English Language Arts Regents Exam:

Part III: Literary Analysis Essays

Note: What follows are introductory paragraphs, with errors included as written:

Level 4: January 2019

Bryant:

The passage is about a husband and wife, Jan and Antonina, and the zoo they own in Poland. ***More specifically, the passage focuses on Antonia’s relationship (which is very unique) to the animals of the zoo. The author uses characterization to better portray this special relationship.*** To explain the way Antonina views the animals, the author gives almost “human-like” description of them.

Katie:

***The author employs characterization throughout the text to support the central idea of Antonina’s close relationship with the zoo animals.*** Antonina is portrayed as a person who has a spiritual bond with the zoo inhabitant.

Level 4: August, 2018

Celeste:

As humans, we often ponder the impact technology had and what it can have in the future. Can it truly change the world? ***In her speech, Melinda Gates says that technology can change the world and unite its people. Gates reveals her purpose and central idea though word choice, or diction.***

Ryder:

Authors use different writing strategies to develop the central idea of their text. The author of this text, who happens to be Bill Gates’ wife, ***uses her personal experiences to show the reader how technology connects people all around the world. She tells these stories in a first person point of view to connect with the reader on a more personal level.***

Level 4: June, 2018

Addie:

Often, if two people are meant to be in a relationship, they share many characteristics. If two people are very unalike, however, they probably are not meant to be together. This is true of the text, in which the author ***utilizes antithesis to prove that the two main characters were never meant to be together.***

Eamon:

Marriage is a bond between two lovers who wish to watch one another grow. However, what the other grows into may surprise people. ***In the passage, the author uses parallel structure to convey the idea that as time passes, a person’s significant other will change in unexpected ways.***

Level 4: January, 2018

Madeleine:

***The central idea of this text is that growing up changes the way a person behaves and the way they want to be perceived by others. The author is able to develop this central idea by using characterization of George Willard and Helen White.*** The author develops George by giving the reader insight to his past, “He wanted someone to understand the feeling that had taken possession of him after his mother’s death.” (L. 7,8). While on his way to becoming a young man, George had experienced something tragic, the loss of his mother that had changed the way he looked at things in life and in a way had accelerated his journey into manhood. The author is also able to give the reader a development that has occurred in George as he has grown up. “He had tried to make her think of him as a man when he knew nothing of manhood and how he wanted to be with her and to try and make her feel the change he believed had taken place in his nature.” (L. 35-37). He had once tried to impress Helen when he was younger by boasting and acting like a man, but mow he had realized he wanted someone to talk to and he had learned that what he had believed was manhood, really wasn’t.

Trevor:

This passage speaks of the state of change that a young man and a young woman are going through. The two young adults are experiencing what it feels like to enter adulthood. For both characters, this seems to be quite a confusing time in their lives. The young man seems to be wary of the changes he is going through and the young woman seems to be unsatisfied with the change. Both people appear to be let down by the world of adulthood.

***Throughout the passage, the author develops a dismal tone to enhance the theme of possibly unwanted change.***

**Level 4: August, 2017**

Mindy:

In life, —for every single person living on earth—, there are losses that we face.. Whether they are trivial or devastating, they are losses all the same. But, what to make of losing something you never truly had? Could it still e considered loss? Marie-Laure, a 9-year-old girl, has been dealt a bad hand. She is blind—has been blind since birth. Vision is not something that she’s ever experienced, and it could be, to her, a devastating loss. However, using this bad she’s been dealt, she turns it into something amazing and beautiful. ***The central idea of this text is that we can turn a negative thing into something quite amazing, and the author employs characterization to further develop the central idea.***

Drew:

In the passage, the words the author uses to describe how Marie-Laure portrays people and things that she cannot see are appropriate, sometimes precise, and often beautiful. Words such as “radiance” and “Brilliance” are two of many words utilized to show how Marie-Laure imagines the outside world. ***The young girl’s response to and coping with her blindness in a positive way is the central idea of the text, and this idea is supported by the author’s diction (choice of words).***

Claire:

***A central idea employed in the passage is that Marie-Laure’s imagination and perception of the world and things around her are full of lively colors and actions. The author uses imagery to describe all the active thoughts in Marie-Laure’s mind.***