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NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
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Level 2 English, 2016

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

2.00 p.m. Thursday 17 November 2016
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.

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

Excellence

TOTAL

E8

ASSESSOR'S USE ONLY

You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 5 pages in length. The quality of your analysis is more important than the length of your essay.

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

Begin your written text(s) essay here:

Question number: 2.

Set on an isolated deserted island, William Golding's Lord of the Flies tells the story of a group of young English boys who try to survive on their own away from civilisation. Their initial attempt to construct a democratic society inevitably crumbles as primal instincts surface and the ways of the old world are rejected, unleashing chaos and destruction upon themselves and the island. William Golding's depiction of the island is multifaceted in the sense of its physical, contextual, and allegorical significances to warn the readers of the true nature of mankind when stripped of its social conventions; the darkness of the human heart.

The physical setting of the island is established by Golding's vivid descriptions and imagery of the natural environmentⁱⁿ which he goes to great lengths to maintain throughout the novel. Golding emphasises the beauty of nature on the island with its "lagoon... still as a mountain lake - blue of all shades..." and "white surf [that] flicked the coral reef", ultimately making the boys' perception of the island to be that of a "good island" when they first arrive. Ironically, the boys' arrival to the island via plane crash leads a "long scar smashed along the jungle", ^{showing that} ~~essentially implying~~ their initial contact with the island is already destructive and foreshadows the destruction that is yet to come. ~~By the end of the novel, the island is laid to waste thanks to the boys' descent into~~

~~savagery~~ However, the introduction of the 'beast' turns what used to be a good island into one full of threat - the night now "full of claws, full of awful unknown and menace". The boys' fear of the mythical beast destroys their initial enchantment with the island and ultimately catalyses their descent into savagery, save for Ralph, Piggy and Simon. By the end of the novel, the island is laid to waste due to the boys' newfound savage nature, leaving it "scorched up like dead wood"; "a burning wreckage". ~~Through~~ By documenting the changes ~~in~~ in the island's physical landscape, Golding allows his readers to track the boys' mental states, as they regress from members of society into savages, and ~~the consequences of this change~~ ~~their impact~~ on the surrounding environment. This illustrates the destructive nature ~~the boys~~ all the boys possessed, appropriately reflecting the destructive nature of humankind. Humans, who are supposedly the most ~~compassionate~~ intelligent and compassionate species on Earth, live our lives not by means of survival or necessity but in comfort at the expense of our planet. ^{Does this case} ~~The case~~ of man-made destruction indicate our innate desire to destroy everything we come into contact with? Is this the darkness that lies within us all?

This idea of man's inherent evil is also developed on a contextual sense in that the island is a microcosm - a smaller version of the world used to comment on wider society. Golding uses the boys on the island to represent ^{or values} factions of society, namely Ralph representing democracy, law and order; Piggy representing intelligence and reason, and Jack representing dictatorship and savagery. The power Ralph holds over the rest of the boys as a democratic

leader in the first few chapters of the novel demonstrate the strong connection that is still present to the social values and conventions of the old world. However, conflict arises between Ralph and Jack due to the former's insistence on rescue and maintaining civilised order, while Jack begins to reject those social norms in favour of primitive behaviour such as hunting, killing and nudity, before finally opposing Ralph's democratic rule by exclaiming "Bullocks to the rules! We're strong-we hunt... if there is a beast we will kill it and beat and beat and beat!" The power struggle between the two boys eventually leaves Jack victorious, Piggy dead and Ralph defenceless against the savage boys. Golding wanted to demonstrate the overwhelming force of brute power of intelligence and reason, and this was successfully shown through the rise of Jack's savage reign, the fall of Ralph's democratic leadership and the death of Piggy (the death of reason). This made me think about ~~the true nature~~ ~~of human nature~~ the role of society in mankind - does it bring out the best qualities of human nature or does it simply suppress the darkness or the evil ~~beast~~ that resides in all of us?

~~Golding's first~~ The final interpretation of the island lies in its allegorical parallels to the Garden of Eden. Much like the biblical narrative, the island is a paradise prior to human contact where "fruit and flower grew on the same tree and everywhere was ripeness". The isolation of the island also created the perfect opportunity for the boys to establish a new society away from civilising influences, especially adults. The parallel continues as the ~~the~~ arrival of the boys introduces an evil in the form of a "snake thing", much like the serpent in the biblical narrative of Adam and Eve. While the

snake in Adam and Eve was an external danger, ~~at~~ Satan in disguise, the evil the boys brought along with them ~~was~~ ^{was} somewhat more sinister - "man's essential illness". Unlike ~~the~~ the story of Adam and Eve, the beast that the boys come to fear is no more than a projection of the violent desires idling in their hearts, however they fail to realise this fact and instead mistaken the beast for a tangible being with "teeth and big black eyes." Their failure to see the true beast within themselves leads to their demise as the boys wreak havoc upon the island thanks to the descent into savagery, catalysed by the fear of the unknown beast. Golding makes it clear to his readers that nothing more than the potential evil the boys harboured corrupted the purity and sanctity of the island, and by relating it to the biblical story of Adam and Eve he presents the idea that human ^{nature is} ~~is~~ rooted in original sin. This brought my attention to the true form of man as something that destroys everything it comes into contact with, and so Golding's belief in the darkness of human nature becomes more and more reasonable for me.

Lord of The Flies was Golding's attempt to "trace the defects of society back to the defects of human nature" after witnessing the horrors of world war two firsthand. ~~But to the war he had believed that man could be perfected through society~~ Although he could not believe the brutality of man to his fellowman, it was not ~~for~~ the physical acts of violence that disturbed him but "the ugliness beyond all words [that were] spoken behind totalitarian states". It was the fact that "educated men, with a tradition of civilisation ^{behind them}" were able to commit these acts of war at the cost of the countless lives of young men fighting under them.

Golding wrote this novel to warn readers of the evil that man was capable of, however the "vileness beyond words" is still present in today's society. Just look at what is happening in the United States. With Donald Trump's election victory based on the discrimination racial minorities and women's rights inciting violence and outrageous incidents of racial harassment by humans towards human beings, there can be no ^{reason} ~~other reason~~ ~~for this than~~ ~~for this~~ to justify these sorts of actions other than the truth of man's inherent evil.

In conclusion, Golding uses ~~the~~ his multi-layered depiction of the desert island in Lord of the Flies to uncover the true nature of man and reveal the ~~brutality~~ brutality we are all capable of.

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Excellence exemplar 2016

Subject:		English	Standard:	91098	Total score:	E8
Q	Grade score	Annotation				
1		<p>“Lord of the Flies”</p> <p>This is a good example of a succinct E8-level response. The candidate uses the changes in the physical setting of the island to lead into a wider insightful discussion about human nature. They then discuss the how setting is a microcosm of society and human behaviour, and end by addressing the allegorical interpretation.</p> <p>The political comment made in the conclusion was a sentiment frequently encountered in this year’s papers.</p>				