



## AP<sup>®</sup> English Literature 2003 Sample Student Responses Form B

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In Heart of Darkness, the character ~~Marlow~~ Marlow, a white, English sailor, travels into the heart of the Congo in search of a mysterious enigma named Kurtz. Coming from a domineering, imperialistic country of Europe, Marlow faces a great cultural collision when he journeys into Africa - he is shocked and repulsed by the treatment of natives, and his final discovery of the true nature of Kurtz calls into question the very nature of his own morals and beliefs.

Marlow first obtains his job of ~~captain~~ ~~captaining~~ a steamship down the Congo River through his ~~aunt~~ aunt. His aunt, a proper, conventional woman of the time, is convinced of the moral goodness of Marlow's mission - to bring light and education to ignorant natives and spread the greater good around the world. Her opinions, a thinly veiled disguise to justify European imperialism, was a conventional belief at the time of many Europeans, believing that places such as Africa needed to be properly "civilized." Marlow, ~~to~~ despite coming from such a background, is nevertheless shocked and repulsed by the state and treatment of the African natives he comes across - he describes them as being treated like animals, ~~and~~ beaten and degraded. He is not used to the wildness of the jungle he finds himself in - the very nature of the Congo is exotic, unfamiliar, and ~~with~~ hints of danger.

Journeying down the Congo River ~~to find~~ in search of Kurtz, Marlow at first hears wonderful things about him. Kurtz is educated, a magnificent writer, benevolent, intelligent, and generous. Marlow, trapped ~~in the company of~~ in the company of

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~~at~~ ~~against~~ hypocritical, self-serving men, disgusted and offended by their actions, is eager to meet Kurtz; viewing him as the light of hope among darkness. However, when Marlow finally does confront Kurtz, he finds a man completely opposite to ~~the~~ the man he envisioned.

~~Kurtz~~ Kurtz, like Marlow, is a fellow European who has made his living in the Congo. Once part of the Company, Kurtz, as Marlow discovers, has now disowned the Company and forsaken the values and laws associated with it — he now hoards his gold and exerts his will upon the natives, setting himself up as a sort of tyrannical god, ~~the~~ lording over a clan of African natives. ~~Living~~ Living in the heart of the Congo, a place without rules ~~and~~ of any sort, Kurtz, so far removed from the cultural ties of his European home, has fallen ~~the~~ prey to the darkness within his own heart. Marlow finds him completely depraved and dehumanized — Kurtz is a shell of a man, sick, feeble, and on his last legs. His dying words: "The horror! the horror!" only serve to reflect the utter despair and dehumanization Kurtz has ultimately become. ~~The~~ The wildness and lawlessness of the African Congo has driven Kurtz mad, and Marlow, recognizing this, is left deeply disturbed and shaken. Ultimately, Kurtz's removal from European society and his chosen self-exile, falling prey to the hypocrisy and darkness within himself, as well as Marlow's own revelation, serve as a thematic reminder of the darkness that can be found in the hearts of all human beings.

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In the novel \*A Room With a View\*, by E. M. Forster, the protagonist, Lucy travels to Italy on holiday. While in Italy, Lucy has two encounters that call her sense of identity into question. These encounters ~~shape~~ change her perspective and shift her priorities. Her Lucy's response to these encounters and what she gains from them contribute to the novel's themes of suppression of the natural and self-actualization.

Lucy's first encounter is in the churchyard with Mr. Emerson and the small Italian child. Her second encounter is in the square where the Italian men duel and ~~then~~ after, her ~~encounter~~ <sup>time</sup> with George in Italy. She not only experiences Italian culture, but also American culture from ~~the~~ George and Mr. Emerson. These encounters jar Lucy's set ~~ideas~~ ideals and ideas pertaining to "delicacy". Her response to these experiences shapes her character.


After her encounter with the Italian child, Lucy realizes that natural things cannot be suppressed, including her emotions and thoughts. After the incident in the square, she realizes what she needs from love and that her life lacks enough passion. The first event becomes significant when she begins to act upon her emotions and ends her engagement with Cecil. The second event is



becomes important as Lucy begins to pursue her ideas, dreams and desires. Lucy responds to her ~~ex~~ experiences with Italian and American cultures by empowering ~~herself~~ herself and making her own choices. Lucy's liberation is vital to the theme of self-actualization. Her instillation of passion, love and freedom in her life allow her to shed Victorian ideals and ~~stop~~ ~~be~~ ~~truly~~ truly herself.

Lucy's experiences in Italy are vitally important to the novel as a whole. The first experience highlights the theme of the suppression of natural things and the harm it causes. The second encounter and Lucy's response are vital to the novel. Lucy's recreation of herself as the person she wants to be is the illustration of ~~them~~ the theme of self-actualization and freedom. Both incidents relay the need for passion, another theme threaded throughout the novel.

Lucy's encounters with different cultures redefine her identity. Each encounter not only shapes her and the people around her, but the central themes in the novel. Lucy's experiences are not ~~always~~ character specific, but are



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the illustration and embodiment of  
the novel's major themes.

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In The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, the main character is an orphan who grows up free of doctrines and <sup>has</sup> no moral obligations to his parents. Pressured by southern traditional values, Huck must decide on his own what he feels to be morally right and wrong.

In the beginning of the novel, Mrs. Watson tries to teach Huck about religion and persuades him to try praying. However, Huck decides to go in the forest and "have a think"; he does not want to accept Mrs. Watson's God with ~~full conformity~~ <sup>full conformity</sup>, but wants to decide <sup>what</sup> ~~it~~ is the best solution for him. He wants to escape the rigidity of civilization ~~and to~~ <sup>to</sup> be close to nature, on the river where he can ~~think~~ <sup>think</sup>, free of societal influences. Thus, the strict ideals of Miss Watson ~~cause~~ <sup>cause</sup> Huck ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> contemplate his identity. When forced to decide whether or not to turn Jim into his owner, Huck's ~~heart~~ <sup>heart</sup> "wasn't right" because he ~~didn't~~ <sup>didn't</sup> want to hurt Jim or Mrs. Watson. He finally ~~accepts~~ <sup>accepts</sup> the consequence and ~~agrees~~ <sup>agrees</sup> to "go to hell" in order to save a friend, the black slave Jim. ~~Huck~~ <sup>Huck</sup> is not pressured by the southern values of the culture he grows up in. Furthermore, the

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two con-men,

Duke and the King, envelop Huck with lies. Nevertheless, Huck does not fall susceptible to their scheme of taking ~~another~~ family's money. Instead, he confronts Julia and tells her the truth. Huck realizes that "it's safer to tell the truth than lie". Through his journey, Huck is often faced with colliding views of the ~~right~~ "appropriate" choice, but experience aids him in making ~~the~~ his own morally right decisions.

~~This~~  
The novel ends ~~by~~ implying that Huck will continue on his journey through life and ~~his~~ his identity will be further developed by ~~his~~ his experiences. It reveals America's goal to be independent ~~and~~ through self-reflection and questioning of ~~the~~ different cultures.

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