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91098



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 2 English 2023

### 91098 Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s) convincingly, supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s) perceptively, supported by evidence.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

**You should answer ONE of the essay questions in this booklet.**

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in any cross-hatched area (☒). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

**YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.**

**High Achievement**

**TOTAL 04**

## TEXT DETAILS

Written text type	<input type="text" value="Novel"/>	Written text type	<input type="text"/>
Title	<input type="text" value="Punching the Air"/>	Title	<input type="text"/>
Author	<input type="text" value="Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam"/>	Author	<input type="text"/>

## SELECTED QUESTION

Copy and paste the question you have chosen into the space below.

Analyse how a relationship helped you understand more about other people's beliefs.

'Punching the Air' by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam is a novel about Amal, a young African American who is falsely condemned of a crime he did not commit. Amal is a young boy who is angry at the world but through his relationship with his mother he begins to understand her community and religious beliefs which helps guide him through his struggles.

Amal is a young African American who is angry at his city and nation for the racism and prejudice his community often gets faced with. Amal is quick to anger and often ends up in fights which displeases his mother. His mother tries to help Amal gain a better understanding of life by getting him involved with his community and taking him to the mosque to show him there is more to life than violence. However, Amal doesn't understand and instead says "There is no point to backing down, they're just walk all over us. We need to stand up and fight back, take on the problem head on". Amal believes there is not another way to end racism than to face it head on. His mother tries to teach him that he can rise above it. The authors use the relationship between Amal and his mother as well as the disagreement to shown people that there is multiple perspectives to life and that their is not necessarily a correct one. We need to stay open minded to better both sides and to see their point of view. By Amal being constantly taken to these events within his community and to the mosque he begins to better understand his mother's point of view. He begins to read the Quran and go to youth gatherings within his community to better understand his mother's family and religious beliefs. The authors convey through the relationship of Amal and his mother by being open minded and seeing the other persons side we gain a better understanding of their beliefs which benefits both sides. In today's world there are many cases of discrimination and prejudice against many minorities and it is important to keep an open mind and to work towards a common good just as Amal and his mother had.

Amal is walking home one day when a fight breaks out near him. While we doesn't take part it looks as if he is running away and so he is charged of a crime he did not commit. Amal and his mother are poor and are unable to afford a lawyer. Fortunately, because Amal has formed a good sense of community with his now friends and family he is able to fund enough for a lawyer. Amal is grateful and exclaims "when this is all over, dinner is on me." Through this quote the authors shows people in Amal's community believe that they are all one and they all have one another's backs. They convey the message that it is important to have the backing of a community and he should all form strong bonds with the ones in ours. By doing so we give ourselves a strong sense of belonging to one another just as Amal has with community. By Amal's mother introducing him into the community he was able to form strong bond with one another. Unfortunately, even with the lawyer, Amal was found guilty and sentenced to prison. His mother told him "Don't worry, Allah will watch over you, through all of your struggles until you are free." The authors showed the relationship between Amal and his mother was so strong that her beliefs were now his and he believed that Allah would watch over him and protected him through his struggles. He constantly repeated "Allah will watch over me, Allah will watch over me." This shows that through his relationship with his mother he has gained understanding into her religious beliefs and now understands them for himself. The authors convey that we all can gain a better understanding of peoples beliefs as long as we remain open minded just as Amal did with his mother's family and religious beliefs.

At the climax of the book, Amal is found innocent of the crime he was convicted of. Many people believed that he would call out the injustice in the justice system or call out the systemic racism but instead he remembered his mothers words back when he was still getting into fights. They were "don't drop to their level and fight them, instead rise above them." He decided to instead help in his community and guide those who are facing similar struggles to also rise up just as he did. Amal said " when I was struggling, Allah was my guide and showed me the way out. I now

realise that I must be a guide for those struggling just as Allah was for me." The authors portray the idea that Amal and his mother's relationship showed how people who remain open minded are able to understand and carry the other persons belief. Amal is now doing the same thing that which his mother once did to him where he helps people who are struggling to see another person's perspective who went through a similar thing. The author conveys to the reader that we should also try to understand the beliefs of people we form strong relationships with. This enables us to gain a better understanding of the world and to understand and help minorites who are struggling. Just as Amal did we can understand ones belief as long as we stay open minded.

'Punching the Air' is a novel about Amal and how his relationship with his mother and her beliefs helped Amal get through the struggle of being wrongfully convicted of a crime he did not commit. Through his mothers beliefs he gains a greater understanding of both community and religious beliefs which help him grow as a person just as when we understand someones beliefs like Amal we too grow as a person.

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## Achievement

**Subject:** English

**Standard:** 91098

**Total score:** 04

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
8	A4	A structured response that identifies and analyses an important relationship between Amal and his mother. Specific evidence is incorporated to show the impact of the mother's beliefs on Amal throughout the novel. The formulaic approach is repetitive.