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91472



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Level 3 English, 2015

91472 Respond critically to specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence

2.00 p.m. Thursday 12 November 2015
Credits: Four

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

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

7

ASSESSOR'S USE ONLY

The characters we respond to
BOTH SUFFERING and

Your essay should be AT LEAS
conventions.

In your essay, discuss the exte
critically to the statement by me

Begin your written text(s) essay t

Statement number: 1

For someone to change the world, blood must be spilt. Richard III, a play by William Shakespeare portrays an evil, deformed son of the house of York after the Wars of the Roses. Richard the protagonist, is the one who kills most of his family members in order to become king. Set in the 1590's, Shakespeare still has very relevant ideas that carry on to the present. For example, the characters whom we respond to the most sympathetically are those who experience both suffering and triumph. I rigidly agree with this statement because it is human nature to feel sympathy for this combination in a character to the extent that a person is a victim of their own ignorance. I will show you why.

This tragedy starts with Richard's opening Soliloquy. At first Richard seems to be in a joyous manner, in an almost sarcastic way. He talks about how wonderful it is that the War of the Roses is finally over. "Now is the winter of our discontent / Made glorious summer / By this son of York." However the audience soon realises that this is pure sarcasm as he loathes the idea of the war being over. "I

that am rudely stamped... that is why I am determined to prove myself a villain... and hate the idle pleasures of these days." Richard is referring to his deformity. It is said that he had a hunched back and a deformed arm. Richard claims that because of this he is not popular with women at all. Which is why he is not happy when the war is over ~~and everyone is making love~~ because he has nothing else to do since everyone else is making love. Out of Richard's suffering, he manipulates the audience into feeling sympathy towards him. Notice how I used the word manipulates. Perhaps this soliloquy is to foreshadow at how good he is at manipulating others for his own gains. As later on he does prove this. However it also gives the audience into a brief insight of the allure of evil. The audience can understand why Richard wants to be a villain and the audience feels sympathetic towards him because of this. However it is human nature to be attracted to the allure of evil, as it holds a certain mystique and power to it. Feeling sympathetic towards Richard almost makes him justified to turn evil, even though he does not start in a position of grace.

Act 1 Scene 2, Richard woo's Lady Anne to marry him in order to gain political power. Even though he killed her husband and father, Richard manages to seduce Lady Anne through his "Honeyed words." however it is the way that he does it which is interesting.

"These eyes could not endure thy beauty's wreck." The dialogue Richard uses has the effect of manipulating Lady Anne to feel sympathy for him. Not unlike how Richard manipulated the audience in his soliloquy to feel sympathy for him. This is why I mentioned foreshadowing and I believe Shakespeare is very clever to have done this, not to mention he is already exploring the mechanics of evil in the way that Richard manipulates people ~~then~~ for his own gain. Since Lady Anne is still angry at Richard for killing her spouse and her father Richard takes this scene further. Richard takes out his sword and hands it to her. He gives her the offer to kill him in the belief that he would rather die than not be with her. Lady Anne falls for this bluff and is manipulated, like the audience to feel sympathy for him. In her eyes he has suffered because he had to kill for her and love for her. In the audience's eyes Richard has suffered because of his deformity, making him somewhat of an outcast. However Richard triumphs in this scene. He took what he wanted, which begs the question, why then does the audience feel sympathy towards him, if he both suffers and triumphs? Perhaps Shakespeare is trying to give us the idea that if someone only suffers, and does nothing to at least try and triumph, then perhaps we do not feel sympathy for them because they have lost their will to fight. Humans are primal that way, in which we like to fight, we like conflict. It is interesting. If the whole play was only about Richard suffering, then the play would be boring because it

would go nowhere. The audience would be done feeling sorry for him. This links to the whole genre of tragedy. Richard III is a tragedy play, with a climax and a fall. A suffering character turning evil is both interesting and sympathetic.

Clarence, who is Richard's older brother gets killed because he is in the way of the line to Richard getting the throne. Before this unforgivable act Clarence has a dream, "methought Gloucester stumbled, and in falling struck me." Clarence had a dream that he and Richard were both on a ship, however Richard 'accidentally' pushed Clarence off the ship and he drowned, not long before he gets drowned in a barrel of wine, for real. Shakespeare uses this technique of a prophetic dream to foreshadow what will happen to Clarence. More importantly, it demonstrates dramatic irony. Shakespeare does this to flatter the audience. Firstly Shakespeare flattered the audience by letting them in on Richard's plan, and then portraying Clarence's innocence and ignorance in his dream which also flatters the audience because we know that Clarence will die. But Clarence does not ^{know}. The audience does not feel as sympathetic towards Clarence. They do to an extent because of ~~of~~ ^{his} being stabbed in the back by his brother. However Clarence is not as innocent as he acts. He killed many people not unlike Richard did in the Wars of the Roses. However Richard embraces the evil side, he knows he is bad. The audience knows that Clarence is trying to forget his sins however,

because this is a cowardly act. In the sense that he does not face his problems head on. The audience does not feel as much sympathy for him. Instead it is saved for Richard who has both suffering and triumph. And there is Clarence who wants to forget the suffering and triumph. Shakespeare is therefore also teaching us that despite being evil, a character is more interesting and sympathetic for having suffered and triumph because they accept that.

- *1 Richard is finally crowned and Shakespeare uses more dramatic irony for this scene. Richard and Richard's right hand Buckingham get the sense that the ~~most~~ people do not like the idea of Richard becoming king. What Richard does is he pretends to pray ~~with~~ with two Bishops in order to look humble and hide the fact that Richard is thirsty for the crown. "O, do not swear, my lord Buckingham!" After Buckingham acts to force the role of king on Richard, he pretends to reluctantly take it. This is the last of Richard's manipulative acts working well. As the tragedy goes, he falls from grace after he is crowned. Now that he is king Richard is terrified of people like himself stabbing him in the back. Richmond or Henry Tudor eventually does this. Even though Shakespeare had to court the people in power who were watching the play at the time, which were the Tudors, Shakespeare had to ~~for~~ exemplify Richard as pure evil. However Shakespeare was still clever enough to portray the

Extra space if required.

Write the question number(s) if applicable.

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Carried
on

there of evil, without ruining the historical accuracy too much. Furthermore Shakespeare got away with making the whole play about Richard. He is the hero of the play. Shakespeare was clever enough to make Richard evil, but also make him a likeable and as a character whom we feel sympathy for. The triumph and suffering both feed into each other. Richard would not have gotten where he was, had he not suffered. Revealing all his suffering and triumphs because he was the main character made the audience feel the most sympathy towards him.

In final consideration, this tragedy is still relevant today. Every human endures suffering and triumph, however, perhaps we feel worse feeling sorry for ourselves. Perhaps it is easier to feel sorry for other characters. It was Shakespeare's goal to make it look like Richard was the bad apple in the barrel. Once he was rid of the barrel was clean and great like the Tudor dynasty. However this play was not just a tool for Tudor propaganda. The reason why we feel sympathy for Richard is because the audience can see themselves as being Richard. They feel more sorry for him that despite his suffering and triumphs, society took him down. Which is why society encourages people not to kill, because you would end up like Richard. The poor, deformed character.

Excellence exemplar for 91098 2015		Total score	7
Q	Grade score	Annotation	
1	E7	<p>This answer features a strong emphasis on audience engagement. The candidate answers all parts of the statement. The candidate ensures that the important parts of the question remain out front. The argument shows evidence of bringing it all together. The candidate sees the subtlety in the character and gives the reader a clever take on the play and on human nature. There's a real sense of personal engagement in this essay.</p>	