

This assessment is based on a now-expired version of the achievement standard and may not accurately reflect the content and practice of external assessments developed for 2024 onwards. No part of the candidate's evidence in this exemplar material may be presented in an external assessment for the purpose of gaining an NZQA qualification or award.



Level 1 English RAS 2023

91927 Demonstrate understanding of significant aspects of unfamiliar texts

EXEMPLAR

Merit

TOTAL 15

Page 1 – Pilot Assessment

Make sure you have the paper Resource Booklet 91927R.

QUESTION ONE

Read Text A, "Matariki", to answer this question.

How do the writer's language choices help us to understand their experience of Matariki? You might consider how they have used:

- references to time
- ideas about the activities during the celebration
- ideas about whānau and belonging.

Support your explanation with quotes and examples of language features from the text.

B I U [List Icon] [List Icon] [Undo] [Redo]

This passage shows the depth of Matariki to the Maori and how it brings the narrator's family closer together. It is a time of celebration for the narrator and their whanau, as they celebrate the new year as well as remember their ancestors and atua, mentioning "the net of Te Ika-whenua-o- te-rangi stretching above: huge, infinite, the same brilliant sweep our grandparents saw, and theirs, and theirs, back to when Kupe left Hawaiki".

The narrator's choice of words shows that everyone is happy to be there despite the cold morning and that it is a very spiritual experience. multiple verbs in this text give it a sort of warm experience, with things like "warm hugs", "kindling sparked", and "tawhirimatea's winds lifting and scattering sparks". Later into the passage once gives out an atmosphere of excitement despite the morning cold, mentioned when the narrator said at the end of the passage "everyone's frozen and everyone's stoked. The new year has begun".

The use of metaphors in the passage also gives it an ethereal feeling about how it went, with "firelight and starlight, silhouettes in smoke", which alludes to the fire that they made as burning very brightly, and strongly in the night, while they heat the stones for the "star-steaming oven", which mentions food, with "plumes of smoke and steam tamped down. a volcano sealed", showing they're making a hangi, and they "slice the earth and lift the kai. the hautapu rises to the heavens", with the hautapu being a sacred goffering of food to the atua.

Page 2

QUESTION TWO

Read Text B, "the road and the rain", to answer this question.

How does the writer help us to understand their experience of the journey? You might consider how they have used:

- mood or atmosphere
- ideas about life as a journey
- observations of the environment
- ideas about past and present.

Support your explanation with quotes and examples of language features from the text.

B I U [List Icon] [List Icon] [Undo] [Redo]

The writer gives off quite a hollow mood, with mentions of death and the old times appearing multiple times in the poem, making it seem like the narrator misses those days and has either lost their sense of life or they are close to death themselves, with an example from the text including "a choir of dead trees". it seems like they've done this road trip many times before, as they pass the place where their ancestors lay to rest, with them saying "leave us be", and that the narrator doesn't seem to want to do this trip, mentioning the train dragging, and the skylark struggling, making it seem like a miserable experience.

there are multiple pieces of personifications in this poem, with all of them being related to death or old age in some way or another. examples of this include the author seeing "a choir of dead trees", giving an idea that there may be a sound coming from the dead trees, whether beautiful or haunting, as well as directly mentioning death. Another personification would be "a swift scythes through the last of this long day's light", given that the swift is cutting through the air, as a scythe would grains, but again it alludes to death, with the personification of death usually portrayed by media wielding a scythe.

the modifiers in this passage make it feel cold and unwelcoming as they go along the road, calling the sea "snowy with breakers" showing that there is lots of wind, as the word the narrator used makes it seem like the sea is covered in white, and the word "snowy" obviously makes it seem much colder and unwelcoming than if they said the sea was powdered white. another modifier in this passage that makes it miserable is the "silent train", which makes out that it is far from anything and that it is on its own, with its containers being called a "grubby white necklace", giving it the idea that it's old and worn out.

Page 3

QUESTION THREE

Read Text C, "The Beach", to answer this question.

How does the writer help us to understand people's experiences of the beach? You might consider how they have used:

- ideas about what people do at the beach
- ideas about what people feel about the outdoors.

Support your explanation with quotes and examples of language features from the text.

B I U    

the narrator of this story reflects on how people love to explore, the outdoors and experience new things around the world. he proves this by mentioning a local shop, where there is a map on the wall, with pins showing the origins of the people who had entered that store, showing that they came from all around the globe, and that "we've gone as far as we possibly can. we're at the boundary of something more than land and sea". While not saying it directly, the narrator alludes to everything not being permanent, when he says "It is the spirit of beaches that everything is provisional", meaning that we can't have everything and we have to use what we've got to our best ability.

You can tell this is true by the way the narrator used modifiers, mentioning "blackened stones", as if they have been near a fire, with the rest of that sentence being "the remnants of old fires", alluding to those blackened stones being a fire pit, with the author saying "that careful arrangement of log to stones has the same intimacy as our living rooms, only out here, on the wilderness of a coast it is an open house". This makes it seem like this fire pit is sentimental for the narrator, with the word "intimacy" making it seem very personal. Later in the poem, they mention getting away from their "structured lives", which shows it as a getaway to just relax and have a good time, with the author saying it's fun but also admitting that there is a primeval side to it.

while there aren't very many personifications in the text, they did quite a lot, showing the personal feeling that the narrator is experiencing is quite sentimental, and warm, but also that things aren't always permanent. About halfway through the first paragraph, they call it an "open house", and even though it's probably only a fire pit and maybe some logs to sit on, it still brings comfort to the people who use it, bringing them warmth and food. The other personification in the text is at the very end of the passage, where they say that the beach is "tooled by wind, waves, and currents". While they're not using actual tools to shape the beach, the elements change it nevertheless, whether it's rip currents carving, up beaches, waves crashing up against cliffs or the wind carrying off sand from the dunes.

Merit

Subject: English

Standard: 91927

Total score: 15

| Q | Grade score | Marker commentary |
|-------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| One | M5 | The response is framed by two significant ideas that underpin the text. There are numerous examples of language use working together, and a concise and convincing explanation is given of the effect of one of these ideas. |
| Two | M5 | This response immediately engages with the question through mood, and it shows an understanding of the narrator's focus on the idea of death. The response concisely unpacks relevant examples of language working together across the text to help explore the narrator's thoughts and feelings about the road trip. |
| Three | M5 | Convincing understanding of the idea of not being permanent is shown through multiple examples. The response is developed by linking back to the main idea throughout. |