Conor Doyle

English Ms.Daly

26.05.2023

Q1

Video games,

Friends

Hard work

Family events

Joy is one of the most important things we can feel as human beings, it's what gives many people purpose in their life's and without certain joys in my life I don’t think I would be around today Many things bring joy to be in life such as my family and friends, working hard and video games. These things bring me joy in life for many different reasons.

Video games are one thing that brings me joy again and again. Wherever I am in life no matter how bad my day was I always find time to play a round of a game or replay a mission in my favorite story games. This brings me joy for many reasons. For one the feeling of competition and winning. Due to having dyspraxia, a condition that affects my coordination, I was never any good at sports and thus never truly felt the feeling of pure joy to winning something after a hard-fought match. Despite this I have found that feeling though another method video games, and while they may not be as physically healthy as a physical sport, I find it has helped me numerous times over when I am not in the best place in life. I have spent hours with friends suffering the lowest of lows after losing a hard-fought match of counterstrike to the highest of highs after pulling off an impossible comeback. Those are just multiplayer games. Many games do not have this aspect and are instead a great form an escapism that bring me countless hours of joy. A great example of this is a game called Red Dead Redemption 2. To me it's like a 60-hour movie. The story telling is incredible and makes me want to be an outlaw in the late 1800s. But due to its great writing and story telling it feels extreme levels of joy to see the main character succeed and although it's sad ending made me and many others cry, I look back on all the joy that the game gave me along its 60-hour journey. Video games provide me with joy in 2 main ways as a form of escapism to distract me form a hard day and well as the social aspect that keeps me in touch with a friend who has since moved to another country.

My Friends are another thing that give me joy. Throughout my life I have found it very hard to make close friends so much, so it nearly took me 2 years to make any real friends here in secondary school. Of course, I am friendly with many people but due to issues in my past around bullying I find it hard to trust people. That’s why the friends I do have I cherish dearly and the stuff that we do brings me more joy than everything else. Friends provide me with the resources I need to do well in school in the social aspect and despite me working very hard to do well if I did not have my friends, I don’t think I could do as well as I currently do in many subjects. One of the greatest joys in my life is about twice a year when a friend I have known since I was baby travels to Dublin and spends I few nights with my family and despite it only being few days. Those few days are the highlights of my year every year and even when I have had an argument with my family, I know my friends are there to get me through and just be there for me to rant too. Overall friends give me great joy in life and although me to achieve things I would not otherwise be able to do

Sports can give me so much joy as well as so much pain. Although earlier I said I could never really play sports and while that remains through, I still love to watch sports. I have been a Manchester United fan all my life stemming from my dad's love of them and his dad before that. I was just old enough to be able to see the end of Man United golden era a time when we won the league every year. This has long since passed but my love for the club has remained. Every time man united win a match especially in the last minute I can't help but feel so joyful. I remember early this season man united lost 4-0 to Brentford a on paper much worse team. This was embarrassing and caused me a lot of pain but the next week we played are biggest rivals Liverpool and in a shock to everyone including me we beat them 2-1. I remember being ecstatic that night and the high of winning that match carried me through the next week. Although I am not part of the team when for your whole life you have been following one team it makes it feel as though you are part of that team. This brings me great joy and happiness as despite being nearly unable to play sport, I can still feel like I am part of a team when watching sports and especially when watching football

Out of all the things I mentioned family is probably the one that gives me the most joy. Every week I spend every Sunday after work in my granny's house with most of my extended family that is not aboard this is something witch I look forward to every week and it's what gets me through even some of the toughest days in work dealing with massive spills or rude customers. My extended family has also given me great opportunities to travel around the world. One of my uncles lived in Toronto Cananda and I was invited to go to his daughter's communion in Cannada. Due to my great aunt and her children living in Jordan I was able to visit Petra and other beautiful sites around the country. My second cousin's wife is Italian and so their wedding was in Italy we had a flights and hotel pay for so we could go. And in the next few years my second cousin who works as an engineer for the emirate of Dubai has invited me over to visit for a few weeks. Overall, my family has given me boundless joy and given me opportunities to do one of my favorite things which is travel as it brings me immense joy to see new and unique cultures around the world. It also brings me joy just to catch up with my family and to see how they are doing.

Overall, there are many things that bring me joy in life from video games to friends to sport and family. Without these few things I do not think I would be anywhere near as happy as I am with my life as I am right now. It has brought me joy just thinking about all the things I mentioned in the essay. But what gives me the most joy is when 2 or more of those things combine, such as playing video games with my friends and watching football with my dad and uncles. Those are the things that truly give me most joy in life.

Section 2:

Comprative topics:

Expression

Conformity

Education

Thought

Cost

The theme of freedom has the greatest impact on the lives of the central characters in the texts. “Educated” by Tara Wester over (“E”) is a memoir about Taras's life and her struggles with gaining and education. “The Shawshank Redemption” by Frank Darabont(“SR”) is about a man called Andy Dufresne and his struggle to gain his freedom form Shawshank Prison. The theme of freedom is seen throughout and how it effects the lives of the Central Characters

The theme of freedom is explored through freedom of expression we see in “E” how Gene Westover oppresses his family for them to survive the supposed incoming apocalypse we originally see Tyler break this Mould by studying and listening to music instead of doing his work on the scrap yard. We see this influence spread to Tara who was inspired to study and began listening to Tyler's records and soon passed the act and was able to go to college. Tara also attended theatre group witch for a while allowed her to gain confidence in herself and what she looked like but soon her brother Sean joined and began saying she looked like a prostitute, and this affected her view of herself for large parts of the book. Andy in “SR” throughout the movie can be seen expressing himself in whatever way he can from reading to shaping rocks to look like chess pieces. After Andy was sent some books and records by the state taking advantage of being left alone while sorting them he used the prisons PA system to play Mozart to all the prisoners and even though he was placed in the “hole” (solitary confinement) he insisted that they could not break him as he always could listen to Mozart in his head and that they can't take it away from him. Freedom of expression has a profound impact on both characters as they struggle in their respective situations, but it allows them the ability to achieve greater freedoms.

Another way in which freedom is explored in the texts is freedom in conformity. In “E” whist Tara eventually goes to college at BYU being there teaches her that she has been sheltered away from many things all her life and soon learns that she may not have the skills to conform to a less conservative society. This leads to her refusing to even study on a Sunday and it causes her to not sleep and soon makes her quite ill. After she broke a rule of her mother and took an antibiotic, coincidently her father was in a horrific explosion, and he seemed to be on the brink of death. Using this as the excuse she needs, she returns home to her family to allow her to conform to her mother and father's rules and she finds comfort in this. Her inability to conform to society had a huge impact on her life as she always longed to return home to her family. In “SR” while throughout the text Andy refuses to allow himself to be institutionalized, another character brooks before even being let go begins to panic about being on the outside. Brooks had spent most of his adult life being told what to do and when he could do it. This effected brooks in several ways to the point when he took his own life. This effect Andy Deeply and he could at first not understand why Brooks had done it as he had maintained hope throughout his time at Shawshank prison but Red explained how Brooks was a smart man inside but just another felon on the outside and that Brooks was just unable to reform. Both had a profound effect on the central characters as we see Tara struggle to conform to the outside world and many times going back to her family and we also see Andy fight against conformity while his friend Brooks takes his own life because he is unable to conform to the outside world

Education is key to both characters' stories throughout the text. In “E” Tara while going to BYU learns about many things that her father and family kept form her such as the Holocaust which caused her to lose her only friend in BYU at the time as she taught, she was making a joke about when in reality he was just unaware. Tara also became aware of the civil rights movement of the 1960s and this completely changed her world view as she had just taught racism had ended in after the end of slavery. This also affected her personal life as she had used the N-word in the past and when she was home that summer her brother Sean called her the N-word and they got into a huge fight. Tara also learned about Ruby Ridge, the event her father used to scare the family into becoming what was basically doomsday preppers. She also learned of a disorder known as bipolar disorder and it allowed her to justify her father's actions. But ultimately her education is what allows Tara to break free from the oppression of her family and her father's pursuit of freedom that just restricts hers. In “SR” Education is what keeps Andy alive and what gains him his freedom. At the start of his prison term Andy is being abused by a group of prisoners known as the “the sisters” who rape and sexually abuse him. After Andy makes a deal with the warden of Shawshank, he agrees to the guards' taxes and lander money for warden. This leads to the leader of the sisters being beaten and paralyzed by Captain Hadly. His education and dealing with the warden allow Andy to set up a library for the inmates and allows him to set up a fake identity for him when he is on the outside after his escape. Education has a massive impact on both Tara and Andy as they both try and succeed escape the system, they were trapped in Taras being her family and and Andys one being the prison.

In conclusion the theme of freedom explored in several ways has a profound impact on the characters and their lives. From education allows both to gain ultimate freedom. Also, how conformity affected both of their lives providing comfort for Tara and something Andy desperately tried to avoid. From Taras struggling with expressing herself to Andy constantly finding new ways to. The theme of freedom has had a huge impact on the lives of both the central charters in the text

Section 3 Unseen poetry

Q2:

(A)

I think the poet portrays the grandfather in a positive manner someone who is always childlike in nature saying that only they can “recapture” it also portrays the grandfather as someone who is very hard working waking up a 6am and the onomatopoeia of the banging really brings you into the sounds he would make in the early morning while in the same line making reference to his child like nature. The poet's one critic of his grandfather was that we were never there when you called but always there after work and in the morning. The poet also discussed how even when the grandfather was wounded once he had had time to recover, he was making jokes. The B sound runs through the first stanza adding to the sound of the grandfather working

(b)

I believe the closing message of the poem is that the poet did not want to escape his grandfather but in the end his grandfather escaped him as he has since passed on. The repetition of the word escape adds a finality to the line. The leadup to the final line shows how the grandfather spent most of his time at work coming home late and just going to bed shows how maybe the poet wished their grandad could spend more time with them instead of working and the c sound throughout is like the sound of the clock ticking ever closer to the end of the grandfathers life