

GRADE 10A

REVIEW - LEVEL 1

- basic, limited
- message not informative

Poem Analysis

In the poem "Korsaken," the poet relates two parts of a story into a soft spoken poem, that tells the tales of a woman who when she was young, was forced to fight for her survival to save her child, then in a subtle irony is marooned on an island by her grand children for being useless. The poet uses examples of personification. The poem has an interesting ending, that shows the opposite of what you expect.

GRADE 10A

REVIEW - LEVEL 1

- missed almost all aspects of the review
- not enough information

The forsaken

In this poem ~~The~~ The forsaken
the author ~~Duncan~~ Duncan Cambell
Scott Has Accomplished
Painting. a picture relates
an incident creates a mood.
The author Duncan cambell scott
creates a genious and incredible
poem. The old lady was left on
an island to die. The forsaken
creates a heart pounding, Jaw
dropping expiarence.

GRADE 10A

REVIEW - LEVEL 2

- still lacking in general clarity and connections
- no thesis
- message needs more support

English 10 A.
"The Forsaken"

In the poem "The Forsaken", the author, Duncan Campbell Scott, paints a picture, relates an incident, conveys an idea, and creates a mood. "Once in the winter out on a lake" paints the picture of a frozen lake in the winter. "All the lake-surface streamed with hissing of millions of ice flakes hurled by the wind" paints a picture of the great storm that the woman and her baby were caught in. Later in the poem, when the son drops off his mother on an isolated island, "years and years after, when she was old and withered" paints the picture that she is old and he is now a man with a family of his own. The simile, "She was old and useless like a broken paddle and warped" shows that she wasn't able to provide anything for her family anymore. The metaphor "or a pole that was splintered" means she was no good. Duncan relates an incident by talking about the woman caught in a storm, while taking her sick baby to the fort. Another way the author relates an incident is how the son takes his aging mother to the remote island and leaving her there to die. Duncan conveys an idea by giving a message, in the beginning of the story, the message about the thing you'll do to save your family. This woman cut her flesh to catch fish for her baby. The author uses repetition to make it sound worsening. In part two, the message is, "her son wanted her to die with dignity but some may think that was wrong." The mood the author created for me in the beginning was sorrow. I felt bad, she sacrificed her skin for food. In part two the mood that was created was anger. I couldn't believe that her son just left her there to die. In the poem "The Forsaken" the author was able to paint a picture, relate an incident, convey an idea, and create a mood by using literary devices.

GRADE 10A

REVIEW - LEVEL 2

- basic context, vague/unfocused
- partial exploration and justification

The Forsaken

The poet, Duncan Campbell Scott, uses his poem, "The Forsaken" to successfully paint a picture, relate an incident, convey an idea and create a mood. Imagery is used when he meticulously describes how it was snow storming, using personification with 'streamed with the hissing of millions of ice flakes' and a simile combined with personification for the phrase 'roared like a fire with the voice of the storm' to give a brilliant image of the scenery. These also accomplish the task of relating an incident, both with the woman stuck in the storm with her baby and being left on an island to die. It used repetition to convey an idea, that the woman is brave and fearless in both incidents with the phrases 'valiant, unshaken' and 'then she had rest'. He means that she faced the inevitable with a brave face. He creates a mood of a hopeful, selfless woman helping her baby despite the cold storm. He displays her bravery and acceptance of death with the phrase 'when she had rest' to bring it to existence. The poem is easily able to paint a picture, relate an incident, convey an idea and create a mood through the use of literary devices.

Simile

GRADE 10A

REVIEW - LEVEL 3

- no real introduction
- weak intro thesis but well explained in body
- quantity supported message
- great vocabulary
- clear understanding of movie
- some informal language
- conclusion at odds with introductory paragraph and some arguments throughout
- conclusion at odds with premise this is an exceptional film
- judgments made, but specific evidence lacking
- clichés used often

Schindler's List is probably one of the most powerful films that has ever been made, not only because of the fantastic direction and acting, but also because of the message and story behind it.

Set in Poland, right in the middle of World War II, the movie immediately gives off a sense of foreboding. Whether it's because of the black-and-white film that was used in its making, I'm not sure. It warned me in advance, however, that this was not going to be a fun or enjoyable experience. This is true in the sense that the film is literally representing life; the struggle of actual Jews who were aided by Oskar Schindler in the middle of one of the most dangerous points in history. It is not a film to be taken lightly, but rather one that should be shown reverence and thought. Not popcorn-movie night material, in other words! Though the film isn't altogether enjoyable, it certainly is fascinating, horrifying, and even heartwarming at parts. The plight of the Jews during the habitation of the Nazis is brilliantly depicted, with none of the nitty-gritty taken out. Everything is shown: the human furnaces, the senseless murdering, the burning piles of bodies... presumably all for the sake of revealing the truth to an otherwise oblivious public.

The story starts off at a Nazi gathering before the war actually begins. We meet Oskar Schindler (Liam Neeson), a womanizer, crook, and a member of the Nazi party. Schindler has plans to open up a factory, as well as to increase his already large bank account, and decides the best route to go about it would be to hire Jews. Everything changes though, when German soldiers move in and begin liquidating the ghettos of all Jews, loading them onto trains, and shipping them away to labour camps. Schindler, though he attempts to hide it, feels for his Jewish workers, and attempts a number of

rescue attempts, hindered along the way by Amon Goeth (Ralph Fiennes), the evil commander in charge of the labor camp. Ultimately, Schindler becomes a hero, saving the lives of more than one thousand Jews, and putting his own neck on the line multiple times in the process.

Schindler is a very peculiar individual, one that would never be praised under normal circumstances. He is an awful person (he himself admits it), but when the war rolls around, his true nature is revealed as he begins to feel sympathy toward the very culture he is supposed to despise. Throughout the course of the movie, he is compared a number of times to Amon Goeth, though they are shown to be two very different people. Schindler turns out to be kindhearted, willing to stand up for what is right, and brave beyond measure. Goeth, on the other hand, is a coward who hides behind his power and title.

All roles within the film were played extremely well. No doubts were cast by me upon the genuinity of the many strong emotions portrayed within it. The actors playing the roles of minor Jews were, in particular, very well done. They accurately and effectively portrayed the sadness and fear that came with being a Jew back then. The cast worked fantastically well together and I have to give them props for that! Among my favourites, in terms of overall performance, were Ben Kingsley, playing the role of Schindler's assistant, Itzhak Stern, and Embeth Davidtz, playing Goeth's Jewish maid, Helen Hirsch. Both of these actors performed stupendously. I was terrified for poor Helen's life as she was threatened and beaten by Goeth throughout the movie. Embeth played her to a tee, and I was extremely thankful that she managed to make it out alive in the end! Ben Kingsley delivered an Emmy award-winning performance, though I'm not sure if he

actually won an Emmy for it or not. His acting was both powerful, and well thought-out, and he was a great source of comic relief throughout the film with his wry, ironic wit. A person who can find anything to laugh about in such a dark period in history is a very rare thing indeed.

In terms of direction, this may be the most meaningful film that Steven Spielberg has ever directed. His name adorns such classic movies as *Jaws*, and *Jurassic Park*, but neither of them come close to the weight and meaning behind this cinematic masterpiece. Everything worked beautifully together: the script, the actors, the setting, all of it. Mind you, I mean that in a cacophonous way. Again, the movie is clearly not meant to please an audience, but rather to inform. Some parts within it are very harsh and made me cringe or avert my eyes. The shootings in particular were very disturbing, and the furnace, spouting human ash, made me sick to my stomach. However, I think that all this was entirely necessary in a film designed to teach people the horrors of World War II. Spielberg did an amazing job working everything in, and it was a wonderful, terrible spectacle to behold.

As for an overall theme to the movie, I'd say the most prominent message would be that there is a little good in everybody. Schindler, though at first he seems like a bad-tempered, chauvinistic, Jew-hating kind of guy, manages to save thousands of lives and gives both his money and beloved business to protect those he cares about. Even Amon Goeth, a real nasty piece-of-work, shows tenderness at times... though it is usually followed by violent outbursts and a whole lot of killing.

Overall, I don't think I'd recommend this movie to a friend. It's a difficult thing to swallow, the fact that any of these tragic events occurred at all, but utterly necessary if the human race is to learn from its mistakes. I'd say the film is more for interest purposes rather than a "good time", and would more likely refer it to those who want a realistic view into what really happened back then. As Stern says, "*The list is life*," and this movie is all about life. It goes beyond the role of ordinary entertainment, and teaches us to truly appreciate the lives we're fortunate enough to lead. Where there's life, there's hope. Choose life.

GRADE 10A

REVIEW - LEVEL 3

- body of language is literary – the review comes at the end not explaining opinions fully or supporting them
- example in introduction
- assumption of reader reading the play
- more literary essay than review
- text appropriate to essay
- minor misuses of punctuation

James Keller

The Miracle Worker by William Gibson is a dynamic work constructed around a central theme of transformation. Each character adds something valuable to the piece, but as with any play, only a few characters are integral to the plot. A possible issue when writing the play may have been that Helen's character does not emotionally develop enough to interest the reader. Even with Annie's transformation, Helen does not progress adequately for the subject of transformation to become apparent. James, Helen's brother, makes up for this by developing emotionally. Examples of this include James standing up to his father, and James' acceptance of Annie. James also uses biting humour to point out flaws and issues in his family. James' emotional development compensates for Helen's lack thereof.

The necessity for James' character is brought on by Helen's emotionally static character. Helen learns manners, but this cannot be qualified as an actual transformation, as was noted by Annie when she says, "Not enough. Obedience isn't enough" (88). Helen learns language, but this occurs at the end of the play and so it is not enough to maintain the audience's interest. Helen does not experience internal conflict, and the little external conflict she undergoes is simplistic and primal. The lack of conflict is not typical of a main character. James however, experiences significant internal and external conflict.

One of the most evident indicators of James' development was when he stood up to his father, Captain Keller. Throughout the story, James struggles to be taken seriously as a young adult. James attempts to make his father realize that he is a young adult when he says, "She's right, Kate's right, I'm right, and you're wrong... has it never occurred to

you that on one occasion you might be consummately wrong?" (107). When he feels as though his deceased mother has been forgotten, and when Keller is oblivious as to what James needs, he cries out, "My God, don't you know? Everything you forgot, when you forgot my mother" (76). This is a demonstration of James' transformation into a courageous young man.

James contributed to the play when he accepted and approved of Annie. This was essential because it qualified Annie's development. Without this qualification, Annie's character does not seem to have changed so drastically. For most of the story, James believes Annie to be incompetent, voicing his opinion by saying, "... Miss Sullivan is a boon" (85) and "Now we have two of them to look after" (28), referring to Annie as blind and inexperienced. Annie's transformation into an effective teacher is qualified by James when he makes himself vulnerable by stopping Keller from chasing after her and says, "Let her go. I said - let her go. She's right" (107). If James had not been included in the play, Helen alone would not have been able to make Annie's change so apparent. This is because Helen is not a complex, high-functioning individual, as opposed to James. At one time, James took every opportunity to criticize Annie, but by this point in the play, he recognizes her intelligence and defends her actions, even in the face of adversity.

James' sardonic humour brings comic relief to the play while drawing attention to harsh realities. James plays an important role in criticizing characters and forcing them to learn. James is the first one to point out that Annie is only teaching Helen finger games. James challenges Captain Keller's authority when he jokes, "Father stands up, that makes it a fact" (8). He puts forth the idea that Helen will "Never learn with everyone letting her do anything she takes it into her mind to ..." (9), something which nobody else in the

family had pondered up until that point. James appears to have a witty retort for every situation. When Kate asks him, “And you sit here and say nothing?” (36) he replies, “Well, everyone’s been telling me not to say anything” (36).

Without James’ emotional development, The Miracle Worker would have been less interesting and less entertaining. Helen’s bland character created the need for a clever, conflicted, brave character. James’s character developed through his major relationships with Annie and Captain Keller. Standing up to Keller, James provided emotion where the play would otherwise have been lacking. James not only emphasizes the transformations of other characters, but also undergoes a transformation himself. Although The Miracle Worker features many characters, James is one of the most important, memorable, and entertaining.