

Question 2: Sample response one

The following 239-word response demonstrates an excellent grasp of narrative point of view and its effect in highlighting the central character's attitudes. The candidate particularly recognises the attitudes expressed as nuanced, thereby acknowledging the conflicted thoughts of the girl towards her responsibilities as well as towards authority. A particular strength of the sample response below is its smooth quote integration and articulate wording.

Using third person limited point of view, the central character's internal attitudes are presented as conflicting between youthful rebellion and dutiful responsibility. The character displays a carefree, almost belligerent side to her personality, utilising third person limited point of view to enable the reader access to some of her internal thoughts and thus draw out these emotions. This is demonstrated by her defiance of 'keeping an eye on her brother', instead 'taking every chance to lose him'. The use of third person acts almost like a reprimanding conscience, or an adult, telling her what she is 'supposed to' be doing, and her wilful ignorance of this demonstrates her mischievous and rebellious attitude towards playing the role of babysitter, and perhaps authority in general. However, she is also shown to be caring and slightly concerned for her brother, at least to a small extent. Thus, she wonders 'how shallow is too shallow too drown?' This occasional internal narration, supplied by the limited point of view, displays her begrudging attitude of responsibility towards her brother, but also suggests she may have had to take care of him one too many times and is sick of being left with the task. Her attitude of wanting to shirk her responsibility is effectively portrayed through third person, as the extradiegetic narrative interjections of what she's 'supposed to' do and 'what she should do' act like a guilty conscience that she's trying to ignore.

This is a promising thesis in that the specific narrative point of view of the text is correctly identified, as are the attitudes; however, the thesis is let down by its failure to identify what the attitudes are directed towards exactly.

The candidate highlights their keen grasp of the effect of the narrative point of view in allowing 'the reader access to some of her internal thoughts'.

The phrase 'reprimanding conscience' is a very astute observation of the subtleties within the text.

The view that the character demonstrates a 'rebellious attitude towards playing the role of babysitter' and potentially towards 'authority in general' is well-supported by smoothly integrated examples; the fact that the girl also experiences contrasting, more sympathetic attitudes towards her brother is equally perceptive.

Reference to the 'begrudging attitude of responsibility towards her brother' is both well-expressed and cleverly tied to the choice of narrative point of view.

The original thesis is reinforced very effectively here as a tie-back sentence to round out this sophisticated analysis.