

## **AP<sup>®</sup> English Literature 2002 Sample Student Responses**

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cccc, Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination. Alain de Botton barras d

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There are few people who can't identify with a parent's embarassing behavior, and fewer people still who do not lough 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 how with embarassing 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." Isobel's distress is made plain with diction such as "gasped", "Oh my God", and "Careful, borth look." There is a good deal of humor in Isabel's narration of her parents actions ocrass the theater. Isabel even does the sneeze sound effects, "And he's about to sneeze. Look, there we go, against 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 more more 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 "vigarous" 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

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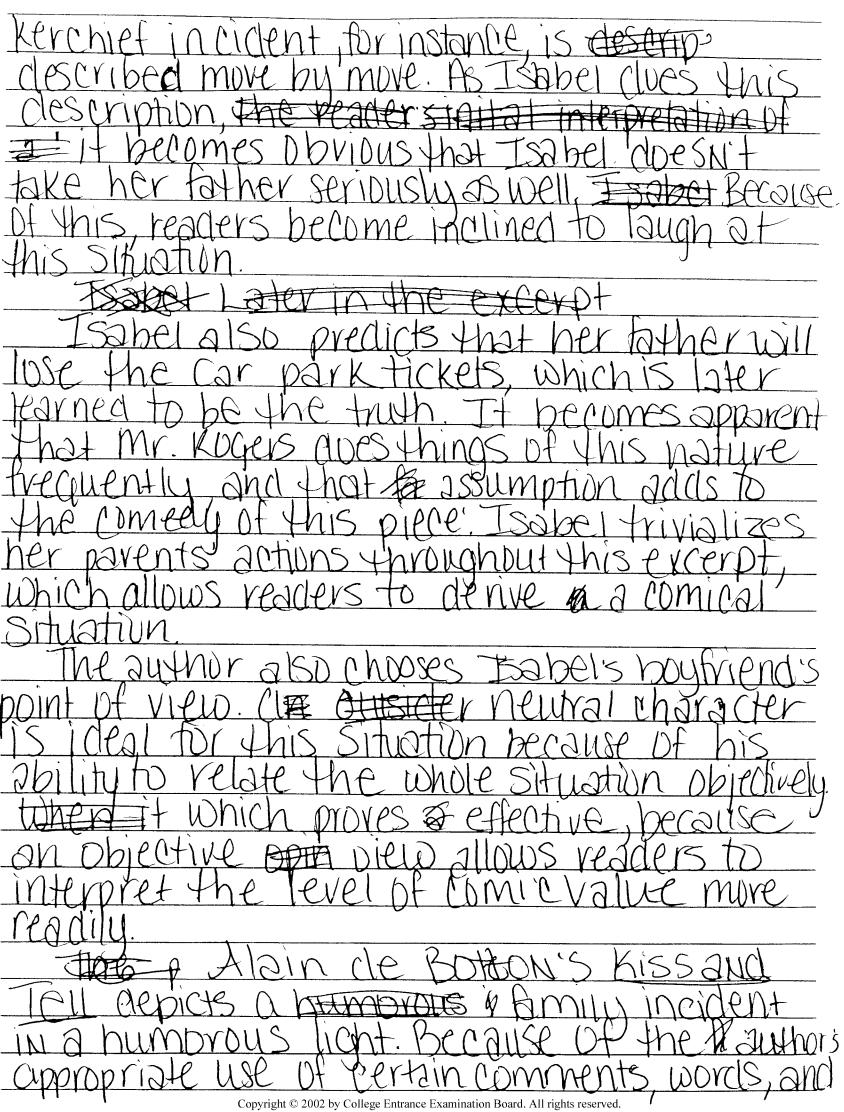
though she was test on a pier in the wake of a cruise ship because she begins to shout Isabels name quite loudly with "all the excitement of a langutosa unexa orntha woman recognizing a long-lost friend on the deck of an in-coming Isabel's distress is again made clear a description of Isabel after her parents outburst, "beetroot shade" and "panicked diction". After the play, the Mothers embarassment of Isabel makes the reader giggle still furthur. While commenting on the lovliness of Isabel's diess, 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 fathers 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. Henry 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 ctions of the parental persons provide a delightful comic effect that makes the reader giggle.

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