



WJEC GCSE English Literature CPD Autumn 2019

Classroom Practice

Exemplar Booklet 1

Candidate 1

5.1

Ending (poem 1) by Gavin Ewart and The Way we live (poem 2) by Vicki Feaver both talk about relationships. Poem 1 describes a relationship's breakup while poem 2 talks about ~~the~~ relationship which ended with an older couple.

Poem's 1 title directly tells the reader the ending of something, suggesting death or a sudden event while poem's 2 title "The Way we live" suggests the development of a ~~relationship~~ relationship over a long period of time. Poem 1 has 1 stanza of 14 lines, every line ends with consonance, "stop... chop" and is structured in couplets, the short length of the stanza is meant to establish a quick pace to describe how fast the events happened and the use of end-stop every two lines creates a ~~regular~~ ~~slow~~ rhythm and ~~rhyme~~ ~~tone~~ neutral tone. Unlike Poem 1, Poem 2 has 8 stanzas with a total of 24, 3 lines each, the use of enjambment creates a rather fast rhythm and tries to assimilate the author's thoughts. ~~B~~, "Behind each window a stage so cluttered up..."

Both poems use first person plural ~~and~~, poem 1 gives the impression the author narrates the events, "The love we thought", uses past tense to describe a past experience, however, poem 2 uses first person plural possessive to create a more personal tone, "Make peepshows of our lives".

Gavin Ewart uses assonance, "The love we thought would never stop", to create a soft tone and portray ~~soft feelings~~ what the speaker felt at that moment, imagery is created by the use of ~~adjectives~~ ~~"similes"~~ "hot as curry" and metaphor "The parts that ~~we~~" The eyes that

shone and ~~the~~ seldom shut are victims of a power cut" and the reader interacts with other senses such as touch ~~and~~ as author uses adjectives like "hot". Different from poem 1, Vicki Feather uses a more realistic verse, imagery is created by adjectives and prepositions, "Behind each window", "some slumped in chairs"; through the poem a nostalgic tone remains constant, similarly to poem 1, the author also seems to be remembering past experiences ~~but~~, however, Poem 2 narrates the events from a more recent perspective, "Look at us", suggests the speaker is describing a flashback but this ends with their current state.

Ending ~~describes~~ compares the start of the relationship with the ~~different experience~~ same experience but how it changed over time. "The eyes The parts that then transmitted joy are now reserved and cold and dry" describes how the lovers became distant and the last line, "has left a note saying GONE AWAY" brings the reader to the actual state of the writer, also ~~him~~ indirectly describing the end of the relationship through ending the poem. In contrast with poem 1, poem 2 tells the reader the thoughts about an old woman, about the start of her relationship ~~and~~, "We make a mess of what began so simply with I love you", however, the writer doesn't give detail about their development but describes their result of the relationship, "Make peepshows of our lives", the ~~old~~ age of the writer is hinted to be ~~high~~ old by the description of their physical state, "The same tired lines to ears that long

ago stopped listening", as with old age comes the difficulty to hear.

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Candidate 2

5.1

The title, "Ending," suggests something is over or in the process of being over where as the title, "The Way We Live," suggests something is still continuing. "Ending," is one word which is therefore short and quick which suggests the sudden ending of something. However, ending means still in the process which could contrast and suggest ~~the~~ whatever is ending is taking a large amount of time. "The Way We Live," is a longer title which suggests the length of time ~~the person is ending~~ of living. The poems are also very different in length as 'Ending' is one large stanza but 'The Way We Live,' is eight stanzas which shows a larger length. As well as this, the large amount of stanzas could be in relation to the slow pace ~~so~~ some people may experience ~~the~~ life. "The Way We Live," is also depressing with a ~~boring tone~~ bored tone which could be shown through the eight stanzas as a bored tone is slow and elongated.

"Ending" shows a Volta as the atmosphere quickly changes when the rhyme of the poem ~~is~~ ^{ends} changes and the sudden exclamation of, "Gone Away," where as "The Way We Live,"

shows no volta as the atmosphere and tone stays the same throughout.

"Ending" shows repetition through the constant start ~~to~~ to sentences with "The", other than when the volta occurs, which is similar ~~to~~ but also different to, "The Way We Live," as the constant is shown by each stanza ~~which on~~ having three lines. ~~The~~ ~~cons~~ Both poems being constant could represent the continuous and regular pattern of people's lives. The poems are different to each other because, "Ending," has rhymes but, "The Way We Live," does not.

Both poems have a metaphor, 'Ending' has a metaphor of "inert as four moored badges," ~~+~~ and the way we live has a less obvious metaphor of, "Behind each window a stage so cluttered up." The use of a metaphor suggests something is the same as another thing. ~~Both poets using a metaphor adds to the tone of the poems as they are used to represent~~

The tone of ~~and~~ "Ending," is a repeated pattern of happy to sad which contrasts to the constant depressed ~~tone~~ tone of "The Way We Live." Tone is vital to a poem as it expresses the feeling the poem is meant to give its reader. Therefore "Ending," influences the reader to experience ~~to~~ the

~~the~~ story of someone whirlwind romance.
to contrast, "The Way We Live," is
a ~~story~~ representation of how many
people live their lives and the tone influences
the reader to feel depressed and sad
rather than happy then sad.

The poems contrast each other due to the
difference in rhyme. "Ending," has a
constant ^{regular} rhyme from ~~an~~ end to
finish whereas "The Way We Live," does
not contain any rhyme. It is popular
in poems for rhyme to persuade ~~emotions~~
~~at~~ ~~the~~ the reader to read the poem quicker
because of the beat of each word
and in "Ending," this could suggest the
speed of the relationship and how quickly it
ended. On the other hand, "The Way We Live,"
is drawn out and at a slow sluggish
pace and does not convict any emotions of
joy. The use of rhyme in "The Way
We Live," would have changed the atmosphere
and tone which would have confused
and contrasted the depressed and
bored mood.

Both poems use collective pronouns.
"Ending," uses collective pronouns to show
the two ~~member~~ people in the relationship
whereas, "The Way We Live," uses collective
pronouns to refer to everyone's ~~the~~ lives
and the way people live them.

The poems both have a somewhat

negative effect on me because of the constant bored and depressed tone of "The Way We Live," and the occurring sad tone of "Ending." I do think both are impactful however as one shows and suggests we should ~~be~~ care take care of our relationships and ~~and~~ the other highlights that we are taking advantage of life and ~~shows~~ I ~~the~~ feel it was ~~it~~ enlightening.

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Candidate 3

5.1

of what began so simply ~~was~~ with 'I love you'. It's saying that humans make messes out of everything emotionally complicated. In the other poem the couple have made a mess of their relationship which is similar to the statement. The people aren't ~~just~~ interacting with one another and just sitting in silence with one another. Likewise to 'Ending' where the couple were purposely missing dates so they didn't have to talk to each other. The couples in this poem aren't even listening to each other anymore because they're tired of their relationships. The poem then says, "Once we must have dreamed of something better." This is saying that the idea of love is better than the actual reality of love. "But even those who swapped partner for another have ended up just like the rest of us." The poem says even after ending the relationship and getting a new one it all ends the same, like it goes in a ~~agony~~ repeating cycle of misery and boredom.

~~The poem~~ 'Ending' doesn't have that much of an effect ~~on~~ ^{on} me but to people who have got bored of their relationships it could probably effect more than ~~me~~ ^{us} and in that sense 'The Way We Live' ~~is~~ also has the same effect and would probably relate more to someone who is also bored of their ~~at~~ relationship. That is also another similarity the two hold. ~~The~~ The two poems are very similar to one another with the content they both hold and the effect they have. Both are about relationships dying and getting boring. The structure of 'Ending' is very different to 'The Way We Live'. Ending was in the perspective of ~~the~~ the person in the relationship ~~about~~ whilst it ~~was~~ just died but the other one was from the perspective of an outsider looking in on ~~of~~ other peoples relationship to watch them die. The guy narrating was almost obsessed with seeing how love is ruined which ~~so~~ could suggest that he had a bad experience with love himself and is now bitter about other peoples love.

I preferred 'The Way We Live' over 'Ending' because it's more interesting to think about why the narrator is obsessed with other people's relationships. I also prefer the way it's structured by stanza and not ~~continuously~~ continuously. The metaphors are clearer and it has a better story than 'Ending.'

Candidate 4

5.1

The poems 'Ending' by Graham Ewart and 'The way we live' by Vicki Feather both concern relationships and about people's lives. However the poem 'Ending' is about a relationship that has been broken all of a sudden, whereas, 'The way we live' suggests a all ready broken relationship that should have in a negative way.

The poem 'Ending' shows how there is thought to last forever 'thought would never stop'. The word 'never' highlights how the narrator saw their relationship as a perfect fantasy and believed they would last forever. The narrator says that when their love ^{for each other} had disappeared 'now feels like a congealing chop'. The word 'congealing' could suggest how their relationship is messed up and cannot be fixed. Their relationship was described, by the narrator, as 'hot as curry'. The word 'hot' suggests how strong their love was intense and went next to the narrator. The narrator also describes their relation as 'bird-pecks taken in a hurry'. The word 'pecks' could suggest sharpness and their sharp relationship and behaviour towards each other. The word 'Hurry' suggests that they were constantly talking sharply towards each other which lead to the downfall in their relationship. The narrator uses language such as 'ran' suggesting urgency then compared to 'running late' and 'slow' to highlight how their relationship has changed throughout time. The narrator also describes how people view their relationship 'eyes'. This shows that people judged their relationship and that these 'eyes' are victims of a power cut.

The ~~abuse~~ word 'victim' suggests how people viewed ~~their~~ their relationship as dangerous as it's described as a 'power cut'. This suggests that their relationship was toxic and that what people saw their ~~relationship~~ relationship as.

Both poems highlight broken up relationships however 'Ending' describes the memories of the beginning of the relationship and how it ended 'hot' 'now cools'. Whereas 'The way we live' shows a relationship where the people are trapped and isolated in their own relationship, 'dreamed of something better'.

The title 'Ending' suggests an abrupt end to something and almost seems like a fairy tale 'ending'. However the title 'The way we live' suggests a style of living. The word 'live' compared to 'Ending' highlights the difference of relationships as in 'The way we live' it's a relationship that is depressing and seems that they will forever stay trapped. Whereas in 'Ending' it's a relationship that is already broken.

In 'The way we live' the relationship is described as 'cluttered up'. The word 'cluttered' highlights how their relationship is a mess that cannot be fixed. Similarly in 'Ending' the relationship is described as 'congealed'. This suggests that, similarly to 'The way we live', the relationship is messed up and there's no hope for their relationship.

In 'The way we live' the narrator seems it 'not surprising' that the relationship has failed and seemed to expect it. This shows how the narrator views their relationship as hopeless. Contrastingly in 'Ending' the narrator

is shocked that ~~they~~ the relationship is over 'we thought would never stop'. This shows how the narrator had hope and believed in their love like as a fantasy. This is also shown when the narrator 'expected once to stay'. ~~however~~ Unlike the narrator in 'The way we live' the narrator in 'Ending' seems disappointed that the relationship is doomed.

In 'The way we live' the relationship is described as a 'mess' but it 'began so simply'. The word 'simply' suggests how the narrator sees relationships as ~~easy~~ easy at first however things always become more confusing.

In 'The way we live' the narrator 'dreamed of something better' than their relationship. The word 'dreamed' highlights how ~~the~~ ^{the narrator} wishes to ~~be~~ have freedom away from the isolated relationship. On the other hand, the poem 'Ending' shows the narrator wishing but the relationship stayed together 'Romance, expected once to stay'. The word 'stay' highlights how the narrator felt despair that ~~the~~ their relationship had fallen apart.

In the poem 'The way we live' the narrator is shown as ~~the~~ ^{isolated} ~~trapped~~ as the narrator feels trapped 'behind doors'. The word 'behind' shows how the narrator feels alienated in his own relationship. Similarly the narrator in 'Ending' feels isolated as they have to be left alone 'GONE AWAY'. All captions highlight the ~~unhappy~~ ending to their relationship.

In 'Ending' the Ewart uses rhyme

words and patterns to highlight a fairy tale like flow to our poem 'hurry' 'hurry'. The rhyming words highlight how the flow of the 8 stanza poem is like a fantasy. However in 'The way we live' there is no rhyme flow however the lack of punctuation in the 8 stanza poem causes enjoyment for the reader.

Both 'Endley' by Gavin Ewart and 'The way we live' by Vicki Flower highlight relationships where people feel isolated and trapped.

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Candidate 5

This essay is based on the 2019 poetry set list with the theme 'People and Places'.

Both 'In Hospital: Poona' and 'Return to Cardiff' involve memories of places. Explore how the poets represent Wales and its people in these poems.

'In Hospital: Poona' by Alun Lewis is about a man in India who is missing his wife who is in Wales. He is expressing his love for his wife throughout the poem. 'Return to Cardiff' by Dannie Abse is about a man going back to his hometown. He describes the way the city has changed over many years. Both poems are about people and places.

The first line of the first poem, "Last night I did not fight for sleep", suggests he usually has to fight to get to sleep. The verb "fight" suggest he always struggles sleeping but that night he didn't bother fighting. He decides not to sleep because he is waiting for it to be dark in Wales and in Poona so he feels like he is with his wife.

Using the title 'In Hospital: Poona' tells us his location immediately and what he is doing there. Using the word 'Poona' gives us a precise location instead of a rough idea of where he is.

Alun Lewis uses rhyme through the poem. He uses words like 'sleep' and 'deep' and 'world' and 'furled'. Using rhyme makes the poem flow better and creates a rhythmic and lullaby pattern.

Lewis thinks love always lasts no matter how far away from love you are. He uses phrases like "love survives the venom of the snake." Using phrases like this gives a loving effect on the poem. Lewis is also giving his views on how

love always lasts by using the phrase "love survives". Also to represent love, Alun Lewis uses the idea of swans. He says, "vanished as though a swan in ecstasy". He is comparing his wife to the swan because swans are beautiful, elegant and loyal. Swans also represent eternal love.

Alun Lewis references many Welsh things throughout the poem such as the mountains "Dafydd", "Llewellyn", "Plynlimmon", "Cader Idris" and "Eryri". Referencing Welsh things give the reader an idea of what there is around the area he's from. He is also mentioning Wales's natural features. Thinking about Wales's famous places will bring back memories of his childhood and younger days.

The poem is written in six stanzas and made up of three sentences. "And like.... the venom of the snake" it is written in enjambment. Using enjambment throughout the last four stanzas/verses and not dividing them into more than one sentence, gives the idea the poet is emotionally caught up in his imagination.

The phrase "My hot hands touched your white despondent shoulders" suggests that Lewis is down the dumps. The word "despondent" suggest this – "despondent" means dejected or unhappy which is the way he is feeling. In my opinion I think that Alun Lewis is missing his wife and he wants to see her, which is making him feel down.

The first word of the poem 'Return to Cardiff' is "Hometown" which suggests the place Abse is speaking about is where he is from. Also the title 'Return to Cardiff' suggest the poem is about the place he was brought up. The phrase "Hometown, well, most admit an affection for a city" suggests he really likes Cardiff and has many memories there.

Abse uses many adjectives to describe the way Cardiff now looks. Some of them are "grey" and "tangled". These adjectives suggest Cardiff is a dull place.

In the first stanza the poet says "grey, tangled streets I cycled on to school, my first cigarette in the back lane, and, fool, my first botched love affair." All of these are memories of his childhood. He is remembering the first things he did when he was younger.

Throughout the poem Abse adds comparisons from when he was younger to how the town is now. He says "mile-wide Taff now a stream." Using comparisons tells the reader how something has changed over many years.

Stanza three is all about his grandfather and how he was dying. He is in the hospital and is trying to listen the conversation between the doctor and his grandfather. The poet says "unfocused voices in the wind, associations, clues, odd and ends, fringes caught." He is suggesting that he couldn't hear the whole conversation and was trying to listen to what the doctor was saying. Then Abse says, "as when, after the doctor quit, a door opened and I glimpsed the white enormous face of my grandfather, suddenly aghast with certain news". Abse is saying that his grandfather is dying and it could be the last time he sees him. The phrase that suggests he is dying or coming to the end of life is "certain news".

"Unable to define anything I can hardly speak, and still I love the place for what I wanted it to be." Dannie Abse is telling us that even though Cardiff has changed, he will always remember it as it was when he was younger. The phrase "unable to define anything" suggests he is struggling to take in how much it has changed from when he was younger. Also in the same stanza he says "a city of strangers". This suggests he doesn't recognise anyone. The word to suggest this is "strangers".

In the last stanza the phrase "No sooner than I'd arrived the other Cardiff had gone, smoke in the memory". This suggests all his memories are going and have turned into smoke. Also the poet realises his past and present self need to meet and move on. The phrase to suggest this is, "where the boy I was not and the man I am not met, hesitated, left double footsteps then walked on".

The word "hesitated" suggests the poet is finding hard to move on. However, the word "walked" suggests he has finally moved on.

Just like 'In Hospital: Poona', 'Return to Cardiff' has rhyme included in the poem. However, Abse added rhyme at the end and beginning of each stanza whereas Lewis added rhyme to the end of each line. In 'Return to Cardiff', Abse used words like 'city' and 'pity' to create a rhythmic and lullaby pattern throughout the poem. This makes the poem flow better.

Both poems 'Return to Cardiff' and 'In Hospital: Poona' are based on people and places. There are many similarities between the poems.

Both poems are about memories. In 'Return to Cardiff' the poet is sharing his memories of when he went back to Cardiff. Whereas in 'In Hospital: Poona' the poet is remembering memories in Wales with his wife. Memories are being brought back by thinking about his wife in Wales whilst he is in India, and in 'Return to Cardiff' his memories are being brought back because everything has changed and he preferred Cardiff how it was when he was younger.

The poets have only used the good points about Wales throughout both poems because they aren't looking at the negative sides of things. Although in 'Return to Cardiff' the poet shares a sad memory about his granddad dying but doesn't put a negative effect on the poem.

In both poems the speakers are male. The structures of the poems aren't that similar. Both poems are written with enjambment. 'In Hospital: Poona' has three sentences throughout the poem and has six stanza's where as 'Return to Cardiff' is made up of a sentence and has seven stanzas. In the poem 'In Hospital: Poona' the last four stanzas are made of one sentence which shows the poet is emotionally caught up. This gives us the idea the poem isn't quite as controlled as 'Return to Cardiff'.

The moods in the poems are quite different. 'In Hospital: Poona' has a loving mood where as 'Return to Cardiff' has a more nostalgic mood because Abse is remembering his memories of Cardiff but in the third stanza the mood slightly changes to a sadder atmosphere because he is speaking about his granddad dying.

I think the most successful poem is 'In Hospital: Poona'. This is because the poet has added a lot of detail to describe Wales and his love for his wife. The poet has also created images to see in your head.

9 (3/3/3)

Candidate 6

This essay is based on the 2019 poetry set list with the theme 'People and Places'.

Both 'In Hospital: Poona' and 'Return to Cardiff' involve memories of places. Explore how the poets represent Wales and its people in these poems.

In this assessment, I will be looking at two poems, 'In Hospital: Poona' by Alun Lewis and 'Return to Cardiff' by Dannie Abse. 'In Hospital: Poona' focuses on the speaker's time in an Indian hospital after breaking his jaw, and his longing to go home to Wales. 'Return to Cardiff' is about the speaker's experience while, returning to his hometown, and finding that the City he grew up loving is not how he remembers it. Both of these poems are centred around places and people.

From the title of the poem 'In Hospital: Poona', Alun Lewis has already established the speaker's location. This exact location is not mentioned throughout the poem, but by using it as the title, it introduces the name of a place that would sound foreign and alien to someone from Wales. This reflects how the speaker feels alienated when he is lying in hospital thousands of miles away from home.

The poem begins "Last night I did not fight for sleep". This line suggests that the speaker usually struggles to get to sleep but last night he did not even attempt to. The word "fight" implies a difficult and painful struggle. It also has connotations to anger. This suggests that the speaker is usually frustrated so that he cannot sleep in the Poona hospital. However, last night he did not "fight for sleep". The speaker is waiting for the sun to set in Wales, as there are different time zones in Wales and India. When the time finally comes, he can imagine his home in darkness and feel as though he is there once again. The poem 'In Hospital: Poona' is addressed to someone. "I knew that you were furl'd, beloved." "You" is mentioned multiple times throughout the poem.

Lewis could be talking to his wife in Wales whom he misses, but he could also be talking to Wales itself. This would mean that the poet is using personification to describe his home as a person. The word "furlled" means curled up. Lewis' wife would be curled up in bed when night finally reaches Wales. Wales could also appear to be curled up at night under a blanket of sky, so it is possible that the speaker is remembering how his home looks when it is dark. The word "beloved" shows that the speaker dearly loves the person or place that he is talking about, whether it is Wales, his wife who is waiting there for him or both.

When it is finally night in both countries, the speaker feels as though the distance between India and Wales disappears and he can step from one country to another. "Sixty degrees of longitude beside vanished." The word "vanished" implies a sudden and magical movement. When he remembers his home, all of his worries magically disappear and he can imagine that he is home in the country that he loves.

The line "swan in ecstasy" further proves his love for the person or place that is talking about. Swans are known as a symbol of eternal love as they mate for life. A swan would never leave its mate to find another, showing that the speaker wishes to never truly part with his wife and country, even if he is currently thousands of miles away from all that he loves. The word "ecstasy" means immense joy. The speaker spends all of his time waiting for the moment when both countries are in darkness, and is extremely happy when this merriment finally comes. When he can imagine his life back home in Wales, the speaker's true love for his country and all that he has left behind is stronger than ever.

In the third stanza, the speaker is reminiscing about Wales. "I saw the green tide leap on Cardigan". Alun Lewis uses personification such as this line to make Wales seem lively and beautiful. He uses lots of descriptive language in this stanza and also references the legend of the Welsh dragon. "Your red yacht riding like a legend." This creates magical imagery and makes Wales appear to be part of a fantasy world.

The fourth stanza mentions real places, "the great mountains, Dafydd and Llewelyn." This shows that Wales is not in fact, a fantasy world, but a real place in which the speaker grew up. It contains lots of memories from his past, and he is remembering specific places that he loves in this stanza. He describes the Welsh landscape as if it were a shark, "Threshing the darkness back from head and fin"; Welsh mountains stick up like a shark's fin. Describing the landscape in this way once again makes it appear alive. Wales itself is fighting for the night to come, and for the time when the speaker can return even if is only in his thoughts.

The line "my hot hands touched your white despondent shoulders" could be a memory of the speaker's wife when he found out that he had to leave for India. The word "hot" could have been used to reflect the heat of India, although it could also imply desire. The speaker wishes to be back in Wales with his wife. The word "despondent" means sad or down, the speaker's wife was upset to see him leave, and he imagines that she feels sad and lonely without him. He is back in this moment comforting her across the world when it is dark in both countries.

The speaker does not have long to reminisce about his life in Wales before the sun rises in India. "Ten thousand miles of daylight grew between us", the spell is broken as soon as daylight returns, and the speaker must face his troubles again. His time in his memories is over as instantly as it began, and the night is never long enough to truly return.

The line "I heard the wild daws crake in India's starving throat" shows how unpleasantly the speaker must return to India when the sun rises. "Crake" is not a pleasant sound; this reflects how the speaker feels to be parted from his memories of Wales. Lewis may have used the phrase "India's starving throat" to reference the poverty and starvation in India. The speaker could also feel starved of oxygen in the stifling air. Another meaning of this phrase could be that, once woken, from his reminiscing state, the speaker feels as if he is starved of Wales as he has been deprived of it for so long.

The final two lines of the poem sum up how the speaker feels. "Time upon the heart can break But love survives the venom of the snake". The speaker's heart is breaking from being away from his home and his wife for so long; but his love for the person and place that he cares about the most will always survive. These two lines really bring together all of the speaker's thoughts throughout the poem and into one idea.

Alun Lewis wrote 'In Hospital: Poona' to describe his feelings while he was in an Indian hospital thousands of miles away from all that he loves. I think that this poem is successful, as the poet's immense love for Wales and his wife are very clear throughout the poem. This causes the reader to empathise with the speaker, as most can say that they have a place and person they love and care for and would hate to lose. I like this poem because it shows someone who deeply cares for something that they have had to leave behind and makes me realise how much I take for granted.

'Return to Cardiff' by Dannie Abse describes the speaker's feelings when visiting his hometown – probably for the first time since he first left. He finds that the city he grew up loving is not quite as he remembers it.

The poet uses lots of punctuation in 'Return to Cardiff', especially during the first stanza. "'Hometown'; well, most admit an affection for a city;" Abse uses a semicolon in the first line to connect sentences, creating one continuous thought. He also uses a colon to introduce his childhood memories of Cardiff. Connecting sentences in this way makes them more long and complex, meaning that they must read slower. This makes the speaker's thoughts appear more meaningful.

The phrase "most admit an affection for a city" is one that the reader can relate to as most people feel a connection to the place that they grew up in. The poet has not yet named the city that the poem is about (aside from the title) so the first stanza is personal to the reader. It includes many memories

from the speaker's childhood that most people can relate to their own memories.

The Cardiff that the speaker is returning to feels like an entirely different place to the one he left. "The journey to Cardiff seemed less a return than a raid on mislaid identities". The word "seemed" implies the realisation that the speaker's return to Cardiff would not be as he expected hit him later on. The word "raid" suggests intrusion. The speaker is walking in on someone else's Cardiff, not the one from the lost memories of his childhood.

Everything in the new Cardiff seems smaller and less significant to how the speaker remembered it. "The mile-wide Taff now a stream". The river Taff hadn't actually decreased in size during the speaker's absence, but it now seems much smaller to him than when he was a child. This is partly because the Taff was much larger in perspective to the speaker when he was younger, but also because everything appears to be much more magical through the eyes of a child. Now that the speaker is older, he sees the reality of Cardiff, and continues to compare it to the glorified version in his memories.

The poet uses the phrase "joker's toy façade" to describe the speaker's feelings when looking back on his childhood memories. The word "toy" suggests youth and childishness. A "façade" is a cover or mask – which can imply hidden untruthfulness. The speaker's memories of his hometown are wearing a childish mask. They are untruthful and are not the real Cardiff. The speaker could be describing himself as a "joker", with his memories playing tricks on him.

The speaker loves his memories of Cardiff more than the actual place. "Still I love the place for what I wanted it to be as much as for what it unashamedly is." His return to his hometown was disappointing, but the speaker has come to accept that Cardiff was not as he thought. The word "unashamedly" shows that the city is not apologetic about the way that it is. The speaker cannot make Cardiff seem the way he once saw it, but he still feels a fondness towards it, as he knows it is the same place as where he grew up.

The phrase "alien and bleak" further proves that there is no hope for Cardiff to return to the vision in the speaker's head. "Alien" makes the city appear unknown and somewhere that the speaker no longer belongs in. The word "bleak" is very hopeless. The speaker has entered a city that he recognises, but does not truly know. It is a "city of strangers".

During the final stanza, the speaker is moving on and leaving his childhood in the past "the other Cardiff had gone, smoke in the memory". His previous vision of Cardiff is now clouded and far away; he is finally ready to let go of his childhood. This is also shown by the last two lines: "Where the boy I was not and the man I am not met, hesitated, left double footsteps, then walked on". At this moment the speaker feels like neither a child nor adult. He is looking on as he rejoins the past, not ready to give it up. But he finally comes to accept the fact that both he and the city have changed; this is explained by the final words of the poem- "Walked on".

Dannie Abse wrote 'Return to Cardiff' to describe his feelings when visiting his hometown. There he realises that the city he loved is not as it always appeared to him- a magical exciting city. Everything seems smaller, and Cardiff on a whole is "alien and bleak". It is a poem that many readers can relate to, as most people have a place that they feel attached to. I like "Return to Cardiff", because the speaker's feelings are very clear throughout the poem. I think that it is a very good poem about letting go of things that one loves and makes me wonder if I will always view my hometown in the way I do now.

Both poems 'In Hospital: Poona' and 'Return to Cardiff' are centred around people and places. 'In Hospital: Poona' is about the speaker's longing for Wales, while 'Return to Cardiff' describes the feeling of disappointment on finding a beloved place not as it once seemed to be.

Both of these poems include memories and feelings of nostalgia, such as "I saw the green tide leap on Cardigan", in 'In Hospital: Poona' and "My first cigarette in the back lane" in 'Return to Cardiff'. Both speakers are looking at

these memories with a rose-tinted vision. Their memories become more glorified the longer they are separated from the place that they love. The speaker in 'In Hospital: Poona' is still thinking in this way, as he is currently separated from his home in Wales. However, the speaker in 'Return to Cardiff' has gone back to the place that he has reminisced about since he first left. During this poem he realises that his memories of Cardiff became increasingly glorified the longer he was away from it causing his expectations for the city to be ridiculously high by the time he finally returns. Dannie Abse uses the word "betrayed" in the fifth stanza of the poem to describe how the speaker feels when he realises that Cardiff never really was what it had become to him while he was away from it. His rose-tinted memories had betrayed him, or played tricks on him as suggested by the phrase "Joker's toy façade".

The Welsh word 'hiraeth' describes the feelings of the speaker in 'In Hospital: Poona'. There is no exact English translation of it, but it roughly translates to an ache or longing for the place that one has grown up in – usually Wales. The speaker displays feelings of hiraeth in 'In Hospital: Poona'. Alun Lewis uses memories of Wales to display the speaker's longing for it. Once again, these memories have become glorified, and almost sacred to the speaker. The "small, nameless mining valley" probably wouldn't have been very significant to the speaker while he was in Wales, but when he is thousands of miles away, memories such as this are all he has to hold on to.

The speaker in 'Return to Cardiff' probably also experienced hiraeth while away from his hometown. This would have further increased his rose-tinted vision. He now feels alienated in a city that no longer seems like his own, as it is not how it appeared in his memories. This is similar to how the speaker feels in 'In Hospital: Poona', although this speaker is not returning to a city that he no longer recognises as his own. The speaker in 'In Hospital: Poona' feels alienated in a country that is completely new to him. Both speakers are in very different situations to each other, but they share similar feelings of loneliness. 'In Hospital: Poona' contains loneliness from longing, while 'Return to Cardiff' contains loneliness from disappointment.

I think that both poems are successful in what they are trying to achieve. They are both describing the feelings of people who are alienated in somewhere that they do not feel they belong. I think that they are equally successful at describing these feelings and I cannot choose a favourite. I really like the personification that has been used in 'In Hospital: Poona', which further shows the speaker's emotional pain in his current situation and helps the reader to empathise with him.

It is also easy to empathise with the speaker in 'Return to Cardiff', especially during the first verse. Except for the title, the poet does not actually use the word 'Cardiff' until the second stanza. This shows that the childhood memories mentioned in the first stanza could have taken place anywhere, and could have happened to anyone. Many adults can look back on similar memories from their own childhood and may even feel a similar way about their hometown if they returned after many years.

I really like both of these poems, as they make me think about how I would feel in the speakers' situations. How I would feel if I lost all that I had or returned to my hometown after a long time of being away from it.

19 (5/5/9)

Candidate 7

3.0

The character of Nicole Renard is important as a whole because she is used to explore the key themes in the novel of Heros. Such as Francis' romanticised view of her, innocence, loss of innocence and heroism.

Firstly, ~~Francis~~ Nicole is seen in Francis' romanticised view of her. This is seen when Francis says she is a 'knight at her feet'. This suggests that Nicole needs protecting from something or someone and Francis sees him self as her protector. This is also seen when ~~at~~ Francis and Nicole went to the cinema and Francis thought that she was way better to watch than the movie.

Secondly, Nicole is also used to explore the theme of innocence. This is seen as Nicole is referred to as a 'pale purity' meaning that she is everything right in the world. This is also seen when Francis said she was like 'St teresée' meaning that she could never do any wrong in his eyes and is seen as a person to look up to.

Next, Nicole is used to explore the theme of loss of innocence. This is first seen in her rape scene when her 'white blouse ~~was~~ torn'. The white blouse was a symbol of her innocence being ripped open and Nicole being forced to grow up too fast. This is also shown when Larry LaSue referred to her as a 'sweet young thing'. Him sexualising her like that at such a young age shows how she lost her purity and innocence.

Finally, Nicole is used to explore the theme of heroism as even though her innocence was taken away from her when she was raped she still wouldn't tell her father because she ~~thought~~ thought her dad would 'kill him'. And she didn't want her dad to be in trouble.

10

Candidate 8

3.0

Nicole Renard plays a huge role in this novella, ~~she~~ she is used to ~~to~~ link the two contrasting personalities of Larry LaSalle and Francis Carrawante. In addition, through her we can ~~can~~ compare Larry and Francis in a more structured, ~~not~~ in-depth manner.

Nicole Renard and Francis' relationship is innocent and lacks the sexual undercurrent that is present in ~~the~~ ~~relationship~~ she and Larry's relationship. She plays an important role in the progression of Francis' character. She allows for his confidence to grow as she accepts his invite to the cinema, "that would be nice" and allows for "an innocent kiss". In addition to this, she playfully mocks ~~of~~ Francis for being "so shy". Nicole has a good relationship with Larry LaSalle who is "their hero" but she doesn't understand his sexual implications and his perverted desire for "sweeter young things". This relationship structures the whole novella, and leads to the ruining of Nicole and Francis' relationship, and ~~also~~ Nicole's childhood or life as a whole.

Nicole is greatly associated with the

theme of innocence, and the loss of it. Due to her not fully understanding Larry's implications she goes to the Rec. Centre and gets involuntarily raped. Just prior to the rape, she ~~goes~~ tells Francis to "stay close to [her]" as Larry tells Francis to leave before he have "one final dance". This could suggest that Nicole ~~is~~ is apprehensive of Larry, and ~~and~~ ~~at~~ thinks something might happen. Francis remains at the door, ~~as~~ in shock and doesn't help her during the act where Larry ~~satisfies~~ satisfies his sick desire. Where ~~Nicole's~~ ~~is~~ the "pale purity of her face reminded [Francis] of the statue of St. Therese" her blance is "stashed" which is a metaphor for her innocence being taken.

To continue, Nicole is also related to the theme of ~~the~~ Heroism. She tries to move away from the memory at all costs. She and her family move away from Frenchtown, ~~at~~ ~~Paris~~ when Francis is at war. Which is very important as they ~~eat~~ didn't resolve their relationship, then Nicole "found out that [he'd] enrolled" in the army. When Francis next sees her, it is at the all girls school, and he has already been involved in the murder of Larry Lasalle. She is shown as heroic as she says "it wasn't your fault" showing she forgives Francis but then also implies that their relationship meant much less to her than to him with "why did you come here today?". ~~The~~ The ability to forgive, and try to move away from this situation definitely shows her as heroic and ~~shows~~ this is important because she seemingly ends their relationship for ~~good~~ good here.

Lastly, her transformation is very prominent

and is important for showing the damaging impact of Larry ~~and~~ LaSalle ~~on~~, the "movie-star" on her. She arguably de-feminises herself to avoid being seen as attractive by any man, and possibly to make her new self forget her old "beautiful" self. "Her eyes are bigger" metaphorically shows how she looks less "beautiful" and like the "saint of St. Thérèse". Her "hair is cut short" and her "voice ~~is~~ is brittle" emphasise how much change Nicole has undergone, ~~and~~ and also exemplifies the point that without Larry, she wouldn't have had everything taken from her. Finally, ~~she~~ she tells Francis to pursue his dreams which links back to their conversation about dreams, aspirations and the future, from when Nicole ~~was~~ still had her charity, purity and virtue. ~~She~~ Moreover, she also says "poor boy" which symbolises the goodness of her heart.

To conclude, ~~the~~ Nicole Renard plays a key role in this novella. Her innocence, heroic personality, good looks and relationships all play arguably the biggest part in the story as they allow a reader to sympathise, and ~~g~~ ~~to~~ somewhat grasp the horrible events which occurred in the girl who "came all the way from Albany New York" 's life. Finally she is important ~~at~~ also as she highlights desperation and Larry's ~~the~~ perverted desire for "sweet young things" in the novella.

Candidate 9

6.2

Nicole is one of the main characters in the novel. She ~~is~~ has a relationship with ~~Nicole~~ Francis before he joins the army. Nicole and Francis' relationship is a good one as they have so much in common. They talk about books and films. They both like. Before Larry LaSalle went off to the war, he ran the wreck centre and Nicole was there and she was always dancing and Larry made her feel like a star, but when he came back from the war, he wanted to have one last dance with Nicole, but it turned out that he raped her. ^{like} He had ripped her blouse. After that night, Nicole never left her house and

her relationship with Francis went horrible as she blamed him for not helping her. When Harry rapped her and that's why Francis joined the army and when come back he went to find Nicole and when he did she was different she was in a school for nuns. and receives Francis of his guilt. Throughout the play the Nicole's personality changes from a really good and upbeat to a really dark and bad ~~the~~ half way through then it gets a little better as she has moved on.

Candidate 10

1.5

Mrs Johnstone has been used to highlight many aspects of working class life ~~as a~~ as a woman of lower class. She represents many a working class woman who's lack of opportunity and help lead to their downfall in life.

Towards the beginning of the play, Mrs Johnstone talks of her husband and how he said she was very pretty. 'Sexier than Marilyn Monroe'. This enhances her unfortunate position as a working class woman who's worth is based on what a man thinks of her. The repetition of her comparison to the unfortunate star, 'Marilyn Monroe' suggests and foreshadows her tragic fate.

Mrs Johnstone says that she was left by her husband after she had many children. This is an example of Willy Russell's attempt to highlight gender inequality at the time the play was written. 'By the time I was 25... I looked like 42'. Working class mothers were often used and abandoned by men after their looks and appearance had gone down hill. Her social situation had a physical effect on her causing her to look older than she is. This is because

of her everyday stresses and challenges as a single, working class mother.

Mrs Johnstone loves all her children dearly but often feels guilty that she can't provide for them. ^{"can't live on love alone"} Although this isn't her fault, it is a common feeling as a mother to want the best for your children. 'Seven hungry mouths to feed.' This highlights the extent of how tragic their situation is. She has seven children and can't always afford to feed them because of the lack of support for working class mothers at the time.

When she has the opportunity to give one of her twins to Mrs Lyons, she is apprehensive but thinks of the lovely upbringing that child would have. She wants to keep the child but puts his welfare before her own. She is pleased that at least one of her children will grow up with ~~their~~ 'his own toys' and 'his own bed' in what she calls a 'palace'. This emphasises the differences between hers and Mrs Lyons' lives. Mrs Johnstone is poor but surrounded by love, whereas Mrs Lyons is rich but deprived of love.

Mrs Johnstone introduces the theme of superstition into the play which Willy Russell becomes increasingly focussed on. She says "the shoes... the shoes..." She is referring to the 'shoes on the table' superstition. Mrs Lyons notices this and begins to use Mrs Johnstone's superstitious tendencies to manipulate

her. Mrs Lyons makes Mrs J 'swear on the Bible' and the narrator says 'the 'packs been sealed... a deal's been born'. This implies that giving this child to Mrs Lyons is going to cause some troubles in the future. Mrs Johnstones strong superstitious and religious beliefs are even perhaps her tragic flaw. These are two factors that lead to her tragic fate at the end of the play where the twins both die.

Mrs Johnstone is extremely optimistic throughout the play. It is possible that she does this to reassure all her children that life will get better. "We'll go dancing" is an optimistic but nostalgic song about her past and her future. She dreams of 'dancing' with a new man but reminisces about her ex-husband. The narrator constantly reminds us at this point that 'the devil's got [her] number' which quickly takes away any signs of hope as it reminds her of her unfortunate situation.

The presence of the omnipresent narrator in Mrs Johnstone's life reminds us that something is creeping up on her; danger is getting closer. He always seems to play negative characters in her life, such as the taxman and the milkman. 'no money, no milk'. This gives a sense of the outside is ~~to~~ slowly creeping into her life. Despite all the harsh things said to her, Mrs Johnstone remains hopeful and strong as she, like many working class women had already been through a lot of difficult times.

Mrs Johnstone and Mickey's relationship is the only consistently positive, healthy relationship throughout the play. This enhances the importance of a mother's love during difficult times. She teases Mickey by saying he'll 'miss Linda' and by giving him a 'sloppy & kiss.' Their relationship is ~~keep~~ kept lighthearted and optimistic throughout. Mrs Johnstone knows the importance of having a strong bond with ~~the~~ her children which is another thing that is highlighted by her character.

Mrs Johnstone's life is mirrored by Linda's who eventually falls pregnant with Mickey's baby. This suggests that the lives of working class women were always the same. They had no escape from this life. "Mam! Linda's pregnant!" "When's the weddin'" Mrs Johnstone is understanding of the situation having been through it herself. Her life and Linda's are parallel and this foreshadows Linda losing Mickey, just like Mrs Johnstone lost her husband all those years before.

Another theme that's highlighted by Willy Russell's character of Mrs Johnstone is violence. Her ~~&~~ use of 'I'll kill y' when telling Sammy off implies that ~~violen~~^{talk} of violence was commonplace in their family and could've ~~been~~ been a factor of what caused Mickey and Eddie's tragic deaths.