

MODEL ANSWERS

1. From lines 1-4, identify the phrase which describes how high the floodwaters were. (1 mark)

A phrase which describes how high the floodwaters were is “her boat was on a level with the upstairs windows.”

2. From lines 10-16, give two ways in which danger is made clear to the reader. You may use your own words or quotations from the text. (2 marks)

1. The first way the danger is made clear to the reader is the “middle window” of the Mill is on the same level with the boat meaning the flood water is dangerously high.

2. The second way the danger is made clear to the reader is that a man has already “drowned” according to Tom.

3. In lines 10-22, how does the writer use language and structure to show the relationship between Maggie and Tom? Support your views with reference to the text. (6 marks)

The writer George Eliot effectively uses language to show the estranged yet forgiving relationship between Maggie and Tom, when it dawns on Tom through this crisis that the flood has brought them back together after having a bad relationship for years. When Tom sees Maggie, he reflects the flood has shown him “the depths in life that had lain beyond his vision.” The writer effectively uses alliteration to refer to “life” which had “lain” beyond Tom’s vision. In other words, alliteration is used here to show how Tom likely often thought of Maggie, however he could never bring himself to reveal to her he still cared. However this flood makes them both realise that they care for each other and their relationship can be mended.

Secondly, the writer effectively uses structure to show just how much Tom and Maggie missed their friendship as siblings hence they wished to mend their relationship. The writer uses a complex sentence to illustrate how they “sat mutely gazing at each other; Maggie with eyes of intense life looking out from a weary, beaten face, Tom pale, with a certain awe and humiliation.” This complex sentence is effective as it shows how both Maggie and Tom used to have a close relationship and they both yearned to repair the issues they had, however neither made an effort. This complex sentence makes us as readers feel a sense of pathos for both siblings as it is evident they used to have a close relationship and they both wish to reconcile with each other.

4. In this extract, there is an attempt to create strong feelings in the reader. Evaluate how successfully this is achieved. Support your views with detailed reference to the text. (15 marks)

In this extract of “The Mill on the Floss,” the writer George Eliot successfully creates strong feelings within us as readers because we have a deep sense of empathy towards both Maggie

MODEL ANSWERS

and her brother Tom, we earnestly develop a strong sense of hope that they will survive the rapids and rebuild their relationship as siblings however we feel devastated when the passage closes with their deaths. Eliot uses a mix of language and structure techniques to evoke strong feelings of sympathy, sadness and pathos within us as readers as we read through the extract.

Firstly, Eliot effectively structures the text to captivate us as readers and instantly we feel a strong sentiment towards Maggie who we hope will be able to rescue her family in the flood. She arrives at their home “with panting joy that she was there at last, joy that overcame all distress.” This opening thrusts us into the passage and the oxymoron “joy” and “distress” makes us captivated. We feel strong feelings of hope as readers because we want to see Maggie successfully rescue her family as she is risking her life to come back and find them in her boat.

Secondly, as the passage progresses, she manages to find Tom her brother and she speaks to him with a powerful sense of urgency. Eliot uses simple sentences as Maggie tells her brother to “get in quickly. Is there no one else?” These two simple sentences are effective as they create a sense of urgency within us as readers. We develop strong feelings of fear as we realise they are in great danger of having their boat capsize in this flood. Maggie’s urgent speech shows to us the gravity of their situation and the steep danger that they face.

Thirdly, the author effectively uses language to make us feel strong emotions as readers. Tom and Maggie have an epiphany when they realise that they still love each other as siblings. Eliot describes how a “a mist gathered over the blue-grey eyes” of Tom and he called his sister “the old childish ‘Magsie!’” The metaphor “a mist” which describes Tom’s tears, coupled with the informal, colloquial reference to his sister using her nickname “Magsie” creates strong feelings within us as readers. We as readers feel pathos towards both Tom and Maggie as they both express a childlike need to reconnect and be as close as they were when they were children.

Moreover, as the passage develops we readers begin to feel a sense of dread as we realise the immense danger the floods pose to both Tom and Maggie. Their boat floats through a “dreadful clearness” and the repetition of this phrase makes us feel strong emotions as readers. This is because we realise just how small and solitary their boat is when compared to the immense flood that appears to surround them. We feel emotional as we read this passage because we begin to have a dreadful sense that they may not be able to escape.

Finally, the writer effectively structures the passage to make us as readers feel devastated when Tom and Maggie die in the flood. Their boat capsizes and onlookers in a nearing boat witness how the “brother and sister had gone down in an embrace never to be parted.” The hyperbole “embrace never to be parted” at the end of this passage makes us feel strong emotions as readers. This ending is bittersweet as Tom and Maggie reconcile their differences and embrace, however they unfortunately die in the strong currents. We as readers therefore feel a strong feeling of sadness at this emotional ending.

In conclusion, the writer successfully creates strong feelings of pathos, sadness as well as empathy within us as readers. As we read the passage, we feel strong emotions of hope that both Tom and Maggie will reconcile their differences as well as survive the flood. The author

MODEL ANSWERS

successfully uses a mix of language and structure techniques to evoke strong feelings of sympathy and sadness within us as readers as we read the extract and ultimately realise that the siblings have died.

6. Write about a time when you, or someone you know, had an exciting experience. Your response could be real or imagined. (40 marks)

The sunshine was beaming down on the sandy shores of the bustling beach. I gazed out at the cobalt ocean as its gentle waves lapped against the shore. A golden blanket of sand stretched on for miles and miles around this peaceful ocean - which danced and receded around the sand in joyful, predictable cycles. The glistening, golden sand caressed my feet as I sat by the shore looking out before me. I was on the sandy hills of the beach, seated next to my excited friend and I craned my neck to look up at the towering palm trees which leaned and waved at us. Their juniper leaves swayed and danced as a fresh breeze ran across our smiling faces, lifting up our messy, curly hair. We chatted, giggled and laughed as we wondered what we would do on our exciting day by the beach.

The silent sea began to bustle and thrive with life. All its inhabitants began springing out of the ocean. I watched the marine life in amazement as they leaped out for fleeting seconds before they plunged their bodies back into the ocean. We stood up from the sand, dusted ourselves off and strolled along the gargantuan beach. The beach stretched on and on for as far as the eye could see. As the sun continued to rise higher in the sky, we noticed a large, grey majestic creature leaping and bouncing across the navy sea in the distance. It was a dolphin. This motivated us to have our first underwater experience in the mysterious depths of the ocean. We put on our fitted, rubbery snorkelling suits. My charcoal suit had faded with so much use from other snorkelling adventures, but I did not care. I yelped in ecstasy as my friend and I plunged into the radiant sea. I began swimming in breaststroke as we swam deeper and deeper into the cold, cobalt sea. To our amazement, we discovered a coral kingdom on the sea bed. There was a stream of bright, intricate colours that surrounded us. Some corals were gilded with a bright, golden sheen. Other corals were jagged and pink. Others swayed and waved at us, their scarlet stems beckoning my friend and I over. A few bleached, circular corals lay on the ocean's sandy floor. Amongst the intricate and vibrant rays of colours were the clownfish playing hide and seek amongst the sea anemones.

My eyes lit up as I looked at the magnificent underground kingdom of corals, fish and dolphins that passed us, indifferent at our presence. I suddenly felt the ocean swaying with a powerful jolt. I realised the waves were growing larger and larger, becoming more and more forceful. I felt a tug on my elbow and looked back to see my best friend beckoning me to swim towards the shore. The blue sky that we had left when we entered the ocean had retreated and as I rose higher and higher to the ocean's surface, I noticed a grey blanket of dark cloud covered the clear sky. I felt the waves twisting and turning me, threatening to consume me back into the ocean. My friend grabbed onto my arm and I let her tug me back towards the shore.

We kicked and pushed our bodies forward, slowly swimming to the shore. As we got closer and closer to the edge of the beach, the crashing waves gradually became small, gentle

MODEL ANSWERS

caresses of salt water. We eased out of the water and looked back at the tumultuous ocean. We could see a pod of dolphins jumping and bouncing across the ocean in the far distance. I smiled as I inhaled the salty smell of the ocean water, which clung to my wet snorkelling suit.

Weak rays of sunshine peeked through the slate clouds and I smiled my friend as we considered how well our holiday was going. This last minute trip to the Solomon Islands was a dream come true for me. I realised we had been swimming for quite some time as the sky became a mix of amber and scarlet. As the crepuscular sky started to give way to the early evening, I grew excited as I realised I still had a week left to spend in this magical paradise. I felt a surge of independence when I reflected that my friend and I had just turned eighteen and we were on our first holiday together – without our parents. I felt a surge of independence blooming and flowering within me. The darkening sky above my head signalled the gradual end of my first day on holiday, as well as my first day being eighteen years old. My childhood was coming to an end and the truly exciting adventure of adulthood beckoned me.