one of his strongest traits, to illustrate how important compassion is. By contrasting someone who has compassion with someone who does not, the impression of its importance is made stronger.

*Conclusion sums up argument.*

This story helped me to see that compassion is the key to our humanity, and that without it, we are not human at all. It has shown me that to have compassion is to be human, and I feel that that is an important idea that was well shown through contrast.

### ***Next Steps***

#### **The student could**

- provide more details to support the points made, especially in the first part of the essay. References to the text tend to be general and vague. They do not provide sufficient "evidence" to be convincing.

**Analyse how contrast** helped the author communicate an **important message or idea**.

Note: “Contrast” could include contrast between characters or settings; or contrast between different sections/parts in terms of style, mood, tone, pace, etc.

### *Oracles and Miracles*

*Stevan Eldred Grigg*

*Introduction identifies characters and contrast as well as clearly explaining important idea. Engages reader.*

*Body of answer has simple structure –one paragraph for each character. Supporting details provided.*

*Analysis of character development to highlight main idea.*

*Answer tends to be descriptive rather than analytical. However, there is sufficient analysis for achieved.*

In “Oracles and Miracles” by Stevan Eldred Grigg, there is a contrast between the two main characters. One is realistic, the other is a dreamer. They are a pair of twins, growing up in the same environment, yet one ends up miserable, the other satisfied. Through the contrast, the author illustrates the importance of facing up to your reality. Without that, you will never truly know what’s important, and will never be satisfied.

Ginnie is a realistic girl. She learnt very early on when it was appropriate to complain. She is not as obsessed as her twin is about the class system and acknowledges that their childhood was miserable not because they were “The Poor Girls”, but because “We was starved of love”. Even at the beginning of the story, when she followed Fag around a lot, often joining in her elaborate games of fantasy, you could tell that Ginnie knew what was really missing from her childhood. When visiting the mansion, she refused to enjoy herself as she was able to see that even with all the material possessions the owners were not happy. The importance of Ginnie’s acknowledgement of her reality is paralleled in her happiness at the end of the book. She knows where the gaps are in her life, so she fills them with a loving Family, husband and Friends. She is also able to make peace with her mother.

Fag, in contrast is a dreamer. Largely because the environment she grew up in had an obsession with social class, so fine tuned was this need to find somebody to look down your nose at, that distinction was made, not only between the areas that they lived in, but in the streets: “Mackey Street was a step down a rung, Kent Street was absolute bottom.” As a result Fag constantly dreamed of reaching the top, of getting rich, because she defined success and happiness by the wealth you possessed. During her childhood she was constantly resentful of her poverty and blaming her misery on a lack of funds rather than abusive mother. Fag is also a determined girl: constantly giving cheek to the teachers and refusing ill-treatment from her peers. This trait also means that she is very determined with her fantasies. Refusing to admit they aren’t real and refusing to let go of them even into adulthood, where her happiness is sacrificed through a bad marriage to a rich man. She never faces up to her reality, her life becomes “like a movie projector, played out from a distance”, and she drowns her misery and herself in the material. Ginnie talks of her as “not Fag anymore, just clothes, moving and alcohol.” Because Fag refuses to acknowledge the gaps in her life, out of an obsession for the material and a determination not to let go of her childish happiness, she ends up miserable, her happiness wasted on a man she could never love.

Through the contrast in characters, the Author shows us how important it is to face up to your reality. One twin is able to do this, the other is not, and this ultimately determines their happiness.

### *Next Steps*

#### **The student could**

- structure paragraphs around aspects of contrast, not around each character.

**Analyse how contrast** helped the author communicate an **important message or idea**.

Note: “Contrast” could include contrast between characters or settings; or contrast between different sections/parts in terms of style, mood, tone, pace, etc.

### ***Looking for Alibrandi***

***Melina Marchetta***

*Introduction outlines the contrast and main idea.*

*Analysis attempted but undeveloped.*

*First body paragraph describes conflict rather than contrast. Other paragraphs do not clearly explain the nature of contrast. .*

*Quotations not clearly linked to statements.*

*Poor sentence structure hinders clear expression of ideas.*

*Some analysis but insufficient across the answer for achieved.*

In Looking for Alibrandi by Melina Marchetta the contrast between Josiphine Alibrandi and her relationships help Marchetta put across the idea of self acceptance towards the reader. Marchetta shows the importance of self acceptance through the relationships between Josie and school enemys and Josie and her father Michael. Another important relationship is between Josie and her good friend John Benton.

Mawcetta uses Josie and her trying relationships with her school rivals and enemys to show if you are unsure of who you are then it is difficult to stay strong in times of confrontation. This is shown with the argument between carly (Josies enemy in class) and Josie. For example, “your a wog.” Another example is when Josie is in trouble with her principle. The principle (Sister Louise) states “You are a leader Josiphine but today you became a sheep, a follower ... even thou you got more votes ... this is why you are not school captain.” Josie is not sure of who she is and cannot stay strong for what she believes.

Josies relationship with her father develops through this book and this helps her grow into the person she is going to be. Josie only knows one side of her family and has only ever heard about her father. One of there first conversations involved Micheal telling Josie “I don’t want to love you but I want to get to know you.” This quote warrents Josies dislike for Micheal at the start of the book However once she gets to know him she relises that they are very similar and that he is definitely her father. Not just through his genes but through his habbits and interests as well. It is well done by Marcetta having Josie strive to be a Barrister and then bring Josies father in to the story who works in a pristegise law firm.

By bringing John Benton into Looking for Alibrandi Marchetta brings a whole new aspect. Josie and John are shown to be so simalar but little does Jose know the contrast more than any other of her relationships. Although John is of a higher class they have they same interests and ambitions. It is not until John has a meaningful talk about his life to Josie that she relises how wrong she was. John states “How can I tell my father I don’t want to be a lawyer when I don’t know what I want to be.” This makes Josie relise that she has the freedom to strive for whatever she wants to become what she wants. A defining moment in this book is after Johns suicide when Micheal says to Josie “You will go on living because living is a challenge, dieing is easy.”

It is very interesting to see how Marchetta has clearly shownen the contrast between Josie and different relationships in her life to communicate to the audience the important idea of self acceptance. The contrast was shown especially through John Bentons dealth, the meeting of Joise and her father and the confrontations between Jose and her school rivals and enemys.

### ***Next Steps***

#### **The student could**

- look at the structure of the paragraphs - topic sentence - details - analysis.
- focus more on the key words “contrast,” “important idea”.
- make clearer links between ideas and quotations. Are the quotations used appropriate?
- learn to spell keywords e.g. author’s and characters’ names.