

Year 9 Assessment. Essay on the novel, “Don’t Call Me Ishmael”.

TASK:

You are to write a carefully constructed essay discussing the themes in the novel. You will use correct essay structure, including an introduction, three main body paragraphs and a conclusion.

You MUST use references to the novel (quotes or paraphrasing) that are relevant to your discussion.

You MUST use correct narrative structure terms.

The essay MUST be drafted, edited and proof read. You MUST hand in a PUBLISHED copy.

ESSAY QUESTION:

WHAT TO CONSIDER:

1. What are the themes of the novel? Choose from:

- language is power
- intelligence is valued
- bullying

2. What narrative conventions BEST show the themes? Choose from :

- symbolism
- narrative structure (plot devices)
- characterisation
- setting
- language conventions

3. What examples (textual references) are the BEST ones to use for each narrative convention?

4. When writing your introduction, include the novel’s title and author. CLEARLY state the themes and the narrative conventions that you will discuss.

5. When writing your individual main body paragraphs, CLEARLY state the narrative conventions that you will use, the specific details of each and a relevant textual example. Make sure you discuss how the example relates back to the theme.

6. When writing your conclusion, sum up the themes communicated, reiterate the narrative conventions used and make a judgement on the effectiveness of the novel to communicate these themes.

MARKING KEY:

Criteria	Excellent	Very Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Poor
Essay Structure Literacy / 10	Excellent use of essay structure, with clear links between paragraphs, ideas and content.	Very good use of essay structure with mostly clear links between content and ideas. Paragraphs have very good internal cohesion.	Competent use of essay structure with mostly clear links between content and ideas. Paragraphs have internal cohesion.	Essay structure is attempted yet lacks clear links between content and ideas. Paragraphs are lacking in structure.	Essay structure is lacking or not attempted. Links between content and ideas not evident. Paragraphs are not formed correctly.
Content Literature Responding and Examining Literature / 10	Answers the question with sophistication. Correctly uses narrative convention terms. Uses relevant quotes and or paraphrasing intelligently.	Competently answers the question. Correctly uses the narrative conventions terms. Mostly relevant quotes and or paraphrasing from the novel to support ideas.	Mostly answers the question. Mostly correct use of narrative convention terms. Uses some relevant quotes and or paraphrasing from the novel to support ideas.	Attempts to answer the question, or answers appear confused. Some narrative terms used, not always correctly. Attempts to use quotations and or paraphrasing but is lacking in relevance. Attempts to support ideas with references to the text.	Question not answered or unclear. Use of narrative terms lacking. Very little or no references to text used. Quotations and paraphrasing used incorrectly and has no relevance to ideas.
Expression Literacy Interpreting, analysing and evaluating / 10	Excellent expression. Uses vocabulary correctly. Spelling, grammar, punctuation and syntax used very well.	Very good expression. Consistent use of vocabulary. Grammar, punctuation and syntax mostly used well. Few spelling errors present.	Competent expression. Vocabulary mostly used correctly. Some simplistic vocabulary used. Competent use of grammar, punctuation and syntax. Some spelling and grammar errors.	Expression is simplistic. Vocabulary is limited. Grammar, punctuation and syntax have errors and makes meaning difficult at times. Many spelling errors (may contribute to loss of meaning).	Very simplistic expression. Expression is unclear. Many errors in grammar, punctuation and syntax. Uses invented spelling with high rates of errors. Meaning is not communicated.

MARKS: / 30

COMMENTS: