

Debrief of Kenina Essay

- ① 2014 prose essay - 8
- ② 2013 prose essay - 8
- ③ RP Student Essay
- ④ RP Student Essay
- ⑤ RP Student essay

The following passage is from the novel *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-organized essay, analyze how the author reveals the character of Moses. In your analysis, you may wish to consider such literary elements as point of view, selection of detail, and imagery.

(1 of 4)

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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

Intro

The balance of man between nature and society is often a fine line, difficultly straddled. The character of Moses from Edward P. Jones' novel *The Known World* ~~is~~ elects to reject this balance ^{almost} completely and immerse ~~himself~~ fully in the wonders of nature. For

THESIS

him, the power of nature overwhelms his bond with his fellow man, overriding any need to socialize and be with

others. If there was ever a man who knows where he truly belonged, it ~~is~~ ^{is} Moses. Thesis Plus

TOPIC sentence

At the beginning of the excerpt, Moses' dedication is made clear. Even

on "the evening his master died he worked again well after he ended the

day for the other adults" (Lines 1-2), showing that Moses takes more solace in his

work in the field than with the company of others. The end of the day is his

time to commune with nature, while for others it is time to satiate the "hunger and tiredness" (Line 3-4) that Moses

has sent them home with. Moses's

COMMENTARY



Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

2

appreciation for nature is displayed through the narrator's, albeit third person, description of the setting sun as "a five-inch-long QUOTE memory of red orange laid out in still waves across the horizon" (lines 11-13). This imagery's beauty can only be rivaled by the ~~the~~ commentary's true experience. Moses has due to its sheer vividness. ~~the~~ Almost taking this sunset as a signal, Moses begins his meditation with nature.

transition into next idea

The first step in ~~the~~ Moses' what is the consumption of soil. The author's intent here is likely to demonstrate just how attached Moses is to the work around him. He eats the dirt as "if it were a spot of cornbread" (lines 19-20), displaying a high level of familiarity and comfort. A what most would call an odd activity. His reason in the act is that doing so enables him "to discover the strengths and weaknesses of the field" (lines 28-29) out a base level, paralleling his drive for work. However, more importantly, the process "tied him to the only thing in his small ~~the~~ world that meant almost as

→

2-sentence
TOPIC
sentence

The following passage is from D. H. Lawrence's 1915 novel, *The Rainbow*, which focuses on the lives of the Brangwens, a farming family who lived in rural England during the late nineteenth century. Read the passage carefully. Then write an essay in which you analyze how Lawrence employs literary devices to characterize the woman and capture her situation.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

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(10 of 4)

D.H. Lawrence's *The Rainbow* captures a woman's desire for exploration and liberation of the unknown, amidst a community of short-sighted men, entrapped by the ~~the~~ mundaneness of their own existences. The woman ultimately seeks to ^{venture} ~~venture~~ from the comfort of the quotidian rural life to the create and "magic land" beyond, eager to indulge and learn beyond the confines of her family's farm, ^{which} ~~seems~~ with only the "pulsing heat of creation." Through the use of rhetorical questions, repetition, and contrasting imagery, Lawrence effectively demonstrates the woman's novel concept of desire of ~~the~~ understanding the unknown and her underlying ~~ambition~~ pursuit of liberation.

THESIS

~~The~~ Lawrence uses ^{the} contrasting images of the men and the woman in order to illustrate the novelty of her sentiments. The men, for which the farm was "enough", found a feeling of being "full and surcharged"

TOPIC sentence

in their blood by the day-to-day "miracles" of the earth, basking ~~in~~ the "warmth and generating and pain and death." Much of their experience is visceral and tangible, as exemplified by Lawrence's use of such unwavering concrete images. The images of the "wind blowing ^{dry} the ~~at~~ wet wheat" and "helping the cow in labour," ~~these~~ are ~~so~~ tangible and ~~observations~~ real, unromantic by any means. Yet, the imagery associated

Comment

QUOTE

Comment



2

2

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

(2244)

with the woman's desire is ideal and romantic, unmet by any concreteness and wholly characterized by their "head-in-the-clouds" quality. Indeed, she didn't want the ~~possibility~~ of her goals - this "blood-intimacy." Her pursuits are described by Lawrence as "beyond" and desiring of the "active scope of man." To her, the city beyond the mundaneness of the farm was a "magic land." By contrast, these images are much more ethereal; they lack any real concrete evidence of their existence, and are mere romantic conceptions, thereby illustrating the woman's unsatisfied thirst. Her perspective is outward and expansive, as she "sets out to discover what was beyond... cause and freedom." This contrast only highlights the woman's desire for liberation.

QUOTE

Transition

Furthermore, the omniscient narrator uses rhetorical questions to emphasize this yearning quality of the woman's situation. As she ponders the ^{differences between the} ~~the~~ liberated cityman that is the vicar and ~~the~~ ^{the} inward-looking Brangwen, she begins to question the qualities of the vicar that made him superior to the other men. She pondered "what was it?" - "what power had the vicar over Tom Brangwen." The yearning of his desire to understand ultimately leads her to conclude that in physical stature, there was no supreme being. Yet, the secret to the vicar's "strength" lies in his learnedness - his

TOPIC sentence



Prose Analysis Brave New World

The idea of conformity is often complex, for while individuals attempt to comply with societal standards, there is an inherent desire for exploration of the unknown.

In Brave New World by Aldous Huxley, Lenina epitomizes a character who is uncomfortable with different ideas as a result of her conditioning yet maintains the curiosity ✓ of human nature. Huxley's repetition, parallel structure, and juxtaposition of uniqueness and uniformity highlight Lenina's internal conflict between living a life of conformity and gaining new experiences.

Through repetition of desire, the author emphasizes Lenina's discomfort with aspects of people that differ from societal standards. At the opening of the passage, Lenina's "verdict" on Bernard Marx, a character who demonstrates individuality in his behavior and thinking, is "odd, odd, odd." In the same way Lenina's response toward Bernard's suggestion that they spend the afternoon alone is that it "seemed a very odd way" of spending the day. By repeating the word "odd", Huxley stresses Lenina's confusion with characteristics of Bernard that do not fit the social laws engrained in their way of thinking.

Lenina is representative of a character whose conditioning causes her to view differing ideas as "odd," preventing her from accepting behaviors that deviate from what is considered normal.

In the same way, Huxley's parallel structure further

③

demonstrates Lemba's lack of understanding in regards to ideas outside the sphere of what she has been taught. Lemba's thoughts toward Bernard's unique qualities are that they are "pretty harmless" but also "pretty disgusting." By placing emphasis on Lemba's conflicting feelings, the author highlights her recognition that Bernard's peculiarities are not inherently harmful but could become problematic within their society. ✓

In addition, the author implements juxtaposition between Lemba's curiosity of the unknown and desire for conformity to stress the Lemba's human qualities despite her conditioning. Although she considers Bernard odd, she believes going to New Mexico with him could be a "unique" opportunity, demonstrating her anticipation toward experiencing a world she has never seen before. However, at the same time she admits that "so unique was Bernard's address that she had hesitated to take it." The author emphasizes Lemba's internal conflict to display her desire to remain within the boundary of societal standards while still possessing an interest toward things that are unique. As a result, the author implies that while Lemba is a victim of societal conditioning, she maintains a sense of curiosity, a quality of human nature.

Lemba's character is typical of an individual influenced by a totalitarian system. However, her desire for adventure also demonstrates that some qualities of humanity can

Sometimes we are characterized by our thoughts and achievements, but often times it is our interaction with the world and others that characterizes us.

thesis ✓

In Aldous Huxley's Brave New World, Lenina is primarily characterized through her interactions with Bernard, revealing her ignorant social expectations, desire to fit the norm, and ultimately reinforces how Lenina has completely fallen victim to the World State Society.

What's that?

Most apparently, Lenina has a rejective attitude towards Bernard. Lenina's verdict was "odd, odd, odd" about him. She had been conditioned by the World State to have social expectations for others; for Deltas to work happily and be satisfied with their position, for Bernard to correctly represent his predestined place in the hierarchy of social order. Lenina in fact cannot even recognize whether or not she should affiliate with Bernard, for she had "wandered more than once whether she shouldn't change her mind about the New Mexico holiday" Bernard invited her to. Lenina may not realize her own victimization to the hypnotical morals of the State but she fits her class as Alpha perfectly. Even as a classified Alpha himself, Bernard is rejected from his class by Lenina, who has been subconsciously conditioned to operate ^{how} society wants her to.

Beta plus

transition

Lenina's victimization to the ^{forced} ideals of the World State grows even stronger in her expectations and desires. The way that Society has brainwashed Lenina to fulfill immediate desires - a way of consumerism is revealed in Lenina's dissatisfaction that "she knew the North Pole", and that "the hotel too hopelessly old-fashioned" did not satisfy her appetite the way society always does. Lenina has become victim to this area of the conditioning and now has totally immoral expectations for her life and her grasp of what a true "pursuit of happiness" might be, if only she knew what real happiness actually was.

commentary ✓

④

A strong desire to fit the norm of her class in the social order

haunts Lenina whether she knows it or not. ^{word choice?} Furthering the isolationistic opinion Lenina has towards Bernard, she also ^{reveals} ~~shows~~ the extent to which the conditioning of society influences her personality and desires. After suggesting several normal Alpha date activities, and Bernard voices his idea of a walk alone in the Love District, Lenina thinks to herself, how "that seemed a very odd way of spending an afternoon". Here Lenina voiced the opinion of society, even before she voiced her own. But of course, she doesn't have her ^{own} opinions. Repeated to her thousands of times in her sleep, "everybody believes to everyone else", and Lenina proves to be a total victim to the conditioning of the world state and to giving up any uniqueness she had as an individual in order to fit into the society that controls their very thoughts.

sentence
in or

Lenina, a member of the ^{Beta plus} Alpha social order, is depicted as a total and complete victim to the norms and conditioning of society through her interactions with and opinion of Bernard, expectations of others to behave in line with their respective social rank (including herself, especially) as well as her own desires and thoughts. But, are they really her own, if ~~from~~ the society she lives in has conditioned her to believe so?

long
sentence

agreed!

The world of Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" is filled with ~~people~~ ^{people} who have been conditioned ^{unquestioningly} to follow the norms of their society. Lenina is such a citizen, but she has been confronted by Bernard, who is not socially standard. Her ~~so~~ ^{deals} dealings with Bernard cause her to ask questions and contemplate his "oddness." ~~Through~~ Lenina's character is revealed through her meditation of Bernard's date offer.

passive voice

The first aspect of Lenina the reader pulls from her conundrum is that she possesses a curiosity for mystery. Lenina weighs her options, deciding that the North Pole was "pretty grim," and that a trip to America (a place she had only visited "once before") would be "very thrilling." Lenina ~~also~~ highlights the rarity and unique nature of the trip ~~by~~ in mentioning that "no more than half a dozen" of her peers had ever been to a savage reservation. Throughout the novel, Lenina has displayed herself as a typical citizen. ~~She~~ She has multiple partners, ~~she~~ takes soma generously, and participates in all the various sporting events of the Home. However, underneath it all, she has some degree of wanting to be special. She is enticed by potentially going somewhere that a limited number of people have gone. So enticed, that she would even go there with such an odd ball as Bernard. Her desire to stick to the conventions of society are at war with her curiosity to do something she ~~has~~ considers "unique."

good idea

Although Lenina shows small signs of individualism, Huxley makes it very clear to readers that she is still ~~part of the government's system~~ ^{effectively conditioned to the government} way of life. For all the steps Lenina takes in the direction of freedom and agency, she ~~is~~ is held back by her brainwashing and habitudes.

Lenina is ~~is~~ put off with the idea of intimacy in a relationship, an idea ~~is~~ implanted by the hypnopædia. Talking and getting to know each other comes across to her as a "very odd way of spending an afternoon." All of Bernard's requests for privacy are "disquieting" to Lenina. As a product of her breeding, Lenina can't ~~not~~ grasp the importance or preciousness of being close with someone. Sex and relationships have been devalued and Bernard's appeals to closeness fall on Lenina's ~~deafened~~ ^{deafened} ~~morality~~ ^{morality}. There

if so - weak connection

is no deeper connection from person to person than casual sex, according to Lenina. This failure to form significant ~~personal~~ ^{personal} attachments results in Lenina's individual progression being rendered stagnant - exactly what the ~~the~~ controllers desire. ✓

passive voice

is revealed to us that she has a small amount of thirst for adventure

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and abnormality, but that it is suppressed by her conditioning to be ^{what} ~~what~~ society deems to be a good citizen. ~~Her~~ Her internal conflict develops further into the story as she develops feelings for the savage John. ~~Her~~ Lenina's curiosity and passion are matched only by her conformist upbringing, stifling her individuality.