

Sample Answer – Studied Poetry

(As we will be using this poem in the sample answer, I have printed it out for you.)

In Memory of My Mother

I do not think of you lying in the wet clay
Of a Monaghan graveyard; I see
You walking down a lane among the poplars
On your way to the station, or happily

Going to second Mass on a summer Sunday--
You meet me and you say:
'Don't forget to see about the cattle--'
Among your earthiest words the angels stray.

And I think of you walking along a headland
Of green oats in June,
So full of repose, so rich with life--
And I see us meeting at the end of a town

On a fair day by accident, after
The bargains are all made and we can walk
Together through the shops and stalls and markets
Free in the oriental streets of thought.

O you are not lying in the wet clay,
For it is harvest evening now and we
Are piling up the ricks against the moonlight
And you smile up at us - eternally.

Patrick Kavanagh

2011 Junior Certificate Examination

1. From the poetry you have studied, identify a poem in which you feel the poet brings a person, place or a thing vividly to life.

- (i) Describe the person, the place or the thing brought vividly to life by the poet. (10)
- (ii) In your opinion, what words or phrases used by the poet are the most effective in bringing the person, place or thing to life? Give reasons for your answer. (20)

i) In Patrick Kavanagh's 'In Memory of My Mother' we are presented with a very vivid and wonderfully affectionate portrait of the poet's late mother.

Kavanagh's mother is portrayed as a down-to-earth, sensible, cheerful, spiritual woman. The poet remembers her walking happily to 'second Mass on a summer Sunday' and, when she meets her son on the way, reminding him not to forget about the cattle. All Kavanagh's memories of his mother are positive ones. She is walking along a headland, shopping in the market or 'smiling up' at her son as they work together to bring in the harvest.

ii) This poem is rich with words and phrases which bring Kavanagh's mother to life for us. The first thing that struck me when reading the poem was that the poet uses the present tense throughout, which makes me feel that his mother is not in his past but is very much alive in his mind and in his heart. Although she may be 'lying in the wet clay', the poet does not want to imagine her that way and dwells instead on happier thoughts of their time together.

In the first and second stanza, the poet describes his mother walking to 'second Mass on a summer Sunday'. The detail – 'second Mass' – makes this description realistic, and the sibilance throughout this line both evokes a sense of peace and reinforces the idea that the poet's mother is going 'happily' on her way. The fact that the poet remembers a summer's day rather than a winter's one again brings his mother to life as that is a time of year connected to growth and new life.

I think the line that conjures up the clearest picture of the poet's mother is in the second stanza, when he gives her a voice and remembers her telling him not to 'forget about the cattle'. This is such a practical and sensible thing to say, and so reminiscent of all mothers

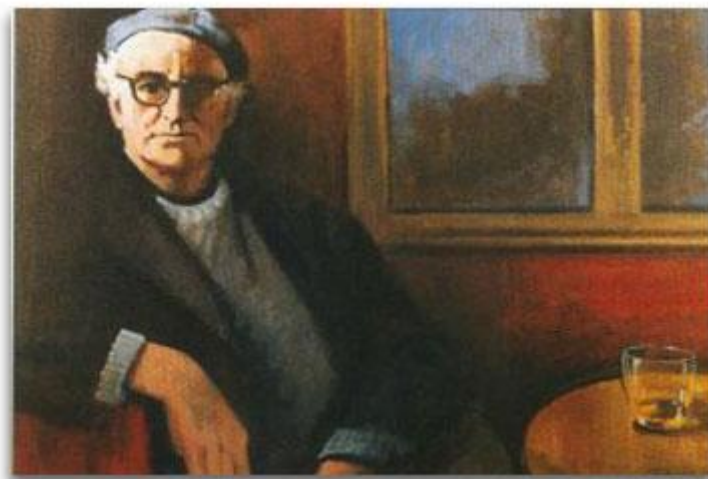
who seem to be continually reminding their children not to forget to do various chores, that I could almost hear her speaking the line aloud.

In the third stanza, the poet once again connects his mother to growth and to life as he remembers her walking along a headland near a field of oats on a June day. The line which tells us that he sees her 'so full of repose – so rich with life' is very powerful. The words 'full' and 'rich' and show just how vividly the poet sees his mother in his mind's eye. This is no vague memory, but one which is so strong that we are enabled to share in it.

The most moving image in the poem is that in the last line. Kavanagh refuses to think of his mother as a dead body in the wet soil, but instead sees her helping to bring in the harvest and smiling up at him 'eternally'. We are left with a clear picture of a loving mother who watches over her son forever.

Although Kavanagh's mother died long before I was born, she will live forever in his poem and will be brought to life as vividly for each new reader as she was for me. I am reminded of the words of William Shakespeare in another poem I studied this year, in which he talks of the power of words to keep a loved one alive:

'So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.'



Sample Answer – Unseen Fiction

Read the following extract carefully and then answer the questions which follow. The extract (in edited form) is taken from *The Pupil* by Caro Fraser.

Background to the extract: *Anthony Cross has a holiday job as a porter in Spitalfields market in London.*

Wednesday was not going well for Anthony Cross. His day had begun at 4 a.m., and it was now nearly nine. It had been drizzling steadily since the first grey shadows of dawn had crept over the city, and the lanes and alleyways around Spitalfields market were glistening with rain and vegetable refuse. The great steel barn of the fruit market echoed with the shouts of porters, the whinings of forklift trucks, the crashing of crates and the tramp of feet.

While Anthony hauled crates and tallied sacks of onions, Mr Mant, his boss, would emerge regularly from the cracked wooden den that he called his office and shuffle across to the café with his little stainless steel teapot. There it would be filled, and Mr Mant, small and dark and bent and unwashed, would make his way back to the office with his tea and doughnut. He never offered to share his tea with Anthony.

It was the mere fact of the steady rain that made Anthony's life so miserable. Wheeling the heavy handcart, with its iron-rimmed wheels, in and out of the market, he had become drenched. There was nothing waterproof he could wear without sweating horribly, and now he could feel the damp seeping in under his jersey, through his shirt and into his skin, blotting and chilling him. The rain made the cobbles slippery, and a treacherous film of muck and rotten vegetable matter lay everywhere. Anthony's working gloves had become sodden and unmanageably heavy, forcing him to discard them, and now his hands were chafed from tiny splinters on the sides of the raw wooden pallet. Anthony pondered the dreadful possibility of spending one's entire life as a market porter. With a sigh, he turned to his final distasteful task of the morning, the disposal of five rotten bags of potatoes.

Suddenly he heard the voice of his friend Len in the distance. " 'Allo, Tone," Len said nonchalantly. "Fancy some grub?"

Anthony's mouth watered at the thought of a mushroom omelette and fried bread, washed down by a large cup of hot, sweet coffee. He nodded and they set off through the rain to the café. Len's great ambition in life, ever since he had first come to work at the market at the

age of sixteen, had been to drive a forklift truck. He regarded Anthony with a mix of admiration (for his obvious intelligence) and pity (for his inability to appreciate the finer things in life, such as Millwall Football Club). Their discussions were normally limited to cars and television programmes.

Len was watching Anthony speculatively as he mopped up the last of his mushroom omelette. “Ow long more are you working ’ere, then, Tone?” Anthony looked up. “I don’t know. Not much longer. Until I finish my apprenticeship for becoming a barrister.” Len’s interest slipped away from Anthony and his career, and moved on to more immediate interests. “You fancy coming to a disco in Hackney tonight?” Anthony shook his head; he had never yet accepted one of Len’s invitations, but he was touched that Len continued to issue them. “I can’t. I’ve got to go to see my father,” he said. And then sighed, thinking of his father and wishing that he could go to Hackney, after all.

QUESTION ONE (30)

Answer **two** of the following questions. Each question is worth **15 marks**.

1. Why does Anthony dislike his holiday job in the market so much?

Support your answer by reference to the extract.

2. If you were to choose to be friendly with either Anthony or Len, which of the two would you choose and why? Support your answer by reference to the extract.

3. Do you think the writer of the above extract brings the London market to life? Support your answer by reference to the extract.

1. Why does Anthony dislike his holiday job in the market so much?

Support your answer by reference to the extract.

- Look at the evidence in the text. Are the descriptions of the job positive or negative?

- Underline any descriptive words or phrases which tell you about Anthony's impression of his holiday job. (*miserable, drenched, sweating horribly, splinters, dreadful possibility of spending one's life as a market porter etc.*)
- As the question is worth 15 marks, you will need at least three well-supported points in your answer.
- You may refer to the text or quote from it to support your points.
- Planning your answer:- *early start, rain, cold*

unfriendly boss

physically demanding

would hate to do it forever

wants to be a barrister

Sample answer:

Anthony dislikes his holiday job in the market because it is tedious and physically demanding. We can see this from the opening paragraph where we learn that he has been working in the steady drizzle since 4 a.m. The descriptions of the noise, the rain and the vegetable refuse make it clear that this is not a pleasant working environment for him.

Mr. Mant, Anthony's boss, contributes to Anthony's misery by regularly walking past with tea and doughnuts which he plans to eat in his own office, never offering any to his employee, who has to work on without a break.

Not only does Anthony have to work in the rain, which seeps under his clothes, 'blotting and chilling him', but he has to do very physically demanding tasks, such as hauling crates and wheeling a heavy handcart in and out of the market. He cannot even wear his gloves, which are 'sodden and unmanageably heavy' from the rain, so his hands are soon rubbed raw by the splintery wood on the pallet.

There seems to be nothing about the job itself which appeals to Anthony, indeed he ponders the 'dreadful possibility of spending one's life as a market porter'. There is no relief for him in his morning's work; his last 'distasteful task' is the disposal of five bags of rotten potatoes.

As we learn later in the extract that Anthony is on his way to becoming a barrister, I think it is obvious that he would not enjoy this holiday job, which is so far removed from his chosen career.

2. If you were to choose to be friendly with either Anthony or Len, which of the two would you choose and why? Support your answer by reference to the extract.

- This is a question about character and it is also looking for a personal response.
- It would be easier to choose Anthony as a potential friend because we know a little bit more about him than we do about Len.
- Remember, focus on who you would be friendly with and why, don't go off the point and start explaining why you wouldn't choose the other character.
- Use words which describe character, (see the list on page 22).
- Planning your answer:- *Anthony- hard worker,*

intelligent

liked by Len – chats about things Len enjoys

Sample answer:

Having read this extract carefully, I would choose Anthony as a friend. He seems to be a hard worker, uncomplainingly doing all the unpleasant jobs in the market and working long hours to earn some money during his holidays. I admire this dedication to his career: he is clearly willing to do whatever it takes to get through his training to be a barrister.

Anthony seems to be intelligent, a trait I would value in a friend. Even Len, with whom he doesn't have much in common, admires him for this 'obvious intelligence'. Yet there is no hint in the extract that the ambitious Anthony looks down on Len, whose greatest ambition in life is to drive a forklift truck. Indeed, the pair seem to get on very well. Len affectionately abbreviates Anthony's name to 'Tone', asks him to have breakfast with him and repeatedly invites him to a disco in Hackney, even though Anthony always refuses. Though Anthony and Len are quite different, Anthony is happy to chat about things Len enjoys, such as cars and television programmes. I think this shows that Anthony is a likeable, sensitive character who doesn't patronise people.

At the end of the extract, we learn that Anthony has to visit his father and from the fact that he sighs and wishes he could go to the disco instead, we can infer that he is not looking

forward to the evening. However, he shows loyalty to his father by planning to visit him regardless of his own feelings and by saying nothing negative about him to Len.

All of these characteristics - ambition, a willingness to work hard, intelligence, sensitivity and loyalty combine to make Anthony someone I would definitely choose as a friend.

3. Do you think the writer of the above extract brings the London market to life? Support your answer by reference to the extract.

- This is a question about style. Look at the language used in the extract.
- You should use some literary terms in your answer.
- It would be a good idea to use plenty of quotes to support your answer. References would not be appropriate in this instance.
- Planning your answer: *dreary images and negative descriptions, onomatopoeia...*

Sample answer

The descriptions the writer uses in this extract really succeed in bringing the market to life. Spitalfields market does not seem a very cheerful place and the dreariness of it is emphasised by the image of the alleyways and lanes 'glistening with rain and vegetable refuse'. Even dawn, when it comes, is full of 'grey shadows' which reinforces the gloominess of the setting.

As well as the visual images, the writer vividly describes the sounds of the early morning work in the market, using onomatopoeic words such as 'whining', 'crashing' and 'tramp'.

When the writer describes the working conditions: the cobbles made slippery by the rain, the 'treacherous film of muck and rotten vegetable matter', the chilling rain and the 'heavy handcart, with its iron-rimmed wheels', I can just imagine how uncomfortable it must feel to be doing Anthony's job.

Even the boss, Mr. Mant, is depicted in a negative way, he is 'small and dark and bent and unwashed', adding to the overall effect of a grim, dreary workplace as he shuffles to and from the 'cracked wooden den that he called his office'.

All of these descriptions of a gloomy, grey place filled with rotten vegetable waste, loud, harsh noises and relentless cold rain create a very vivid picture of Spitalfield market in the early morning.

Sample Answer 1 – Studied Fiction

2002 Junior Certificate Examination

From a novel you have studied, choose a character who made a significant impact on another person's life.

- Outline this character's influence, supporting your answer by reference to the novel.
- Would you like to encounter this person in your own life? Give reasons for your answer.

The novel I have studied for my Junior Certificate is Harper Lee's classic 'To Kill a Mockingbird'. Set in the sleepy town of Maycomb, Alabama during the Great Depression of the 1930s the novel is narrated by Scout Finch who lives with her widowed father Atticus and her brother Jem. The character who makes a significant impact on Scout's life is undoubtedly her father, Atticus.

Atticus is a lawyer, and a single father since his wife's death. He is devoted to his children and has a most unusual parenting style. He has encouraged Scout to grow as an individual rather than forcing her to fit in with the prevailing notions of what a typical Southern girl should be like. He allows her to dress and behave as a tomboy as that is what she wants to do. This sort of behaviour - including allowing his children to call him by his first name - may seem shocking to outsiders, but Atticus believes in focusing on the important things in life. Scout is a happy, independent-minded girl as a result of her father's relaxed attitude towards such things.

However, although Atticus is a laid-back father in many ways, and is happy to treat his children in quite an adult way, he is also strict when he needs to be. This is important in Scout's life, as she is a very strong-willed girl and needs to be firmly checked at times. Atticus has high expectations of her and insists that she and Jem leave Boo Radley alone when he catches them trying to send him a note.

Atticus is happy to help his children learn about the world and when Scout asks him difficult questions, he does his best to explain the answers to her in a way she will understand. He tells Scout the truth, and does not try to fob her off with lies. For example, when Scout gets into trouble in school for explaining to Miss Caroline about Burris Ewell, Atticus is frank about the Ewells' social standing, telling Scout that they have been 'the disgrace of Maycomb for three generations'. Later in the novel, when Scout is again in difficulties in school - this

time for fighting with Cecil Jacobs who says that Atticus 'defended niggers', Atticus logically and calmly explains the situation and tells her that he believes what he is doing is the right course of action. This has a significant effect on the impulsive Scout, who finally learns to ignore the taunts of others and is able to walk away from a fight. The next day in school, she takes no notice of Cecil's jeers. Because of her father's blend of strictness and kindness, and because of his high moral principles, Scout is growing into a mature and wise young girl.

I would definitely like to have encountered Atticus in my life. He is a fascinating man with admirable values, and he is a kind and loving parent.

One of the main reasons I would like to have met Atticus is that he always takes the time to explain the reasoning behind his decisions. This is not something adults always bother to do with children, but I would very much enjoy hearing Atticus discuss the reasons for his taking on the Tom Robinson case, for example. It would be inspiring to talk to a man who believes that he must do something so brave because he feels that he must follow his conscience at all times.

Another reason I would like to meet Atticus is that I am a little like Scout at times and can be too impulsive and judgemental for my own good. When I read the novel, I tended to side with Scout each time she did something rash or got involved in a fight when someone treated her unfairly, but Atticus' calm, rational way of showing her that there are two sides to every story is something I very much took to heart and think is a valuable life lesson. For example, he made me see - like Scout - that Miss Caroline was in a difficult position too when she confronted Burris Ewell, and she must have felt very much at sea dealing with people she neither knew nor fully understood.

An aspect of Atticus' character that I admire the most is his courage. He shows his children the true nature of bravery by standing up for what he believes in a quiet, dignified and decent manner. Atticus does what he knows to be right rather than what he knows will be popular. He always sticks to his principles. I think this is something all of us could learn from and I would very much like to spend time with a man who believes that real courage is 'when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what'.

Sample Answer 2 – Studied Fiction

2002 Junior Certificate Examination

Select a novel or short story you have studied which has an interesting theme.

- (i) Outline the theme of the text you have chosen.
- (ii) As the theme develops, why does it interest you?

i) The novel I have studied for my Junior Certificate is Harper Lee's classic 'To Kill a Mockingbird'. Set in the sleepy town of Maycomb, Alabama during the Great Depression of the 1930s the novel is narrated by Scout Finch who lives with her widowed father Atticus and her brother Jem. The theme that I found particularly interesting is that of prejudice.

The most obvious sort of prejudice we see in the novel is that of racial prejudice. At that time in the Southern States of America, there were laws in place which ensured that black people were treated as an inferior race by their white neighbours, and the majority of the white community believed that it was only right and proper that black and white people should be segregated from one another. Atticus sees the ugliness of racism: he refers to it as 'Maycomb's usual disease'.

When Tom Robinson is arrested and charged with the rape of Mayella Ewell, the people in the town think that it is perfectly correct and assume that he is guilty simply because he is black. Indeed, Tom is found guilty despite an almost total lack of evidence. The fact that he is even allowed a trial infuriates some of the white people, who would prefer to see the black man lynched by a mob. Because Atticus defends Tom, he and his children are subject to hateful abuse. Their neighbour, Mrs Dubose, tells Scout and Jem 'Your father's no better than the niggers and trash he works for!'

Racism is not the only sort of prejudice in Maycomb, however. There is also prejudice against those of a lower social class. The Ewells are at the bottom of a complicated class hierarchy in Maycomb. Near the top are the Finches as they are quite well-off and educated. Everybody in Maycomb feeds into the system. The townspeople are seen as superior to the farmers. Below the farmers are people like the Cunninghams, who are farming land but are deeply in debt since the Wall Street Crash, and are desperately poor. Aunt Alexandra tells Scout not to play with Walter Cunningham because 'he is trash'. Below even the Cunninghams are people like the Ewells who add ignorance and violence to their degrading poverty. Most shockingly of all, however, black people are below the Ewells simply because they are black. When Mayella Ewell is assaulted, most of the white community of Maycomb

readily accept the highly unlikely story that Tom Robinson raped her, because to them, a black man is naturally inferior, even to a violent drunkard like Bob Ewell.

ii) As the theme of prejudice developed in the novel, I found it very interesting to see how people's prejudice against others became a self-fulfilling prophecy. They expected to see those they considered their inferiors behaving in a certain way, and they never saw that by labelling and limiting others in this way they were actually creating the sort of people and the sort of society they despised. I also found it fascinating, if a little depressing, to see how we still struggle to defeat the same prejudices today as did the characters in a novel set over eighty years ago.

I believe that the way the Ewells are regarded in Maycomb is the starting point for much of the racial hatred and prejudice that leads to tension, hostility and ultimately murder. It amazes me that even someone as educated, kind, rational and intelligent as Atticus could so easily dismiss the Ewells as 'the disgrace of Maycomb for three generations'. He tells Scout that it is pointless to expect Burris Ewell to attend school and goes so far as to say that 'it's silly to force people like the Ewells into a new environment.' I found this prejudice interesting but also disheartening. By simply allowing the Ewells to continue living in ignorance and squalor, the people of Maycomb unwittingly allow a situation to develop in which the lonely, abused Mayella causes Tom Robinson's wrongful imprisonment and death.

As the novel progresses, we see that the vast majority of the white community in Maycomb will rally around the Ewells in the court case even though they are 'trash'. The reason for this is that if they were to accept Tom Robinson's story then they would have to accept that a white woman had sunk so low as to seek the company and affection of a black man. Acceptance of such a thing would be a judgement on all of Maycomb's white community and would show how badly they had – in their eyes – failed the white people in Maycomb by allowing the Ewells to sink below the black people. I found it both disturbing and compelling to see how far the white community was willing to go in its effort to maintain the racial prejudice in the town.

Tom Robinson's greatest sin in the eyes of the white community is his pity for Mayella Ewell. I found it very sad but also deeply interesting that a community could be so blinded by prejudice that they would take offence at what they considered to be an inferior person – a black man like Tom Robinson – feeling in any way superior to a white woman, even one as lowly and miserable as Mayella Ewell.

The outcome of the court case is deeply depressing, but hardly surprising. Tom Robinson sealed his own death warrant when he told the court that he 'felt right sorry' for Mayella Ewell. The town may have accepted the Ewell's inferior status compared to the rest of the white population, but they are angry at the thought that a black man might equally see their poverty and degradation and pity them for it.

Looking back on the novel as a whole, what I found most interesting about the theme of prejudice is that even though individual characters – such as Scout – may have learned that it is never acceptable to judge another person without knowing a great deal about them or until you 'stand in his shoes and walk around in them', I am still left with the feeling that there are many people who do not want to have their prejudices exposed as false. Perhaps, however, someone like Scout represents a new and more enlightened generation. That is something that is as relevant and necessary now as it was in the 1950s, when this book was written.

Sample Answer 3 – Studied Fiction

2005 Junior Certificate Examination

Choose either the opening or the ending of a novel or short story you have studied.

- a) Briefly describe what happens in the opening or ending of your chosen text.
- b) Did this opening or ending impress you? Explain our answer by reference to the novel or short story.

a) The novel I have studied for my Junior Certificate is Harper Lee's classic 'To Kill a Mockingbird'. Set in the sleepy town of Maycomb, Alabama during the Great Depression of the 1930s the novel is narrated by Scout Finch who lives with her widowed father Atticus and her brother Jem. I found the ending of this novel very dramatic and thought-provoking as Scout and her brother are almost murdered on their way home from a Halloween pageant. During this horrific incident they learn that we should not be prejudiced against those who may appear frightening but who are actually kind and decent.

The journey home is slow because Scout is encased in an elaborate costume. She is dressed up as a ham, and describes her outfit as a 'wire prison'. As she and Jem walk, they are conscious that they are being followed. They try to get back to their house as quickly as possible, but are hampered by Scout's costume. She cannot move as fast as she would like.

Suddenly, the children are attacked. Scout is unclear about what happens, as her costume prevents her both from moving and from seeing clearly. Jem fights with the unknown assailant, and is knocked unconscious. Amidst all this confusion and panic, someone comes to the children's aid. Scout cannot see who it is, but this person defeats their attacker and saves their lives. Scout feels about in the dark, but she does not find Jem, only the body of a man smelling of whiskey. She makes her way back towards her home and as she does so she sees a man carrying Jem's limp body into her house. It turns out that the man is their reclusive neighbour Boo Radley, and that he has saved Scout and Jem from an attack by Bob Ewell, a violent and drunken man who bitterly resented Atticus' defence of the black man accused of raping Bob Ewell's daughter. Atticus had made a fool of Bob Ewell in court, and so he has decided to take his revenge on Atticus' children.

The doctor is called, and Jem is treated. It turns out that he is not seriously injured. Scout realises that Boo is a kind but very fragile and vulnerable man, and she understands the sheriff's reason for deciding that Bob Ewell fell on his own knife rather than saying that Boo killed him while defending the children.

b) I found this section of the novel very impressive because of the sense of tension created during the children's journey home, the lessons Scout learns, and because of the way the resolution neatly ties up all the loose ends in the plot.

The description of Scout and Jem's walk home is full of suspense. The children may be near home, but they are vulnerable in the darkness, and Scout cannot see or move properly in her 'wire prison'. I thought it was very clever the way the author turned the ham costume from something comical into something that now puts her in danger as she struggles to get back to the safety of her home.

Adding to the sense of tension is the noise of their pursuer and the mystery surrounding his identity. They assume at first that it is Cecil Jacobs, which would fit in with an attempt he made earlier in the night to frighten them. However, when they call Cecil's name, there is no reply. Now the tension increases dramatically, despite Scout's attempt to make light of it by calling their pursuer 'our company' and 'shuffle feet'. No matter what she says, this situation is far from a joke. We have seen Bob Ewell making threats against Atticus earlier in the novel, so we know there is a real sense of danger here. That Bob Ewell could possibly attack the children rather than their father is a horrifying turn of events and is not something I expected would happen. This reversal of my expectations impressed me as it was yet another surprising twist in a story that I had thought was almost over with the ending of the court case and Tom Robinson's death. It is most ingenious of Harper Lee to divert our attention away from any threat to the children, and we realise now that if we did not see the danger they were in, then nobody in Maycomb is likely to be concerned about them and go looking for them as they make their way home.

The attack, when it happens, is startling and terrifying. Because Scout is the narrator, we can only see those things she can see, which in this case is not very much. Her costume, which has been by turns comic and a hindrance, now saves her from the attacker's blade. Although it might sound odd, I found the lack of detail gripping as it allowed my imagination to run riot. It also made the scene very realistic.

There is no sense of anti-climax once Jem is discovered to be suffering from nothing more serious than a broken arm. Instead, the revelation that it is the mysterious Boo Radley - the 'malevolent phantom' of the earlier part of the novel - who has saved the children is fascinating. Through Scout's eyes, we have become as intrigued by this reclusive neighbour as Scout herself is. His gentleness and vulnerability are surprising, and I felt almost proud of Scout when she reacts with kindness and a maturity beyond what might be expected of such a young girl. His 'timid smile' brings tears to her eyes, and she takes another large step towards growing up when she leads him back to his own house. Standing on his porch, she

realises that Atticus was right and that 'you never really know a man until you stand in his shoes and walk around in them.' Scout understands that exposing Boo to the grateful but curious eyes of the town would be 'sort of like shootin' a mockingbird'.

All in all, I found this ending to the novel to be most impressive. It evoked a range of emotions in me: from fear to hope to pity and finally, to an overwhelming sense of admiration for the little girl who has grown up so much over the course of the novel. I believe it is this ending that makes 'To Kill A Mockingbird' such an impressive and memorable story.