

# Stage 5 English

## Assessment Task 2 - Essay

- **Part 1 (Scaffold) Due:** in-class or before on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March (Week 9)
- **Part 2 (Essay) Due:** in-class or before on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (Week 11)

**Weighting:** 25% (5% Scaffold, 20% Essay)

**You will have allocated class-time, on computers where possible, to complete this task.**

**Outcomes Assessed:** EN5-1A EN5-5C EN5-7D, EN5-8D

**Part 1:** Complete a scaffold (example attached) detailing your points and examples for your essay. You will receive feedback on your points and examples that will help you achieve at a higher level for your essay.

**Part 2:** Answer the following question in the form of an essay:

**What value does your novel hold to modern day readers?**

You may refer to the text's:

\* writing and structure

\* the significance of the text's message

\* how the text achieves 'something new' (writing / genre / message)

*Refer to either:*

- *"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time" by Mark Haddon*
- *"Jasper Jones" by Craig Silvey*
- *"The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins*

*You will be assessed on how well you demonstrate:*

- *A complete and relevant scaffold*
- *An ability to address the question with insight*
- *An ability to identify and analyse the forms and features of your novel*
- *A structured and well-written response using the PEEL paragraph and overall essay structure*

Name .....

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>E Limited</b>	<b>D Basic</b>	<b>C Sound</b>	<b>B Effective</b>	<b>A Outstanding</b>
<b>Part 1</b> Submits a completed scaffold with relevant points, examples and techniques identified.					
<b>Part 2</b> Answers all parts of the question thoroughly and with insight.					
Clearly identifies and explains the forms and features of both texts.					
Clearly structures their overall essay, and their paragraphs with the PEEL structure.					
Presents a well-written, well-presented task that is edited, and uses appropriate language for an essay.					

**Areas of Strength:**

**Areas to Improve:**

# My Essay Plan

Question:

**Introduction** (restate and respond to the topic with your contention, briefly introduce the text/author and the key points of your argument/discussion)

## Body

Paragraph 1 (Point > Explanation > Evidence/Example)

Link to the topic and then to the next paragraph

Paragraph 2 (Point > Explanation > Evidence/Example)

Link to the topic and then to the next paragraph

Paragraph 3 (Point > Explanation > Evidence/Example)

Link back to the topic

**Conclusion** (Restate your contention, summarise your main points, link to topic and reach a conclusion)



Stage 5 English - Sian's class

## Questions on Jasper Jones

Google Classroom code:

**gpis65f**

## Jasper Jones

1a Find and highlight these words and expressions on the first three pages of the novel. Write them out in your journal with their page numbers in the brackets:

frightened ( )

thrill ( )

portentous ( ) Look up the meaning of this word and write it in your workbook.

. . . like a foal being born ( )

. . . safe in the hot womb of my room ( )

b. Now, embed all of them in a paragraph of your own writing to explain how Craig Silvey is introducing his novel as a rites of passage/coming of age story about thirteen-year-old Charlie.

2) a. Reading pages 7 and 8, what is the thing Charlie has 'wanted all my life'?

b. What does this tell us about the power of literature?

3. Read about the reputations of Jack Lionel and Jasper Jones on pages 4 – 7. What do these reputations reveal about the town of Corrigan?

4 a. At the centre of this narrative is the story of what appears to be a terrible crime which is misunderstood. What do the boys think that crime is?

5 a. Find and highlight these sentences in Chapter One. Write them out in your workbooks with their page numbers in the brackets:

Of course this town will blame him. ( )

"There'll be a fucken court date before there's a funeral." ( )

That this town *is* that crooked and low. ( )

"See, everyone here's afraid of something and nuthin. This town, that's how they live . . ." ( )

He's right: shit has been taken from him his whole life. ( )

b] Using three of the above write a paragraph about justice and race in the town of Corrigan.

## CHAPTER TWO

6 a. Find and highlight these sentences in Chapter Two. Write them out in your workbooks with their page numbers in the brackets:

Their message is simple: Don't be too clever. ( )

*Fuck off, Cunt Eyes . . .* ( )

. . . but once the game is over, the pattern returns. ( )

"Shars yer tits! ( )

b] Now, embed all of these quotations in a response to the following PROPOSITION: 'What we learn at the cricket nets watching Warwick Trent and the Corrigan Countryweek side (pp 74-89) is that Australian culture is anti-intellectual, sexist and racist.'

7. Apart from the banter between two friends, the superhero argument early in the chapter tells the reader a lot about Charlie Bucktin. Why does he admire Batman so ardently?

8. Discuss the following PROPOSITION: 'The body of Laura Wishart hangs over this chapter like a guilty conscience.'

## CHAPTER THREE

In Chapter Three Craig Silvey does something that literature and art claim the freedom and responsibility to do. Through the newspaper stories about Eric Cooke, Albert Fish and Sylvie Likens, the author takes Charlie and the reader to a dark place where we ought not want to go. Notice how the stories of Cooke and Fish are the stories of perpetrators of violent crimes. The most detailed recount, though, is the story of a victim, Sylvie Likens. Notice, also, something about the punctuation; there are so many question marks and the most asked question is *why?* Read and copy out the following into your workbook:

And it occurs to me for the first time that people can do this to each other. People really can. And I wonder: how thin is the line? Is it something we all have in us? Is it just a matter of friction and pressure? Is it shit luck and a poor lot? Is it time and chance? I scratch at myself and sniff. Maybe Mark Twain knows. (p 108)

9. Write a paragraph about Silvey's representation of family life through his portrayal of Charlie and his parents in this chapter.

## Chapter 4

1. During 'this curious curfew' (p 147), Charlie contemplates some of the big questions. Find quotes on the given pages that this:

On Mortality: (p 153) and (p 163)

On Fairness: (p 161)

On the existence of God: (pp 161-162)

2. 'Maybe that's why people stay in Corrigan and pull their hats low.' (p 160) Explain this metaphor in relation to Charlie's musings.

## Chapter 5

1. Re-read pages 164-171. How might we be able to make a connection between what Sue Findlay does to Mrs Lu and the way Jasper Jones' name is mentioned during the meeting at the Miners' Hall?

Make sure to include this quotation in your paragraph: 'This town was looking for an excuse.' (p 170)

2. Locate and highlight the following quotations from Chapter Five. Write them out in your workbooks with their page numbers in the brackets:

JUSTICE:

'And I understood then that maybe we really did do the wrong thing for the right reasons . . . He would have been cuffed and caged like Eric Cooke. He would have been beaten and lynched like Laura Wishart.' ( )

"Sarge. The local constabulary, Charlie." ( )

"My ribs hurt the most. Steel caps. Bloody brutal." ( )

"Mate, Laura's old man . . . was down at the station as well." ( )

"I bin made to feel small all my life." ( )



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"My ribs hurt the most. Steel caps. Bloody brutal." ( )

"Mate, Laura's old man . . . was down at the station as well." ( )

"I bin made to feel small all my life." ( )

3. Using the above quotes write a paragraph that discusses the lack of Justice Jasper Jones expects to receive.

SILVEY'S CHARACTERISATION OF JASPER:

"I've bin everywhere and nowhere." ( )

"We were gonna get out." ( )

"Luck's got nuthin to do with it It's all about acting." ( )

"I should never have gone away without tellin her first . . . If I'd have bin with her, like I *should've* bin, this would never have happened." ( )

"And I let Laura down . . . I had a . . . a *duty*. To protect her. To help her." ( )

"I don't get how people can look up at the moon and still reckon they're the *centre* of everythin . . . I reckon people are fools to be claiming this or that for themselves, drawin lines and territory." ( )

4. Silvey uses the dialogue between Charlie and Jasper during their second visit to Jasper's glade to develop his characterisation of Jasper Jones. How is the reader being positioned to understand and respond to Jasper? Use some of the 'Characterisation' material from the above table in your paragraph.

5. Locate and highlight the following quotations from Chapter Five. Write them out in your workbooks with their page numbers in the brackets:

I'm always a step removed. Eliza, Jasper, my father. I can wade through the dark, but I can only see as far as the guttering candle allows me. ( )

It seems so helpless and hopeless. I'm so small and weak in the wake of all this, in its sinister ripples. ( )

And I think of Laura. The heavy ghost. So horribly vivid in my mind. ( )

When Jasper Jones goes, when he leaves town after this mess is over, I'll be going with him. ( )

6. Embedding key words and phrases from these quotations, write a paragraph discussing the characterisation of Charlie in Chapter Five.

## Chapter 6

### THREE FAMILIES:

Charlie Bucktin's

Eliza Wishart's

Jeffrey Lu's

1. Find these quotations from Chapter Six, write the page numbers in the brackets and then copy them into the appropriate column of the **Three Families** table above:

She called him a poor parent, a useless husband. She accused him of not caring for either me or her, not for anyone other than himself. ( )

I was shocked by the injustice, bewildered by the scene. I felt horribly guilty and so sorry for my dad . . . ( )

My father . . . He's a little harder maybe, a little distant, a little less forgiving. Something has shifted away. ( )

My dad is having a bit of a rough time . . . people got laid off at the mine . . . people are harassing my dad about it all the time, because he's only allowed here through some sponsorship with the mine . . . ( )

My mother is a mess. ( )

And yet my dad is completely different . . . He's blocked it all out . . . Which must be easy when you're drunk all the time. ( )

I think about my dad. It's as though we're on an equal footing again, like something has shifted back into place. ( )

. . . tense and terse and suspicious . . . She was more aggressive with me than ever. ( )

## Chapter Seven

1. Chapter 1 is a chapter of confessions and revelations: Jack Lionel's, Eliza Wishart's and Charlie Bucktin's. Guilt is a major theme running through all of them. Jasper also carries a terrible sense of guilt and grief for not being at the glade before Laura Wishart's crisis.

Craig Silvey's novel *Jasper Jones* portray the community of as the truly guilty parties.' How does he achieve this?

2. Eliza Wishart's confession is delivered in the narrative voice of Charlie retelling it in the 'Thisiswhathappened – That'swhathappened' sequence on pages 329-341. What is the intended effect of Silvey's use of the narrative voice and the structure of this sequence?

## Chapter Eight and Nine

1. As Eliza confirms the truth to her mother about Laura's desperate situation and as Charlie's mother leaves her family for the city, Chapter Eight focuses primarily on the theme of family. Find examples of this backed up with a quote for each example.
2. *Jasper Jones* begins as the fairy tale of a hero's quest with the line 'Jasper Jones has come to my window' in place of 'Once upon a time' and it ends as a fairy tale with the hero's status confirmed. Charlie's friendship with Jeffrey and his relationship with Eliza are confirmed, the foe is outsmarted, a final hurdle is overcome, the dragon is slayed and the treasure retrieved. Who is the foe? What is the final hurdle? Who is the dragon? What is the treasure?
3. It is clear that Eliza is responsible for the act of arson. Frustrated that she couldn't bring her father to justice for abusing and raping her sister, Eliza burned down the house with Pete in it. Charlie recognizes that Eliza is reacting to a deep sense of guilt, the same sense of guilt that Jenny Likens showed. This brings the novel back to the same questions Charlie had previously raised: when are

## THEMES

### Truth and lies

*Jasper Jones* is a story dominated by lies:

- • Charlie and Jasper lie about Laura
- • Charlie's dad lies about writing his novel
- • Jasper's family lies about their history and relationship to Mad Jack Lionel
- • Charlie's mother lies to conceal her affair.

*I'm not sure where to look. The water, Eliza, the glade. There are lies everywhere. p.327*

(Sorry guys, continued on next page)....

*I'm asking her to lie. I'm asking her to pull a blanket over parts of this story. To comb it over, to change its colour and complexion. Just so I can stay clean. So Jasper Jones can be given a reprieve. I'm asking her to keep her sister hidden. And I feel terrible. But what's right and just and true here anyway?* p.361

*I know the sad truth. About everything. Jasper, Laura, my mother. It's all come to light, it's all been bared, and it's bowed my shoulders so much I'm too tired to be afraid anymore.* p.363

*I discovered a gift for lies. I looked straight at them and offered up the best story I could muster.* p.209

- How do lies shape the narrative of *Jasper Jones*? Choose one important lie in the story, and explore what might have happened differently had the truth been revealed instead.

### **War & Refugees**

*'Some of my family got killed... It happened yesterday. It was my ma's brother and his wife. My aunt and uncle. They won't tell me much more than that. It happened in the village that she grew up in. I don't know. I think it was a bomb.'* p.151

Jeffrey explains why his mother can't go home to bury her family: *"...there are bombs, Chuck. It's a war. It's pretty dangerous."* p.152

*The latest round of draft letters were delivered. I heard that three young men from Corrigan have been called up for National Service.* p.164

*I wish I'd tried to talk to my father about Vietnam. About the war there, and Jeffrey's family, and how they got killed. None of it makes any sense. I want him to explain to me just how it could happen.* p.160

*Strangely, of all the horrible things I've encountered and considered recently, dropping a bomb seems to be the least violent among them, even though it's clearly the worst.* p.160

- **Research Australia's role in the Vietnam War.**
  - How and why did we become involved?
- - What was 'the draft'?
  - What was the national attitude to this war, and how did this differ to how Australians felt about other conflicts like World War II.
- - The war occupies a strange space in *Jasper Jones*. It occurs 'off stage' in a place that seems very distant, but it has very real consequences for the people of Corrigan.
  - Discuss the concept of 'scapegoating'. How does this apply to the incident between Sue Findlay and Mrs Lu at the town meeting? ◦ This scene is told from the perspective of Charlie and his father. Retell it from the perspective of one of the women directly involved. Include details about what they thought and felt.
-

- Recent public discourse around refugees has become contentious and inflammatory. Examine current government policy surrounding Australia's refugee policy.
  - How many refugees do we take in?
  - How many do we imprison?
  - How do we determine who deserves asylum, and who is turned away?
  - How are refugees treated in detention?
  - What happens to refugees once they are given the right to live here?
- Write a report about what you discover, using both verbal and visual modes of communication.

### **Racism**

*"I ain't protected by shit... This town, they think I'm a bloody animal. They think I belong in a cage..." p.26*

*"I mean, I know people have always bin afraid of me... Wary. They reckon I'm just half an animal with half a vote. That I'm no good. And I always used to think, why? They don't even know me... But then I realised, that's exactly why. That's all it is." p.30*

*Jeffrey failed to make the Countryweek cricket team, which came as no surprise. p.164*  
*On the short trip home, he explained to me the cause of Sue Findlay's outburst. Some months ago her husband, Ray, had been killed in the war. They'd had a rocky marriage, but she'd taken it very badly. And only yesterday her eldest son had announced he'd been balloted through to Vietnam. She'd taken that even worse. p.171*

*"Sarge. The local constabulary, Charlie." p.177.[Beat Jasper up. Kept him in custody for the weekend.] "My ribs hurt the most. Steel caps. Bloody brutal." p.178*

*Jeffrey's parents are Vietnamese, so he's ruthlessly bullied and belted about by the boys at school. p.9*

*It's hard to understand. The folks who watch Jasper play, who barrack for him like he was one of their own, are the same ones who might cut their eyes at him should he walk their way a few hours after the game. p.79*

*"They just reckon it's my nature. Like I don't know any better. And you know what else, Charlie? I never once bin caught. Not even close. They all just suspect it. They expect it. Of course he's a thief, they say. Of course he burned down the post office. Of course he hanged that poor girl. That poor girl." p.45*

*An Lu is on the ground now. Huddled on their front lawn. And they keep going. They hit and spit on him. Swinging and kicking. I can hear them shouting: Red rat! Fucking red rat! p.266*

*"Jasper Jones fell out of the world and nobody noticed. Nobody cared. p.394*

- Racism takes many forms in *Jasper Jones*. Subtle bias, verbal abuse, and overt physical violence.
  - Why is racism so pervasive in Corrigan? Do you think it would be the same in other places, like bigger cities?

- Do you think things are different in the present day? Where you live?

- What forms of racism do you see in the world around you?

- What specific assumptions do the people of Corrigan make about Jasper because he is Aboriginal? And what do they assume about the Lu family because they are Vietnamese? Where do these assumptions come from?

- • How does Jasper's Aboriginality determine the way his story plays out?
- • Excelling in sport seems to be the only way Jasper, and eventually Jeffrey, gain grudging and short-lived respect.
  - What does this say about the role of sport in Australian culture?
- ◦ Do you think the people of Corrigan are exploitative of these boys?
- • Charlie feels guilty about the comforts and securities he enjoys that Jasper does not. He is becoming aware of his privilege.
  - Discuss the meaning and implications of white privilege in *Jasper Jones*, and in the wider world.
- • Research what it means to be an ally. Do you think Charlie was a good ally to Jasper and Jeffrey? Why/why not? How could he have done better?
- • **Is Australia a racist country?**
  - What is your immediate answer to this question?
  - Do some research into the statistics around this issue.
  - Find some examples of the lived experience of immigrants, refugees, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and think about their stories.
  - Has your answer to the original question changed because of your investigations?
  - Resources to start with:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/hindi/en/article/2017/02/27/australia-racist-here-are-10-stunning-stats>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eA3UsF8yyho>

<http://alltogethernow.org.au/racism/>

### **Murder, violence, and crime**

*I pore over the misdeeds of famous and infamous killers, fascinated by their stories.*  
p.105

- • Why does Charlie feel the compulsion to immerse himself in these stories? Do you think he finds his discoveries helpful or satisfying?
- • What does this process of information-gathering mean in the context of the bildungsroman narrative?
- • Charlie researches murders and violent crimes in the newspapers at the Corrigan library. As a creative piece, write the story of Laura's disappearance as a newspaper article. You may wish to write it from the perspective of someone who doesn't know the truth, or as it would have been told if the full story had come out.
- *Jasper Jones* opens up a space to discuss different kinds of violence, different scales, different degrees.
  - Are some worse than others? Which are most unsettling?

### **Bravery and cowardice**

*And if Jasper Jones is just as scared as the rest of us, I wonder if I'll ever be without fear. But... maybe it's not about being without it. Maybe it's about how well you walk with the weight. It makes sense to me now. That's what courage is.* p.356 13



*"For some folks, it's easier to condemn another man than have the strength to right your own wrongs."* p.272

[Jeffrey is] *ruthlessly bullied and belted about [at school]. But he takes it all astonishingly well, which has always eased my guilt given that I'm never brave enough to intervene.* p.9

*... being born without courage has proved to be a significant hindrance.* p.65

*Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.* p.92

*I bruise like a peach. And I'm afraid of insects. And I don't know how to fight.* p.92

- Charlie references his own lack of courage at several points in the novel. Do you agree with this self-assessment? In what ways is he brave, and in what ways cowardly?

- Do you agree with Charlie that real bravery cannot occur unless there is real risk? How does the theme of bravery relate to Charlie's relationship with Wes?

- Where do you fall in the Batman vs Superman debate? Divide the class into teams and debate the merits of each superhero.

- Is there a hero in *Jasper Jones*? If so, who is it?

## SYMBOLISM

### Peaches

*To pilfer and eat a peach from the property of Mad Jack Lionel assures you instant royalty. The stone of the peach is kept as a souvenir of heroics, and is universally admired and envied.* p.5

*In a way, he's more assured than any of those vindictive bastards with peach pits in their pockets.* p.9

*There's a lumpy carpet of decaying peaches at my feet.* p.385

*And the peaches do feel good. I'm proud to be clutching them, because I know what it took, and it felt as though a weight had shifted as soon as I had them in my hands.*

p.390

- Why do you think the story is bookended by stories about the peaches?

- If peaches are a badge of childhood honour and achievement, what does it mean when Charlie finds himself standing over a windfall of rotten ones at the end of the novel?

### Insects

*I feel harassed by the busy sounds of insects around me, like I'm trapped in an enormous thriving hive.* p.81

*The strange thing is, I'm boiling over with words, they're like a swarm in my head, I just can't order them. They swirl and dip like insidious insects. Haunting and noisy and nonsensical.* p.90

*A fear of insects is admissible for girls. Not so for me.* p.231

*It feels as though I'm inhabited by a teeming metropolis of insects, trailing up and down my limbs and my neck. Burrowing under my skin. And they won't be shuddered or shucked away.* p.326

Charlie is afraid of insects. He fears them in a literal way, but he also uses phrases such as 'there are insects crawling on my shoulders' (p.58) to indicate feelings of unease, anxiety and panic.

- What is it about insects that elicits this fear in Charlie? Come up with some adjectives to describe them.

- How do the sounds and movements of insects work as a literary device?

- What role do insects play in the novel's exploration of courage and fear?

## GENRE AND TROPES

### **Bildungsroman**

"I wanted to explore a lot of things with this book, but one of my primary areas of consideration was the sloughing of innocence that is growing up, that moment where the bubble is burst and you're suddenly exposed to the real truth of things and the blind trust of childhood dissolves."—Craig Silvey

A Bildungsroman is a literary genre that focuses on 'coming-of-age' stories. The protagonist moves from childhood to adulthood, innocence to wisdom, through a process of psychological and moral growth. The key feature of these stories is character change. *This shouldn't be our responsibility. It shouldn't be our hideous problem to solve. We should be able to pass this to the right people. We should be able to run like frightened kids, to point and pant and cower someplace safe.* p.29

- • What does the term 'coming of age' mean to you?
- • Does Charlie 'come of age'? How is this demonstrated in the novel?
- • Which events in the novel are instrumental to Charlie's growth? In what specific ways is he changed by each one?
- • 'Coming of age' is often seen as a 'journey'. Create a graphic timeline that illustrates Charlie's journey towards wisdom.
- • Do some characters in the book avoid coming of age? What does this mean on a social and community level for the people of Corrigan?
- • Does 'coming of age' link to other themes within the novel, such as courage and empathy?

"Everyone ages. Everyone can learn a trade and pay taxes and have a family. But that's not growin up. It's about how you act when your shit gets shaken up, it's about how much you see around you. That's what makes a man." p.183

- • What other quotations from the novel reflect the coming-of-age theme?

### **Gothic fiction**

The term Gothic fiction refers to a style of writing that is characterized by elements of fear, horror, death, and gloom, as well as romantic elements, such as nature, individuality, and very high emotion. These emotions can include fear and suspense. — <https://study.com/academy/lesson/gothic-fiction-definition-characteristics-authors.html> 11/8/2015.

Though *Jasper Jones* is not a gothic narrative, it deploys some tropes of the gothic genre. The projection of the narrator's psychology onto his description of people, places and events is reminiscent of the brooding and heightened sensibility of gothic tales.

- • A hidden or unspoken fear is the well-spring of gothic narratives. What hidden or unspoken fears do you discern in *Jasper Jones*?
- • What other gothic tropes can you find in *Jasper Jones*? [See sections above on The Australian Bush and Corrigan.]
- • How useful is the gothic genre to a story which is, at least partly, about exposing social and individual fears and lies?

"I mean, I know people have always bin afraid of me ... And I always used to think, why? They don't even know me. Nobody does. It never made sense. But then I realised, that's exactly why. That's all it is." p.30 15

- The novel undermines the gothic trope by exposing it to the truth. Does this make it a more powerful book?
- Jasper is saying that ignorance is at the root of social fear and prejudice. Do you agree? If so, can you give other examples from the real world? Does that mean that all that is needed to change the world is education?

### **Eye dialect**

Eye dialect is the use of nonstandard spelling for speech to draw attention to pronunciation.

*"I got somethink real to be afraid of."* p.26

*"I know you unnerstand what I bin saying."* p.29

*"Hello, Chully!" she says ... 'It's no good. The test crickit is raining.'"* p.60

- Why do you think Silvey uses this device?
- What might a reader assume about a character whose dialogue is presented in this way?

