



Work Sample

English | General | Year 11

Performance associated with Grade A, representing excellent achievement

Assessment type

Responding

Task title

The Giver – response essay

Summary of task

Students were asked to respond to the topic, 'Despite the fact that *The Giver* by Lois Lowry has been interpreted as a futuristic novel, it makes an important commentary on modern society.' Discuss this statement in relation to the text.

The task was provided one week beforehand and set in-class for one hour. Students had access to one page of handwritten notes in dot point form.

A grade is based on the student's **overall performance for the pair of units, or unit**, as judged by the teacher with reference to a set of pre-determined standards. These standards are defined by grade descriptions.



Work Sample

Annotations

The Giver, written by Lois Lowry describes life in a futuristic society but also focuses on on some important similarities to our own society. The novel's society or "the *community*" still has death/release, sameness although for them everything is the same and they still have a family structure. These make an important commentary on our society.

– directly addresses the question and provides a clear thesis statement connecting modern society with the futuristic world of the novel

In The Giver Lowry has explored the issue of death and makes us wonder whether we should allow people in our society who are too sick or too old to be able to choose to die rather than making them suffer. In "the community" death is called release, I think Lowry changed the name and concept of death so that the people in "the community" were not afraid to die. For them release was "release to elsewhere" which meant that it wasn't the end of their journey but more a fresh start to a new one. In "the community" you have 3 warnings or strikes but once those are up you get released, that is their punishment instead of jail. "For a contributing citizen to be released from the community... overwhelming statement of failure." In modern society we don't have release we have death, we feel the pain of ~~releasing~~ ~~losing~~ a loved one. With loss comes grief and although it may become easier to accept that we have lost, we will always feel pain. I think Lowry wanted to eliminate pain from our

– uses appropriate textual evidence to support a detailed explanation of how the issue of death connects the two societies

– constructs well balanced sentences: 'In *The Giver* ... In modern society'; 'eliminate pain from our society ... eliminate love as well'

– uses voice effectively, discussing 'we' in modern society, then moving to the first person 'I' in a convincing tone to express personal opinion



Society but by doing so she has had to eliminate love as well. I think the important thing to realise is that no matter how hard you try death will always be around.

In the novel one of the main themes you pick up on is sameness. Lowry has eliminated individuality but with that there is no teasing or bullying. This makes us question whether this is a better way to live.

Sameness in "the community" is very important each year group gets the same things, every occupation has the same uniform. There is no colour in "the community" and although this is dull and boring for us, Lowry makes it seem like such a better way to live. By eliminating individuality Lowry has also eliminated poverty and richness. Their government provides everyone with food, a house, clothes and companionship which is really all one needs to live a happy and healthy life. "no one mentioned such things; it was not a rule but was considered rude to call attention to things that were unsettling or different about individuals." In modern society it is a pleasure to be able to express individuality. back in the early 1900s if you wore something that wasn't considered appropriate you were shamed for it. And although that's not how "the community" lives in some ways it's similar. To be able to speak your opinion or dress how you want I think is very pro-

– shows depth of understanding of textual themes; supports argument with brief and pointed quotes from the text

– uses varied sentence openings and sentence structures

– effectively uses paragraphs to draw connections between the novel and modern society: 'In the novel, one of the themes ... 'In modern society...'

important in the way our world has evolved.



Work Sample

Annotations

The novel ~~given~~ portrays family structure as perfect and the way it should be. There are 2 parents, first born is a boy and then a girl. Lowry asks us to consider whether this structure is a better way to raise children. In "the community" you are assigned couples which is okay because there is no love. After being together for a while the couples can register for a child, but if they do they have to have 2. Twins are not allowed in "the community" and so the smaller twin gets released. In modern society there are many different family structures. Some families have 1 parent others may only have 1 child. There can also be families who have 4 or more children or some partners who don't or can't have any so they might want to adopt. There is also gay couples who adopt. I think Lowry is telling us that a good family structure means a good life for the children but I would have to disagree. In saying that there are some parents who are unfit to raise children.

These 3 aspects make an important commentary on modern society in a way that makes you wonder whether a better life would be in "the community" or in modern society and that's what Lowry is asking us to question.

– generally sustains control of language conventions; minor errors are first draft and do not significantly detract from clarity of writing

– develops logical and clear argument and balanced tone to put forward the writer's opinion convincingly

– effectively draws the main points of the argument together in a concise conclusion that includes engaging use of personal voice – 'makes you wonder'