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91473



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 3 English 2025

### 91473 Respond critically to specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), supported by evidence

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Respond critically to specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), supported by evidence.	Respond critically and convincingly to specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), supported by evidence.	Respond critically and perceptively to specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), 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.

**Write ONE essay in this booklet.**

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of 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 05

## VISUAL OR ORAL TEXTS

### INSTRUCTIONS

Write an essay on at least ONE **visual or oral text** that you have studied, in response to ONE of the statements below.

Discuss the extent to which you agree with your chosen statement. Respond critically to the statement by making a close analysis of the text(s).

### STATEMENTS (Choose ONE)

1. Key moments become engaging through the director's / creator's skill.
2. The interesting use of time challenges our understanding of the world.
3. Characters who change for the better teach us much about human nature.
4. Captivating settings reveal important things about society.
5. The results of conflict communicate the director's / creator's ideas.
6. The skilful combination of sound and vision reveals a text's main message.
7. Unusual relationships provide insight for the audience.
8. Convincing villains give us a deeper understanding of what it is to be human.

### TEXT DETAILS

Visual / oral text type

Title

Director / creator

Visual / oral text type

Title

Director / creator

### SELECTED QUESTION

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

Key moments become engaging through the director's / creator's skill






## PLANNING

- Introduction
  - Key moments become engaging through the director's / creator's skill.
- Body Paragraph
  - Talk about Chill and Ricky
  - Their quotes
  - What it means
  - Link it to the statement
- Conclusion

## ESSAY

Type your essay in the space below. You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 800–900 words. The quality of your writing is more important than the length of your essay. (The counter will change colour when you reach the recommended word count.)

In your essay, discuss the extent to which you agree with your chosen statement. Respond critically to the statement by making a close analysis of the text(s).

B I U     

The film "The Quilters", directed by Jenifer McShane, is a half an hour long documentary on Netflix. It highlights inmates inside a sewing room in a Level 5 maximum security prison at Licking, Missouri. These inmates are part of a rehabilitation program where they make quilts for foster children, giving back to the community. The true meaning of the documentary is transformation, redemption, hope, giving second chances to others, and finding purpose even at harsh environments. Despite the fact that these inmates have done terrible mistakes from the past that led them in prison, the documentary focuses on the good present, on how the inmates are now. It provides a unique perspective, instead of showing typical images of prison like prison bars, it covers inmates that are trying to become better and doing their best through art and creativeness to give back to the community. McShane uses her skill to make key moments in a documentary become engaging for the audience. She uses camera techniques, like close up shots, and also uses lighting techniques, making the audience to have a better appreciation and better understanding of the inmates, which ultimately makes moments become more engaging.

One moment that shows the skill of the director to make a moment become engaging is when the director provides a moment of a character, named Chill, shared why he act tough in the prison. Chill is part of the quilting program that makes quilts to give back to the community while serving his sentence. He said that "This environment is a jungle. So, I gotta be a little tougher around the edges. I'm the big bad wolf down here. But I have to be, or else they will eat you alive... But it's a front. Because up here, like, my emotions changes when I walk through the door." He is referring the prison as a "jungle", and that he have to be a tough man, a "big bad wolf". But he is just faking it, he is just trying to be tough and brave because if he doesn't, it will make him look weak and become the other inmates' target. However, if he enters "the door", which is the door to the quilting room, everything changes. When he enters the room, he can now become his true self and that he does not have to become tough anymore. He can now express his emotions and feelings. "The door" symbolizes emotional freedom and a gateway to become your true self. A lot of people relate to this because of the fact that people are trying their best to fake their identity or become a person that is not even who they really are just to fit in or to make themselves to not look weak. The director used a great technique to make this moment become more engaging to the audience. McShane uses contrasts of lighting, from dark lighting to bright lighting. When Chill was talking about the prison, a "jungle", the lighting was dull gray color and it shows an images of prison, making the mood become depressing to the audience. But when he walk through the "door", the lighting becomes bright and colorful, making the moment visually appealing and makes the mood become joyful. Jenifer McShane emphasizes this lighting technique to make the key moment become more engaging to the audience.

Another moment was when the director showed a moment of an another character, named Ricky, where he talks about their mistakes that they have done from the past and that they are now looking for their purpose in life. The director showed Ricky as a mentor to the inmates. He teaches other inmates when they make mistakes on quilting or help them when they don't know what to do. He said that "Most of the people here messed up bad. They are looking for, how would you say, a purpose." This shows that the inmates confined in this prison have horrible mistakes from the past, but it also shows his desire to find a purpose in his life even being confined in a Level 5 maximum security prison. When he said this, the director uses camera techniques like close up shots, highlighting his emotions and determination to make quilts for forster children, to give back to the community. It also shows his hand carefully sewing the quilts, and this shows his patience and control. This director's skill of using this camera techniques makes the key moment become more engaging because it allows the audience to see the inmates' emotions, and this makes the audience better understand the inmates. Despite of the fact that these inmates did terrible mistakes. they are still trvng to become a better

version of themselves and redeem themselves. A lot of people can relate to this because most of us have did bad things from the past, but despite these bad things, we deny this and try our best to transform ourselves to become better and focus on the future.

Another moment was when the director also used a camera techniques, where she uses a window as a framing technique. And through that window, we can see the inmates, including Ricky and Chill, peacefully doing quilts to give back to the community. This great framing technique symbolizes peace, hope, and creativeness as a way to connect to other people. This shows that even when these inmates are being locked up in one of the harshest prison, they still found a way to become happy, find their purpose, and a way to reconnect to the outer worlds. Through the director's skill, this key moment transform into an engaging moment for the audience.

In conclusion, the director, Jenifer McShane, uses her skill to make certain key moment from the documentary "The Quilters" become more engaging. The documentary emphasizes inmates that are part of a rehabilitation program where they create quilts for foster children. These inmates strive to transfrom and redeem themselves, and also finding purpose even inside a Level 5 maximum security prison. The director utilizes documentary techniques like camera shots and lighting techniques to make the inmates and the meaning of the documentary become understandable and appreciatable. She uses camera techniques like close up shots to show the emotion of the inmates and the hands of the inmates while focusing on making quilts. This shows their true emotions, their dedication, and also their efforts to give back to the community. McShane also uses contrast of lighting technique to shift the mood of key moments. For instance, from a dull grey color lighting, making the mood depressing, to a bright and colorful lighting, shifting the mood to joyful. These techniques shows the skill of the director to make certain moments into a moment that is engaging for the audience. Usually, when we talk about inmates, we tend to think that this topic is boring and kind of depressing. We tend to think that we should not care about them and that we should punish them as they have done terrible mistakes that led them to prison. And this makes the audience become uninvested and uninterested to the inmates. However, the documentary "The Quilters" can make us think twice, it provide us a unique perspective that shows a positive side inside a prison. It can make us think that we should offer them a second chance. Instead of punishing them, we should give them a chance to find their purpose and help them to transform themselves. Ultimately, combining this unique perspective and the skill of the director, Jenifer McShane, it makes the key moments of the documentary become more engaging for the audience.

1272 WORDS / 900 RECOMMENDED

## Merit

**Subject:** English

**Standard:** 91473

**Total score:** 05

<b>Grade score</b>	<b>Marker commentary</b>
M5	<p>This response addresses the chosen statement in an unbalanced way. There is clear evaluative response to the director's skill when discussing the door to the quilting room in physical, symbolic terms, supported by the use of lighting referenced across the wider text.</p> <p>The reason a higher grade score has not been awarded is that other sections of the response tend towards generic comments that do not fully address reasons for engagement. This includes general rather than specific discussions of emotions.</p>