



AP[®] English Literature 2002 Sample Student Responses Form B

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This expository description of Quoye firmly establishes his character. From the description of his childhood, to his family background, the evolution of his character is traced. The author provides a vivid impression of Quoye through the use of language, in providing visual images of Quoye and by exposing his thoughts and feelings to the reader.

Quoye's childhood is described as miserable. Indeed, the use of the term "survived" indicates that life in these "gut-roaring", "dreary" town was near-fatal. The term "camouflaged" further confirms a need to survive through hiding. This theme of hiding is developed with the recurrent theme of Quoye's chin: he is forced to hide it, and, like a hunted animal, "invent stratagems" to deflect attention away from it. The repetition of this theme ("kept his hand over his chin") emphasizes the shame associated with it, and the constant worry it entails for Quoye. In effect, he describes it as a "freakish shelf", adding to the lexical field of monstrosity he attributes to himself: "monstrous", "freakish", "amorphous", "bustface". It is evident that Quoye has an alarmingly small amount of self-esteem.

The author goes on to explain the origins of this lack of self-esteem: traumatic childhood experiences; his father throwing him in the pool, his brother making fun of him... His repeated failures - which the author emphasizes by repeating the term "failure" in an anaphoric manner - make him into a plague for his father, a sort of cancer ("virulent cells"). All of his miseries and deceptions stem from one chief failure, which the author does not state until the end of the 6th paragraph: that of "normal appearance". By waiting so long to indicate the reason for Quoye's lack of success, the author builds up the pejorative descriptions of her character and makes him even more vivid in our mind.

Piroux goes on to describe Quoye's adult life. He "stumbled" through his twenties - creating the allegory of an arduous trek through his twenties - and makes his many jobs into a list - a boring, unimportant, monotonous list, removing any importance, they might ever have had.

Question 1.

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The pejorative term "the rock" to name his homeland detracts all value Newfoundland might have. And Quoy's natural difficulties - speech impediment, large build - are unremittingly alluded to in the author's style of writing. The constant use of fragment sentences, especially in the 7th paragraph, refer to Quoy's "failure to speak clearly", whereas the "large" lexical field ("giant's", "a great damp dog", "a head taller"), allude to his embarrassing height.

Quoy is further established as a character through his thoughts. We feel his constant embarrassment with the author's constant mention of his chin and great body; we understand the shame he feels around his family (accumulation of insults in l. 32-33; his father's condescension); we can actually feel Quoy's father's "clenched grip" on us, and taste the "brack and waterweed"; we can identify with his longing to be part of a different family; most of all, we are trapped in his confusion: just as "nothing [is] clear to lonesome Quoy", everything is "blurred" and "muddled" for us as well.

The author of this passage thus creates a very vivid description of her character. She creates a visual and tactile portrait of him, and a compelling and moving biography of him through a subtle use of language and style.

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The author of the passage does create a vivid description of Quoyle's character. He or she uses visual imagery, syntax, and diction to give readers the outcasted qualities of Quoyle, reducing his self-worth and social appearance.

The author's visual imagery shows Quoyle's monstrous physical appearance and apparent incapacities. The passage is littered with phrases such as "hive-spangled", "a great damp loaf of a body" and "a freakish shelf jutting from the lower face." Quoyle's physical appearance contains such visual hyperbole because of Quoyle's lack of self-worth; his features lead to attempts to hide his body and soul ~~behind~~ behind his hand. Quoyle feels he is incapable of productive contributions to society based on his self-worth, and the visual imagery shows the reader his lack of self-esteem.

Beyond visual imagery, the syntax of the passage further paints Quoyle as a simplistic character. Quoyle's life becomes a mixture of telegraphic phrases and incomplete sentences. The author writes as though Quoyle were a series of newspaper headlines, giving others little opportunity to investigate the story inside. Quoyle's self-worth and simple

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ways become short, ~~and~~ and plain clauses with little elaborate language to decorate his life. The author has displayed Quoyle as a simpleton, with no chance to show others his inner potential.

The diction of the passage clinches Quoyle's trap of ridicule and unproductivity. Though random bits of intelligent language poke through the passage, like "an explosion of virulent cells", "head shaped like a Crenshaw, no neck, reddish hair sucked back", or, "went home for weekends of excoriation," Quoyle's lack of self worth brings such intelligent talk down to plain and simple truths. Quoyle always feels he is a "failure" and simply disappointed his family and social environment. Through the potential for productivity appears, Quoyle reduces himself to a social pariah and a self-denied outcast. The passage's diction reflects the denial of Quoyle's self-value.

The author of this passage has used diction, syntax, and visual imagery to relay Quoyle's low self-esteem and social outcast to the reader. The author's description vividly portrays Quoyle's inadequacies and dampened opportunities.

Quoye as a character, as portrayed by the author, seems to be a very indifferent and lonely guy as it shows by the author's use of diction, syntax, imagery, + figurative language.

First of his diction, choice of words, are very vivid. Even in the very beginning (line 3) "dreary upstate town" the author starts to describe Quoye w/ a negative tone. It also serves to foreshadow the negative ^{outcome} of this passage. His brother Dick calls him "Smotface, Ugly Pig, Whut hog, Stupid, Stomblomb, Greasbag." (lines 32-33) The author's choice of words show how laughed upon he is by his brother. These words seem to portray Quoye in, yet again, a negative sense. With the author's use of diction imagery is also created in order to bring out Quoye's character.

In the second paragraph it starts w/ vivid image, ^{describing} stating that Quoye as "fliv-spangled, gut roaring w/ gas + cramp" (line 4) which brings a visual image of a fat gas accompanied child. And it's because of this that the words that Dick calls his brother + this imagery that the true character of Quoye is shown to the reader.

In lines 7-42 also show great ~~img~~ imagery with great adjectives such as: "great damp loaf of a body" (line 37), "buried under... flubs" (line 38-39), "head like a crenshaw" (line 38), "m. neck, reddish hair runched back" (line 39-40), "eyes color of plastic" (line 41), + "monstrous chin" (line 41-42). ~~Ther~~ These images help the reader visualize what Quoye looks like as a person which in effect helps one to see what Quoye is like as a character. With the imagery the author also uses figurative language to bring out Quoye's character.

In lines 22-27 it shows the moment when Quoye, as a character, is shown to be less liked. It started from his fear of water. He couldn't swim, and his dad was disappointed in him. And it's from this moment on in the ~~essay~~ passage that Quoye is even more portrayed in a negative manner. The father saw Quoye's failures multiply like an explosion of virulent cells" (line 23-24). This use of a metaphor show how one failure spun-off even more, in the eyes of his father.

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In lines 41-47 figurative language is again used. "Some anomalous gene had fired up at the... given him a giant chin." (line 4, 45) The author is giving character to the gene. It is personifying it to help show how Quoy's character is shown.

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