Paper 2 – Example Novel Essay
Standard Level
May 2002

Question 3b)
Choose a character from each of **two** or **three** novels or short stories that you have studied. Consider in each case, how the character is developed for the reader, and what the presentation contributes to the novel or the story as a whole

In their novels Wuthering Heights and The Fifth Child, Emily Bronte and Doris Lessing develop their protagonists in several different ways. First of all, they place them in a setting that is different from theirs. Secondly, they contrast them with other characters. Last of all the authors keep their protagonists mysterious to the reader, which, although this might not seem this way, develops the character because of the lack of information the reader has. Therefore, Doris Lessing and Emily Bronte in their novels Wuthering Heights and The Fifth Child, develop their characters in several different ways.

The characters chosen are Heathcliff and Ben. The first way these characters are developed is by placing them in a situation that does not apply to them. In fact, both characters are intruders in a society that is unknown to them, and that is not appropriate for them. Ben is being placed into a family in the 1960s, having parents that want a large and happy family. Because of his nature he does not fit into this society, which is shown through his lack friends and his incapability of going to school. This develops the character since Ben is forced to react to this, and these reactions are amplified because of them being placed in a society in which they are not appropriate. Those reactions are then noted by the reader and help him to create this view about the character.

The same applies to Heathcliff who, sometimes being described as a 'gypsy child', has to react to the fact that he therefore is not accepted into the society and, in Heathcliff's case, not being accepted by Hindley in particular. His reaction to this develops his personality in front of the reader's eyes. In Heathcliff's case, this can be seen through the plans of revenge he is brooding as a child. It's this reaction to this obstacle in the case of Ben, the society in which he is placed, and in Heathcliff the fact that he is not being accepted into society, that develop the character.

Secondly, the authors develop their character for the reader by contrasting him with other characters. This again applies to both novels and both protagonists. In the case of the Ben, this character is Paul, the child that was born before him. In contrast to Ben, Paul, as a baby was typical to the society in which he lives. He's loving, loves the attention, tender and is being accepted easily by everyone. By creating Paul in this way, Doris Lessing amplifies the unusual characteristics of Ben's personality. This makes him look more mysterious and more interesting and therefore also expands the effect the author wants to have on the reader through her creation of Ben. The opposites present in both characters' personalities naturally create conflicts between them. In the case of The Fifth Child, Paul is terrified by Ben and despises him because the latter receives all the mother's attention. How the characters deal with this conflict further develops the characters because the effects of one character on the other are shown.

In the case of Heathcliff, the differences in his personality in comparison to that of Edgar also have the same effects and develop him in a similar way. In fact, this contrast amplifies the strange characteristics of Heathcliff's personality. This also raises conflicts between them and it's the resolution of these that develops the character. An example of this is their reaction to Catherine's death. Heathcliff, in a very melodramatic way that is typical of Gothic horror, banged his head against a tree trunk, while Edgars weeps, his

Comment [Kev1]: Clear focus on the question right from the start

Comment [Kev2]: Three good, clear points outlined at the start of the essay that are then used by the candidate to structure the essay

Comment [Kev3]: This repetition is, however, underwhelming and it would have been here to focus on the second part of the question about how the presentation of the chosen character contributes to the novel or story as a whole.

Comment [Kev4]: Good, clear, comparative point

Comment [Kev5]: Some references to the text, although quotations would have been better

Comment [Kev6]: There is clearly a lack of clarity here. Detail about these reactions and exactly what we learn about Ben would have made this a much more convincing point

Comment [Kev7]: As above, detail about exactly what these reactions are would have led to a much more convincing point here

Comment [Kev8]: Clear comparison

Comment [Kev9]: Slightly more detail about Heathcliff, although there is still room for improvement here

Comment [Kev10]: Clear overall structure

Comment [Kev11]: More specific detail is provided here demonstrating a greater understanding of the text

Comment [Kev12]: Here the candidate begins to address the second part of the question (about the effect on the reader as a whole), although again more detail is needed – exactly what effect is it that the author 'wants' here?

Comment [Kev13]: Clear comparisons and once again a clear structure

Comment [Kev14]: Some good detail from the novel here, although again use of quotations would have made this point more convincing

pains inside. The difference in these reactions changes the view the reader has of that character and therefore these changes shape the character.

A last way in which the character is developed is through the creation of a mysterious aspect around that character. This applies to both Heathcliff and Ben, even though the mystery is created in a different way. In both works, the mystery is created by keeping information about their background from the reader. This has an effect on both the characters and the reader, because it heightens the suspicion around these characters and makes the reader accept more about the character than what would have been possible.

In Heathcliff's case, the reader isn't aware of his past before he came to Wuthering Heights, nor is the reader aware of what Heathcliff did during the period when he wasn't present at the Heights. The fact that Heathcliff returns being rich and being a gentleman in appearance has to be accepted by the reader. However, this raises questions about Heathcliff and develops his personality in the view of the reader, because it creates a mysterious aspect in his personality that was not present before.

The mystery in Ben is created in a different way, but it is also present because of the lack of information the reader has about him. This is the case because the author never allows the reader to look through Ben's eye. Therefore , the reader is never aware of what he think or what he feels, nor the reasons why he acts the way he does. This increase the distance that is present between the reader and Ben and increases our inability of understanding him. This is the case when he is brought back from the institute in which he was placed and it can be found several times in the novel. Because we are not allowed to know what he thinks, we are unable to justify the morality of the actions other characters have against him. This increases the dilemma that Harriet is place in when she has to decide between Ben and the other members of the family. Because of the information Doris Lessing is hiding from the reader, she is increasing the effects of the question raised in the novel.

Doris Lessing in the novel The Fifth Child and Emily Bronte in her novel Wuthering Heights, therefore develop Ben and Heathcliff respectively in several different ways. Because of the controversial nature of both characters, these developments have a large effect on the novel itself. In fact, as was already said in the case of Ben, they expand on questions asked in the novel and on the morality of these questions. In Heathcliff's case, the mysterious aspect of his character increases the effect his highly dramatic relationship with Catherine has on the reader. Therefore, how the characters are developed doesn't only have an effect on our judgements of them but also on our judgement of the other characters and the novel as a whole.

Comment [Kev15]: Some slightly odd phrases used throughout, e.g. 'weeps his pains'

Comment [Kev16]: Good attempt to focus on a difference within a similarity.

Remember, also that you do not have to always compare by looking for similarities. In fact, differences can be much more interesting.

Comment [Kev17]: Again, some partial exploration of the effect on the reader, although this needs to be developed in more detail.

Comment [Kev18]: Clear details from the text used to demonstrate an understanding

Comment [Kev19]: Some clear reference to the effect on the reader

Comment [Kev20]: Comparison, although it is not entirely clear how the effect is created differently if it is also evoked using a lack of information.

Comment [Kev21]: A nice comment on a literary feature

Comment [Kev22]: Some good reference to the effect on the reader, this needs to be done throughout

Comment [Kev23]: This is probably one of the most successful paragraphs in the essay in terms of more specific comments on the effect on the reader

Comment [Kev24]: Ideas are tied up clearly here although it would have been nice if the idea of drama had been explored in a little more depth earlier in the essay

Marks Awarded:

Knowledge & Understanding	3	There is clearly some knowledge of the texts here, however the use of vague phrases such as 'the effect on the reader' and the lack of quotations limit the candidate here
Response to the Question	3	There is also an attempt to respond to the question, although the candidate does focus more on character development and often neglects to explore the impact on the novel as a whole.
Appreciation of Lit Features	3	The exploration of Lessing's use of narrative structure perspective is good, but more of this is needed
Organisation	4	The organisation is the strongest point of this essay, with a clear progression between points and alternation between texts.
Language	3	Language is generally clear, although there some unusual phrases (e.g. 'weeps his pains inside') limit the grade here.
Total	**16**	**Level 5**