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# 3

91473



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## Level 3 English, 2017

### 91473 Respond critically to specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), supported by evidence

2.00 p.m. Tuesday 14 November 2017  
Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Respond critically to specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), supported by evidence.	Respond critically and convincingly to specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), supported by evidence.	Respond critically and perceptively to specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), 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.

**Write ONE essay 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**

**05**

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It is the careful use of technical elements that makes the film memorable.

You should aim to write a concise essay of 1000 words. Quality of writing is more important than the length of your essay.

In your essay, discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement by making a close analysis of the film.

Begin your visual or oral text(s) essay here:

Statement number: 3

In the film Heavenly Creatures, directed by Peter Jackson, technical elements are carefully used to make the film memorable to the viewers. Voice overs, camera angles, and lighting are all used by Jackson to leave the viewer mesmerized by the film and to portray the theme of an intense teenage relationship that tips over into madness, hysteria, folie a deux (madness for two), <sup>power, and fantasy compared to reality.</sup> The directors careful use of technical elements help the viewer perceive this theme and understand how two friends could commit such a horrible crime such as matricide, making it extremely memorable for them.

The first technical element Jackson carefully uses to make Heavenly Creatures memorable is by using one of the protagonists' (Pauline's) diary entries as voice overs. ~~This helps them~~ In one article published by New Zealand media shortly after the two girls were found guilty of murdering Pauline's mother, Mrs Rieper, ~~stated~~ "described the friends as 'possibly the most evil people in the world'" However, by the use of Pauline Rieper's diary entries as voice overs, it allows the viewer to see from the girls perspective

as to why they would commit such a horrible act. This allows the viewer to <sup>see that they aren't evil and allows them to</sup> analyse the film from Pauline's perspective, it allows the viewer to see how out of touch with reality the two girls were and how much they really believed ~~than~~ Mrs Rieper was holding them back from being together "As I write in this diary, tomorrow Mother will be dead... how odd, yet how satisfying." The girls, especially Pauline thought that after getting rid of "the only obstacle standing in their way," ~~they~~ Juliette and Pauline would have a fairytale ending, furthermore, they believed that ~~so~~ Pauline would become a part of the Hulme family. ~~and would~~ Jackson's <sup>careful</sup> use of voice over makes the film memorable for the viewer as they are able to see how out of touch with reality the girls had become and make the viewer feel almost sympathetic for the girls, almost wanting their plan to succeed, even though it is completely against human nature.\* The theme of folie a deux is portrayed through this voice over throughout the film, as it progresses, the girls become more and more detached from reality, creating a memorable film for the viewer.

\*Jackson's purpose is not to depict Juliette Hulme and Pauline Rieper as criminals <sup>instead as two girls that have formed an intense relationship and become mad.</sup>

Another technical element that is carefully used by Jackson to create a memorable text for the viewer is through camera shots and angles. Techniques such as swirling, tracking and close-ups are used by Jackson to reinforce the theme of folie a deux and hysteria, also ~~how~~ <sup>through the progression of the film</sup> detached from reality the ~~first~~ protagonists become. In the

opening scene, tracking is used to chase the girls feet as they run through the bush, legs covered in blood. It creates intensity and leaves the viewer confused as the girls scream in hysteria "Help, Help, somebody help, it's mummy, she's terribly hurt" The fast paced tracking of feet through the bush is then juxtaposed with tracking of the girls feet on the deck of a ship in black and white, confusing the viewer more as they are unsure of the meaning of the feet running. <sup>\* it is almost like the viewer is chasing the girls</sup> Jackson uses another scene involving tracking is when the girls enter the "fourth world" a place which is "like Heaven, but better because there are no Christians". Juliette leads Pauline into the 'fourth world' and the camera tracks them running through lush green grass with unicorns and bright flowers, allowing the viewer to feel comfortable. Swirling camera shots are also used by Jackson to create a memorable film. Thus swirling technique is used when Juliette is sick with tuberculosis and is getting talked to by the Priest. It shows Juliette's hatred for him as she summons Diello - an imaginary clay figure from Borovnia - another place created in the girls imaginations, to murder the priest (all in Juliette's imagination). Another camera technique used by Jackson to make the film memorable is close-ups and extreme close-ups. The most memorable extreme close-up for the viewer is when Dr Bennett diagnosis <sup>as</sup> Pauline with ~~"h-h-homosexuality"~~ with "h-h-homosexuality", there is an extreme close up

It is the careful use of technical elements that make a text memorable

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of the doctors mouth whilst he stutters the words out. These careful use of camera techniques show how the girls are becoming out of touch with reality and developing hatred for ~~every~~<sup>most</sup> authoritative figures in their lives, portrayed through multiple close up of Pauline's scowling face. The girls develop obsession for each other, craving each others company and not being able to bear a long period of time without communication. It changes the viewers perception of the girls and how they could ever dream of committing such crime. Using the Freudian analysis for the girls folie a deux, the girls abandonment at such a young age - especially Juliette in the Bahamas and with Pauline feeling hatred towards her very ordinary family, it could be a reason as their superego doesn't fully function and their id takes control over their ego, ~~which~~. This leaves the viewer mesmerising over the film as there are many unsolved explanations as to why the girls committed such crime, aided by the careful use of camera techniques to further reinforce this.

The final technical element carefully used by Jackson to create a memorable film is the use of colour, especially that in the 3 bath scenes, portraying the theme of power. The first bath scene is shown in natural light <sup>at the start of their friendship</sup> showing that the girls have equal power and everything is normal. The natural light doesn't un-nerve the viewer and nothing is sinister about it. The second bath scene is shown in a dark light, with Juliette <sup>sitting relaxed,</sup> slightly lighter than Pauline who

is hunched in the shadows. The water is milky and ~~the girls~~ <sup>the viewer can</sup> see the girls heads above the water. Juliette is in power here "I think I'm going crazy" "No you're not Gina (another name of Pauline's), It's everyone else who's bonkers." Juliette being shown in more light is memorable for the viewer as they are able to see that she has full control over Pauline. The third and final bath scene is shown in a blue light, creating a sinister mood for the scene. Juliette is crying and Pauline is sitting up straight telling Juliette about her plan to "murder mother" The blue light is memorable for the viewer as it creates suspension in the atmosphere as Pauline reveals her plan. "People die everyday" Juliette is shown as weak and frail. The blue light also makes the girls seem dead inside as it drains the colour, which Jackson intended to do as the scene is near the murder scene. The careful use of the technical element of light ~~is~~ creates a memorable film for the viewer and portrays the theme of power. The viewer interprets each light in a different way, with different light standing for different things, it leaves the viewer curious.

To conclude, Jackson's <sup>and strategic</sup> careful use of technical elements throughout Heavenly Creatures such as voice over, camera angles and light help the viewer to see how out of touch with reality the girls were and leaves them ~~a~~ feeling sympathetic with the girls as ~~they~~ the film follows the lead up and the murder of Honora Rieper. The two girls obsession with each other and repression with their

Extra space if required.

Write the question number(s) if applicable.

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QUESTION  
NUMBER



families and with ~~isolation~~ <sup>as a whole</sup> society, led them  
to committing an act so against human nature  
and one that the viewer could never imagine  
committing, creating an extremely memorable  
film, that leaves the viewer asking many questions.

Merit exemplar 2017

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Standard:</b>	<b>91473</b>	<b>Total score:</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>Q</b>	<b>Grade score</b>	<b>Annotation</b>			
3	M5	<i>Heavenly Creatures</i> This argument addresses all parts of the statement with convincing analysis. The candidate really appreciates the elements that were chosen by the director and is able to link them to the deeper ideas of the girls' characters and motivations. This shows a good sense that the director is deliberately making choices, and the candidate's response invites the reader in with specific and ample evidence.			