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NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
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Level 2 English, 2017

91098 Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence

2.00 p.m. Tuesday 21 November 2017
Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s) convincingly, supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s) perceptively, supported by evidence.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should answer ONE of the essay questions in this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Merit

TOTAL

06

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You should aim to write a concise analysis is more important than 1

Support the points you make with

the quality of your

ASSESSOR'S
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Begin your written text(s) essay here

Question number: 4

An important event that happened in the novel "Looking for Alibrandi" written by Melina Marchetta, that represented a turning point for Josie^{Alibrandi} was when she figured out that her grandmother, Nanna, had lied about who the father of her mother was. This event is considered a turning point as it makes Josie question and rethink her entire cultural identity, as well as being one of the first major events that lead to the "emancipation of Josie".

Josephine "Josie" Alibrandi is a ~~Italian Australian~~ Italian Australian teenage girl in her last year of high school in Sydney, Australia. All her life she has lived in a state of in-between, being of Italian descent she is an outsider amongst her Australian peers, however she is also not completely accepted within her own community due to her status as an illegitimate child, a bastard. This same sense of not belonging is prevalent in her school, the private Catholic high school^{of St. Marys} that she attends due to an academic scholarship that she received. Because of this she is considered an outsider, as she does not possess the money that her classmates have, unable to participate in the things they do, a stranger to their extravagant lives. She also does not fit into the world of Jacob Coote, her boyfriend throughout most of the novel who goes to the local

public school, St Cooks. He calls her at a point in their courtship "a poor snob" and that she thinks she's "better than [him]". She objects wildly to this at first but soon realises that there is a truth to his statement, that deep within her there is a small part that believes that yes because she goes to a fancy private school she is somewhat better than him. This truth goes to show her how out of place she is in all aspects of her life. This shows the reader the sense of turmoil Josie feels before finding out the truth about her grandfather.

Josie's relationship with her Italian heritage is a constant source of conflict in the novel and within her life. She is somewhat embarrassed at it, thinking on Tomato Day that she would "die if any one ever found out about it", yet also fiercely protective and proud of it, calling a girl in her class, Abigail, a "racist pig" after she insulted Josie's culture and ~~said that all~~ used the derogative slur "wog" in reference to her people. ~~This sense of~~ All her life she has wanted to belong, to be ~~accepted~~ considered and Australia, however there was always a line between them, a sense of us vs them "Italians vs Australians". You could not be both, you were not considered both but simply one or the other. That's why when she figured out the truth of her lineage that her grandfather was an Australian ~~named~~ Marcus, her entire world is flipped upside down. The need to belong, to be an Australian is suddenly expelled from her mind when she learns that she has been the entire time. This also helps her to realise that even

she now knows that she has Australian blood, she would be one even if she didn't. It helps her to realise that she is an Australian no matter what her heritage is, that it doesn't matter ~~where~~ where your family comes from as long as you believe yourself to be Australian ^{as long as} ~~as long as~~ you choose to identify as that.

This turning point in Josie's life and character development has an immense impact on the relationships that she has, strengthening the one she has with her Nanna, which previously had been very difficult and strained. However whilst Josie is mad at her grandmother at first, angry that she had been lied too, she soon begins to see her ~~good~~ Nanna as something other than the grumpy bossy, sometimes mean old lady and instead comes to see her as a person. As the scared young girl that was being shipped off to a foreign country with her ~~new~~ new husband that she barely knew. As the lonely woman that turned to the comfort of a friendly Australian man when she was left alone for ~~two~~ months on end in the backlands of a country she couldn't speak the language of. She grows to understand her actions, and forgive them, realising that she too probably would've made the same choices if she had been in Nanna's situation. This event helps Josie to realise that she doesn't have to be one or the other, that she ~~can't~~ doesn't have to fit into a box. It helps her to accept and embrace her heritage instead of be embarrassed of it and push it away. It helps her to grow as a person, to stop redefining herself, as well as to

understand others better, and learn about the joys
~~of projects and from the friends team.~~

Overall this event is an important turning point in the novel and Josie's character as it fuels her self-acceptance, and motivates her to be a better person. It shows her that your culture and how you identify within it is up to you, that whilst you can't change it you can choose to embrace it and the aspects that are good about it. It helps her to realise that you don't need to fit into ~~society's~~ society's boxes or adhere to its labels, but that you should just be you and live your best life.

Merit exemplar 2017

Subject:	English	Standard:	91098	Total score:	06
Q	Grade score	Annotation			
4	M6	<i>Looking for Alibrandi</i> This answer is very responsive to the question and the candidate writes in a convincing way about the important event. The problem is explained well and the response sets up the importance of the event in the narrative and for the character. At the end it moves beyond Josie's experience into a brief "beyond the text" discussion. An Excellence-level response would integrate this understanding earlier in the essay.			