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91098



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 2 English 2025

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 the margins (//////). 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.

Merit

TOTAL 06

TEXT DETAILS

Written text type

Written text type

Title

Title

Author

Author

SELECTED QUESTION

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

Analyse how contrast was essential to expose two sides of a character

PLANNING

ESSAY

Type your essay in the space below. You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 750–800 words. The quality of your analysis is more important than the length of your essay. (The counter will change colour when you reach the recommended word count.)

Support the points you make with specific details from the text(s).

B *I* U

Analyse how contrast was essential to expose two sides of a character

The Novel Jasper Jones by Craig Silvey explores the journey of the unreliable narrator, Charlie, a thirteen-year-old boy from 1960s Australia in the small town of Corrigan. Charlie experiences many ups and downs as he is faced with the death of Laura Wishart, when he is brought to discover her dead body by Jasper Joner, a fourteen-year-old half-Aboriginal and half-White boy from Corrigan. These actions cause Charlie to delve deeper, showing how the contrasts in his character were essential to exposing the two sides of him and how he matured.

Craig Silvey explores how Charlie's choice to delve deeper highlights the contrasts in his character, which were essential to exposing the two sides of him and how he matured. In the beginning of the novel, Silvey portrays Charlie as someone innocent and youthful to the readers. This meant that when the one random night Jasper came knocking at his window, asking for help about Laura Wishart's death, he was taken aback. Charlie says, "Jasper?" questioning his presence at his window, confused, he asks him why he's there, not getting a true response, and is only told to follow Jasper. He is cautious; however, Charlie's innocence takes over, and he blindly follows Jasper. This highlights to the reader how Charlie's ability to blindly follow Jasper exemplifies Silvey's choice to label him as innocent, showing the first side of his character. Again, we see this innocence and youthful mind take over when he sees Laura's dead body for the first time. Charlie slightly yells, "Wha-t" and "How", questioning Jasper on how she ended up dead and here. In a quick scramble for a solution, Charlie explains to Jasper, "We have to tell the police". This innocent, quick reaction to instinctively rely on the authorities shows how Charlie doesn't consider others before himself. Silvey's purposeful choice for Charlie to react before listening to Jasper, to explain his situation, shows just how young he really is, and the concept of maturing during the teenage years has not yet hit him. The highlights to the reader that Charlie is still just a kid and that he could have no strong negative thoughts in his mind. As a society, we often label younger people as "too innocent to understand", which in Charlie's case is true; his reactions are strong and to a death, showing that the stereotypical ideals that age equals maturity can be true in many cases.

Craig Silvey explores how Charlie's choice to delve deeper highlights the contrasts in his character, which were essential to exposing the two sides of him and how he matured. Around the end of the novel, Charlie faces a situation that tears his family apart. Although this is one of the final moments that we see, Charlie's reactions contrast with how he was first perceived at the start. While out at night with his love interest, Eliza Wishart, he comes across his family car sitting hidden in the bushes. Curious, he goes closer; however, that is when he sees his mother having an affair with a random man. Charlie, confused, says, "Mum?" This catches his attention, and she scrambles to calm down Charlie and explain to him that what he saw wasn't 'true'. In this moment, there is a switch in Charlie's character; he is no longer the believing innocent boy he was portrayed as at the beginning. He had told his mother to "leave", showing maturity in his reactions. Silvey's purposeful use shows that it wasn't Laura Wishart's death that changed him, but his mother's affair did. Exposing the readers to the other side of Charlie's character. Highlighting how, as people, the more care for somebody, the more their reactions impact us and our emotions, like with Charlie.

Craig Silvey explores how Charlie's choice to delve deeper highlights the contrasts in his character, which were essential to exposing the two sides of him and how he matured. During the novel, a recurring metaphor of 'bees' and bugs is often used to reflect when Charlie feels anxiety about a situation or person. Silvey uses this as a form of vulnerability; however, as the novel unfolds, this metaphor is less recurring. In the middle of the novel, Charlie and Jasper went out at night to find clues about Laura Wishart's death. On the way back, they found many patrol cars and planes out on search, stressed that he would be caught. Charlie thinks, "Wasps are buzzing around the sky." This shows how his heightened anxiety is reflected through his negative connotations with bugs. Silvey purposely uses this extended metaphor to highlight Charlie's innocence and fear of the world around him. However, at the end of the novel, the concept of 'bees' and bugs does not occur. When seeing the Wisharts' house up in flames after discovering the truth about Laura Wishart's death, he is not stressed about why that was happening or how it could link to him, but he is calm, and he appears fulfilled. This purposeful choice of Silvey to stop including this extended metaphor through the end of the novel highlights Charlie's maturity finally blooming. This contrasting choice of writing explores the other side of Charlie, not the person we saw at the beginning of the novel. As humans, we naturally mature over time as we learn, explore, and experience. In some cases, this occurs faster for others, often because they face a traumatic situation too early on in life, like Charlie. Our level of maturity does define us, but that doesn't mean it's always a positive thing. When somebody is too mature too fast, they miss all the opportunities of being a youthful person, leading to a negative outcome. This is why, as humans, we must protect each other and protect children's innocence for them to grow up properly.

In conclusion, the Novel Jasper Jones by Craig Silvey explores how Charlie's choice to delve deeper highlights the contrasts in his character, which were essential to exposing the two sides of him and how he matured to the reader. This novel teaches the reader that while somebody may have two sides to them, it does not always mean either side is negative. Both Charlie's innocent and mature sides are good, but the way he reacts depends on how he is feeling emotionally. So, while the contrast in his behavior is different, the root of the reaction remains the same. This concept is also very reflective of humanity; throughout history, humans have relied on their emotions in their reactions. However, is this a positive outlet to resort to? To rely on emotions is not to rely on logical thinking, leading to negative outcomes. We as humans need to learn and teach each other to be logical thinkers in hard situations, to combat irrational thinking is to stop negative consequences.

1143 WORDS / 800 RECOMMENDED

Merit

Subject: English

Standard: 91098

Total score: 06

Grade score	Marker commentary
M6	<p>This response presents a reasoned discussion that demonstrates a secure understanding of the text as a deliberately crafted piece. Evidence is used appropriately to support ideas, meeting the requirements for Merit. More development of insight, sustained across the response would move it to Excellence. While the structure and approach are largely formulaic, explanations are thorough and mature, showing clear understanding rather than perceptive depth.</p>