



AP[®] English Lit (Operational) 2004 Sample Student Responses

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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

In his passage, Henry James creates ~~three~~ and develops three characters: Pemberton, Morgan, and Mrs. Moreen. Using multiple rhetorical devices, James assumes a tone of light mocking and irony, ^{From} ~~using~~ the perspective of an omniscient narrator and focusing on Pemberton's reaction, James elaborates a mocking portrait of a man seeking employment.

Rhetorical devices and details depict the Moreens, mother and son, as frivolous and haughty, invoking a sense of insecurity in Pemberton. In the first paragraph, Mrs. Moreen is described as a "person who spoke only of feelings" (3-4), implying a character of air "of the aristocracy" (4), an aside, mocks her high ^{rank} of aristocratic tradition some depth. This implication is ~~strongly~~ ^{agreed} undermined in his description of her "fat, jewelled hand" (10) and her obvious evasion of the topic of concern - Pemberton's salary. Using foreign words in line 9, James ~~shows~~ demonstrates Mrs. Moreen's desire to be aristocratic, but this image is bungled by the fact that these "gantse svéde" are "soiled" (9). James is clearly mocking her self-importance. Morgan Moreen is no more sympathetic a character than his mother; he is impolite, arrogant and generally a brat. James' attempt to tone down the child's rude behavior - "he might be unpleasant" (53) - is understatement. ~~The~~ The use of understatement brings out the ironic nature of what he is saying. However, these characters are merely a backdrop that reveal the nature of Pemberton.

In this passage, the relationship of Pemberton to the Moreens reveals his insecure, impish nature which is ^{shown} ~~revealed~~ ^{from} ~~through~~ the point of view of the narrator. Because we can see the impressions of both Mrs. Moreen and Pemberton, their interaction



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is especially revealing. At the beginning of the passage, Pemberton is a sympathetic character; his insecurity is universally felt. However, ~~then it is revealed~~ as the conversation progresses, the ironic attitude of the Narrator towards him becomes increasingly apparent. Late in the first paragraph, the ~~an~~ omniscient narrator reveals his reaction to Morton; Morton's "personage" (20), his behavior, demonstrated that he ~~needed~~^{needs} to be taught courtesy. To the reader, the ~~the~~ location of Morton's gaze seems a moot point and its emphasis satyrizes the impishness of Pemberton. The relationship between ~~the~~ Pemberton and Mrs. Moreen ~~resembles~~ resembles that of a queen to a toadying servant. He cannot ask her a simple question. Pemberton's point of view, his reaction to the relationship between mother and son, further enunciates his character. Mother ~~denies~~ ~~denies~~ denies her son ~~stately~~ "at the mercy of a weakness" (35), and he goes off onto a tangent concerning ~~the~~ how he ~~was~~ heard of this position. Pemberton is not a little unfocused. His "impression of (the) prospective pupil" (44) shows ~~the~~ Pemberton's own weakness; he is intimidated by a sickly young boy, saying the boy might "prove cleverer than himself" (55). James uses ~~the~~ the narrator's point of view to reveal Pemberton's rampant insecurity, satyrizing all of the characters that he portrays.

Using fiction, direct quotes and an all-knowing narrator to reveal the attitudes of the characters, James creates a tone that becomes increasingly mocking and ironic as the paragraph progresses.



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From the uneasiness of Pemberton's point-of-view to the lamentable observations that Mrs. Moreen makes, all mock their characters. Pemberton's obsessive and overly emphasized self-censure and ~~and~~ contemplation constitutes exaggeration for effect. The characters of "The Pupil" are ultimately sketches, stereotypes, to be mocked and looked down upon, bringing up the reader's opinion of his or her self.

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In Henry James' story, "The Pupil" James introduces three main characters, Mrs. Moreen, Morgan Moreen, and Pemberton. All three of these characters interact with ~~one another~~ ~~each other~~ each other and it is through this interaction that one can see the character of each. By closely examining ~~this story~~ "The Pupil" one can see that Henry James creates ~~contrasting~~ contrasting characters that work together to tell a story.

By first comparing Pemberton to Mrs. Moreen, Henry James is able to compare different classes of society. Mrs. Moreen, who is very rich, as evident through the description of her "fat jewelled hand" regards money in a offhand, careless way. One gets a sense of this carelessness through Pemberton's opening thoughts regarding money. While he is focused on his salary, the reader gets the sense that money is of no concern for Mrs. Moreen since she never broaches the subject. Mrs. Moreen represents a class of high society, while Pemberton contrasts this by representing the lower society.

Throughout the story, ~~Pemberton~~ Pemberton,



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Main focus is about his salary. His worry about his salary represents his, and his ~~society~~ societies, concern and appreciation for the value of money, contrast directly with that of Mrs. Moreen's disregard and unconcerned attitude for money. Thus through these characters ~~the difference~~ and the relationship between them, one gets an idea of the social structure of the time period.

Henry James also contrasts Pemberton with Morgan Moreen. Pemberton, who is more timid and modest, shows respect and manners to those around him. This respect is manifested through his hesitation "broach the subject" of money. He respects Mrs. Moreen as a person ~~to~~ he should be as courteous and well-behaved as possible. This contrasts directly with Morgan Moreen who uses bad manners and little respect towards his mother. An example of this disrespect is when he looks at Pemberton when ~~at~~ "appearing" to address himself to his mother". This disrespect is another manifestation ~~of~~ of the differences in social classes of the time.

Finally, the contrast between Pemberton's



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disposition and Morgan's disposition is a direct contrast with each other. As the story states, "Pemberton was modest - he was even timid". This contrasts with Morgan's disposition of possibly being "unpleasant". Also the statement "the chance that his small scholar might prove cleverer than himself... had quite figured, to his nervousness, among the dangers of an untried experiment". The thought by Pemberton that his student might be more clever than himself represents the social thinking of the time, that the aristocracy was better than that of the lower society.

Thus one can see that ~~Henry Frost~~ ~~Henry~~ Henry James' "The Pupil" is a story regarding social customs of the time. By closely examining the contrast between Pemberton and both Mrs. Moreen and Morgan Moreen, one sees how the author is able to use these characters as representations for the aristocracy and lower classes of 1891. ~~Thus one can see~~ Therefore, "The Pupil" ceases to be a story about a teacher, and becomes a story about



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the social order of this time.

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Pemberton, Mrs. Moreen, and the pupil are characterized with their personality and actions. Henry James uses an indirect way of describing these people that is refreshing. Before reading, the title of this selection, "The Pupil", gave me a hint with what the story would be about. It gave me a preconceived notion of one boy and his life through education. My assumption partly came true.

From this part of the book, it seems that the author is going to tell the story of the tutor of the little boy. This is clear through the point of view which is limited omniscient. James gives us a look into the mind of the tutor from the start in the first paragraph. This gives the selection a different than I first expected, but is used intellectually throughout this piece.

My favorite part of this reading was the author's characterization. Although there is some direct and outward




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descriptions, most of what they learn about the characters is through their actions. It is easy to gain the same feelings that Pemberton has because the reader has an inside look into his thoughts. When James writes about the affable Mrs. Moreen, I can picture her perfectly putting on her "soiled gants de suède through a fat, jewelled hand." The imagery is vibrant and believable for the time period especially. The little boy treats his mother incorrectly according to Pemberton which shows his old-fashioned and "classy" side.

The relationships between the characters give a glimpse into their behaviors and personalities. Although Pemberton is new to these people, he still harshly judges them by their actions and has already decided what they are like. Pemberton is only interested in the money he will receive which I think will play a part in the rest of the story.



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This story seems inviting and the narration works well with the subject matter. The vivid descriptions and forming relationships makes ~~me~~ me keep with what will happen next. The tone is a mix between charging and pressing which gives it an amiable feel. It makes me want to keep reading this from the start.

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