



AP[®] English Literature 2002 Sample Student Responses

The materials included in these files are intended for use by AP teachers for course and exam preparation in the classroom; permission for any other use must be sought from the Advanced Placement Program[®]. Teachers may reproduce them, in whole or in part, in limited quantities, for face-to-face teaching purposes but may not mass distribute the materials, electronically or otherwise. These materials and any copies made of them may not be resold, and the copyright notices must be retained as they appear here. This permission does not apply to any third-party copyrights contained herein.

These materials were produced by Educational Testing Service[®] (ETS[®]), which develops and administers the examinations of the Advanced Placement Program for the College Board. The College Board and Educational Testing Service (ETS) are dedicated to the principle of equal opportunity, and their programs, services, and employment policies are guided by that principle.

The College Board is a national nonprofit membership association dedicated to preparing, inspiring, and connecting students to college and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 4,200 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves over three million students and their parents, 22,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges, through major programs and services in college admission, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT[®], the PSAT/NMSQT[®], and the Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®]). The College Board is committed to the principles of equity and excellence, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities, and concerns.

Copyright © 2002 by College Entrance Examination Board. All rights reserved. College Board, Advanced Placement Program, AP, SAT, and the acorn logo are registered trademarks of the College Entrance Examination Board. APIEL is a trademark owned by the College Entrance Examination Board. PSAT/NMSQT is a registered trademark jointly owned by the College Entrance Examination Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Educational Testing Service and ETS are registered trademarks of Educational Testing Service.

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

1

CCCC,

In a scene from ~~the~~ novel Kiss + Tell, British novelist ^{Alain de Botton} humorously depicts the relationship between a set of socially oblivious, rather crass parents and their embarrassed adult daughter Isabel. Using believable dialogue; detailed, vivid characterization; and an absurd situation; de Botton creates a scene that brings comic delight out of the universal experience of a child's humiliation by her parents.

Isabel, on a date to ~~the~~ ~~theater~~ a play, spies her parents across the crowded theater and immediately reveals her mother's indiscretions: "I hope she didn't come with one of her gentleman friends," acutely foreshadowing absurdities to come. As Isabel continues to berate her parents to her date, the ~~hapless~~ ^{hapless} narrator, she lets out a family secret after another: "With any luck, they'll be too busy arguing to glance up here. This is prime argument territory," and then: "He'll [Dad'll] get fustered because he dropped it [the parking ticket] in the bin." Ironically, Isabel's relaying of her parents' less flattering characteristics conveys how similar she is to them in ^{indiscretion} ~~crassness~~.

De Botton's most humorous moments come, however, after Isabel's ^{father} parents spots her & begins making "the vigorous hand gesture of a man walking off a departing cruise ship." This witty simile underscores the ridiculousness both of Isabel's parents & of the situation itself: two couples seeing a play by Lorca yet hardly

1

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

CCCC
2

conscious at all of their manners, nor of their effect on those around them. Just as Isabel's ^{mother} parents disregards "the presence of four hundred people in an auditorium" as "an impediment to her desire to shout 'Isabel' at top pitch," Isabel, turning "a beetroot shade, is unaware of her date or simply lacks the grace needed to handle the situation properly," ~~simply~~ ^{instead} whimpering: "Please let them shut up."

With Isabel + her parents' meeting at the bar de Botton brings her comedy to a climax. The mother insists on commenting that to Isabel, "Pity you don't have more cleavage," while the father refers to her as "bean," a childhood nickname humorously incongruous with the very grown-up Corca play. Mrs. Rogers goes on to assure the narrator that Isabel is a "lovely girl really," and Mr. Rogers, as it turns out has indeed lost the parking ticket, just as Isabel predicted: "They're so fiddly these days, they fall right out of one's hands Mrs. Rogers' slightly vulgar dialogue + lack of Mr. Rogers' bumbling lines reveal their ^{lack} of social graces, a revelation at once painful and extremely amusing.

The universal experience of humiliation by parents, vividly drawn in this excerpt, is ~~may be~~ ^{is} by its nature, ~~extremely painful~~ agonizing, but it also ~~may~~ can be a source of great comedy.

There are few people who can't identify with a parent's embarrassing behavior, and fewer people still who do not laugh when they see another in such a predicament. In this passage from "Kiss and Tell" by Alain de Botton a humorous scene is depicted through selection of detail, diction, and the familiarity one has with embarrassing parents. When Isabel first spots her parents, an entreaty to God is made and Isabel begins to critique her mother's appearance and potential company. "What's that dress? It looks like a willow tree... I hope she didn't come with one of her gentlemen friends. She's really too old for that." Isabel's distress is made plain with diction such as "gasped", "Oh my God", and "Careful, don't look." There is a good deal of humor in Isabel's narration of her parents' actions across the theater. Isabel even does the sneeze sound effects, "And he's about to sneeze. Look, there we go, aahhtchooo." There is also an irony in this because one can imagine that Isabel is making almost as big a scene as her parents are over by the pillar. Some more ~~ironic~~ irony becomes evident when luck leaves Isabel and her father waves at her, "so that she might cease to dwell in ignorance." His arm motions are so "vigorous" that they resemble "a man waving off a departing cruise ship." Isabel's father at this point is characterized as a "maniac" making anything further he does all the more looney. The mother also appears to feel as

1

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

though she was ~~left~~ on a pier in the wake of a cruise ship because she begins to shout Isabel's name quite loudly with "all the excitement of a ~~long-lost friend~~ on the woman recognizing a long-lost friend on the deck of an in-coming cruise ship." Isabel's distress is again made clear by a description of Isabel after her parent's outburst, "beetroot shade" and "panicked diction". After the play, the Mother's embarrassment of Isabel makes the reader giggle still further. While commenting on the loveliness of Isabel's dress, her mother sees fit to comment on her breast size in front of her new boyfriend. "... pity you don't have more of a cleavage for it, but that's your father's fault. You know what all the women in his family are like." Her father's actions are then depicted as he is walking around staring straight upward at the light fixtures. ~~then~~ Mrs. Rogers then makes a somewhat ironic statement, "She's a lovely girl really", as though apologizing for Isabel's behavior. This familiar situational humor, irony and nutty actions of the parental persons provide a delightful comic effect that makes the reader giggle.

#

In this excerpt from the British novel *Kiss and Tell* by Alain de Botton, the reader is presented with a humorous situation concerning Isabel Rogers and her ~~the~~ parents, Christopher and "Mum" whose name is unknown. In this particular passage, the author's use of his characters' descriptions, ~~and~~ ~~his~~ ~~choice~~ of point of view, ~~and~~ ~~his~~ ~~diction~~ effectively produces a comic effect.

Isabel is immediately introduced in this passage: "Oh my God"

"Oh my God, I think ~~my mum~~ that's my mum over there". This comment from Isabel immediately gives readers a feeling about how Isabel feels about her parents being there which strikes one as funny. Isabel goes on to discuss her mother's "willow tree" dress, and her mother's "gentlemen friends." The fact that Isabel ~~and~~ ~~loosely~~ comments on these things, especially the latter of the two, shows reader's ~~that~~ Isabel's lack of taking her mother seriously. The "gentlemen friends" suggest ~~that~~ that her mother is an adultress, which would ordinarily be ~~viewed as~~ looked down upon. The fact that Isabel appears not to particularly care about such a situation ~~creates a dark humor~~ casts a "dark humor" on this passage.

Isabel also makes a couple of accurate predictions about her father. The ~~rather~~ hand-

Question 7

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

Kerchief incident, for instance, is ~~descrip~~ described move by move. As Isabel clues this description, ~~the reader's initial interpretation of~~ it becomes obvious that Isabel doesn't take her father seriously as well. ~~Isabel~~ Because of this, readers become inclined to laugh at this situation.

~~Isabel~~ Later in the excerpt Isabel also predicts that her father will lose the car park tickets, which is later learned to be the truth. It becomes apparent that Mr. Rogers does things of this nature frequently and that ~~the~~ assumption adds to the comedy of this piece. Isabel trivializes her parents' actions throughout this excerpt, which allows readers to derive a comical situation.

The author also chooses Isabel's boyfriend's point of view. ~~Cl~~ ~~the~~ Neutral character is ideal for this situation because of his ability to relate the whole situation objectively ~~when~~ it which proves ~~of~~ effective, because an objective ~~point~~ view allows readers to interpret the level of comic value more readily.

~~The~~ Alain de Botton's Kiss and Tell depicts a ~~humorous~~ family incident in a humorous light. Because of the ~~the~~ author's appropriate use of certain comments, words, and

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

AP₃

Question 1

an objective point of view, he easily produces a comic effect.

#