

Programme summary:

Give details of the texts and topics studied during each part of the course. For parts 1 and 2, state the topics studied. For parts 3 and 4, state the titles and authors of works studied.

Part 1:	Language and Power; Language and Belief; Language and Communities; Language and Identity
Part 2:	Popular culture: Film and graphic novels; Media institutions; Use of persuasive language
Part 3:	Songs of Innocence and Experience by William Blake, Chronicle of a Death Foretold by Gabriel García Márquez, Antigone by Jean Anouilh
Part 4:	My Mother Said I Never Should by Charlotte Keatley, In Cold Blood by Truman Capote, A Room of One's Own by Virginia Woolf

Task summary: (please complete the relevant section for SL or HL)

Standard level (SL) only:

Number of words in rationale (200-300 words):

Number of words in written task (800-1000 words):

Total number of sheets attached:

Text type:

Higher level (HL) only:

Number of words in task 1 rationale (200-300 words):

Number of words in written task 1 (800-1000 words):

Number of words in written task 2 (800-1000 words):

Total number of sheets attached:

Text type (written task 1 only):

Prescribed question on which task 2 is based:

Candidate declaration: I confirm that this is my own work and is the final version. I have acknowledged each use of the words or ideas of another person, whether written, oral or visual.

Candidate's signature:

Date:

Teacher declaration: I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the material submitted is the authentic work of the candidate.

Teacher's name:

Signature:

Date:

Benedicte Bosdal Ingebrigtsen
IB English
Mr. Beach
4/11/13

Written Task – Rationale

This written task will be focused on part one of the syllabus “Language in a cultural context” by creating a short story from the book “*The Book Thief*”. It takes place in Germany in WWII, from 1939 to 1943. The story will depict a minor character’s opinion about a special event in Liesel Meminger’s life - when she sees her Jewish friend, Max, being marched off to a concentration camp. This is an important event in the book because of the relationship she and Max developed when she hid him in her basement, protecting him from the Germans.

The story will be written from Rudy Steiner’s perspective after his death because it captures his reaction to the event and clearly shows his emotions to the audience. The language utilized will be very simplistic yet grammatically correct because Steiner was educated, but he was only 14 years old. The sentences will be short and concise and sometimes repetitive because of Rudy’s simplistic personality.

The written task will begin with Rudy telling the audience about when he and Liesel watched the Jews march to a concentration camp. This is when Rudy’s character is shown to the audience. His thoughts around the Jews and Liesel will convey his sincere feelings. It will then develop into a later scenario where Liesel tells Rudy about Max. His reaction is key here because it truly conveys how he feels about her.

By writing from Rudy’s point of view it shows understanding of his character and by referencing how other events of the book impact the relationships between the characters.

In the end it is revealed to the audience that Rudy has died and they are now able to realize why he told the story in past tense and his in depth reflection of the events.

Word Count =299

Written Task

I walked down to Liesel's house as I used to do when we knew the Jews would march through the town to the concentration camp. I was never really sure why she was so interested in watching them. She would never miss a day and she always had this strange expression on her face. She seemed so worried and troubled. It always confused me seeing her this way. I knocked on her door and she answered almost immediately. Her hair was in her face and her face was a bit red. I guessed that she ran down the stairs. Her presence immediately shifted my mood. I was happy to see her. One of the reasons was that she was happy to see me as well. At least that is what it looked like. She smiled and her nose got those tiny wrinkles she used to get whenever she was really happy. We walked quickly down to the where we knew the Jews would pass by. A crowd of people had already started to gather around. I saw mostly men. The women probably didn't have a stomach for seeing the poor Jews. That made me wonder again why Liesel always wanted to go.

I was standing next to her with the same shame I always felt whenever I saw the Jews. I knew that what the Germans did to them was wrong and horrid, but I couldn't do anything about it. To try to oppress this feeling I looked at Liesel. I wondered if she had the same feeling as I did. She looked like she was searching through the crowd, as she always did. Suddenly her face turned pale, her eyes widened and it sounded like she had trouble breathing. I was about to ask her what was wrong, but before I got the chance she ran to the crowd. I was horrified! Why did she do that? I wanted to run after her but I was too scared of the German guards. I am so ashamed of this even to this day. She ran to a man with ragged hair and a large beard whom I had never seen before. He was looking at her with such a strange expression. It was like he was excited to see her but sad at the

same time. She took his hand, but a soldier saw it and pulled her away. She entered the parade again and yelled out "Max". He stopped and she called out some words that I can't remember. He started crying and then several soldiers came and both Max and Liesel were whipped. I wanted to intervene. Seeing Liesel in pain made me so angry! I yelled out her name several times but I don't think she noticed. I could feel my eyes tearing up and my vision got blurry. The soldiers let her go and I ran to her and stopped her from going after him. She was screaming and crying and it was hard to keep her down. When the Jews had walked past and the town's people had started to go away I took her hand and we started walking away.

She cried all the way and all I could think about was how I wanted her to stop. I was so confused and her crying only made it worse. I hated seeing her this way. I didn't say anything because I didn't want her to be even more upset and I felt that she was so fragile that even the slightest noise would break her. I had this heavy feeling of something pressing down on my heart whenever I looked at her face. When we reached the river we stopped. We were standing in silence for a long time. It felt like an eternity and a thousand thoughts ran through my mind. The one that always returned was "Who was that man?" but I didn't say anything. She started talking through her tears. She explained who the man was. How he had been living in their basement. How their friendship grew from their hatred for Hitler. How they talked in the middle of the night, the book he wrote to her called "The Word Shaker" and so many other things. I can remember the details, but the thing I remember the most is how her voice was full of feelings I had never heard before. My face went blank and my heart sunk. How could I not have noticed this before?

I then realized why Liesel wanted to help the Jews so badly, why she was so anxious when they walked past. She was looking for Max, hoping never to find him. We talked for the rest of the day and strangely enough I had never felt closer to her. I

remember feeling sorry for her because she had been carrying this burden for such a long time, unable to talk about it. But I found comfort in the fact that he had brought her happiness when he was with them. The rest of the day is a haze. I do remember being in bed unable to fall asleep. My head was occupied by the expression on Liesel's face when she saw Max.

I loved Liesel from the moment met her. She always made me feel good about myself and she was so kind and brave. I remember asking for her to kiss me, not knowing I would get my kiss at last. It was only too bad I had to die before it happened. I couldn't feel her lips on mine. I only saw it from a distance, before Death took me away.

Word Count =940

Works Cited

Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Print.

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23/4/13

Outline

This written task will be written on part 4 of the syllabus: "Literature – critical study" by analyzing the play *My Mother Said I Never Should* by Charlotte Keatly with the question "How and why is a social group represented in a particular way?" in mind. The manner in which Keatly wrote her play suggests that she was intrigued by female relationships and their role in society, which will be included in the critical response. She represents them as women who desire freedom and independence, and she shows how they struggle to achieve their goals.

Non-chronological order

- Shows the importance of the past for our future decisions
- Creates intrigue
- Freedom for Keatley
- Showing the common mistakes of the characters
- Putting focus onto dialogues, lighting, setting etc Expectations for women throughout time (1920-80)
- Motherhood (Burden? Duty?)
- Marriage – dependent on man
- Women try to take control/gain power
 - o Male presence (in the background - hindering them from achieving their goals)
 - o Jack giving everything to Jackie – giving her responsibilities she didn't ask for. She doesn't resist.

- Lily of the valley - Ken (Lily's represents the return of happiness, which Ken destroyed)

Doris says nothing to Ken about this. Submissive?

Child scenes used to illustrate:

- Independence (killing "mother")
 - How to accomplish independence? They still need their mother (mother can be a symbol for a stronger character such as a father or husband)
- Sexual boundaries for women
 - Sex before marriage links to Jackie's relationship with Rosie
 - Secrecy
- Why?
 - Keatley does not agree with the norms of society, but she shows how it is very difficult for women to change this due to the nature of both men and women.

Critical Response

“How and why is a social group represented in a particular way?”

The author of *My Mother Said I Never Should*, Charlotte Keatley, is invested in female relationships and their role in society. She depicts them as women trying to break free from the social boundaries inflicted on them due to their gender. Their desire to be independent is conveyed through the absence of men, the Wasteground and the relationships between mothers and their children.

There are only women present onstage throughout the entire play, which symbolizes their possible independence, but the male characters are still present off-stage. These characters are men of power. They are either husbands or fathers that affect the four protagonists greatly and hinders them from achieving their freedom and independence. When Jack left his entire estate to Jackie, he caused tension in the family and forced Jackie to be more responsible. This is demonstrated when Margaret says, “Now Jackie, you tell us all where to start. Seeing as Father left you in charge of everything.” (Keatley 47). This quote shows Margaret’s conflicted feelings about this situation through demonstrating a sense of irony. One would expect Margaret to take control over the situation because she is Jackie’s mother, which usually would mean that she is the one with the most authority. Yet, she asks Jackie to take control over the situation. The audience is left with the impression that Margaret is not pleased with Jack’s decision, but that she is incapable of doing anything about it. This situation occurred because of Jack. It is he who enforced this tension, which only leads to show how the men are in control. Margaret does not oppose to Jack’s wishes, making her seem weak-minded.

On page 32 Doris says: “He’s reversing straight into my lily of the valley!”, which comes from the scene where Margaret is about to go with Ken to London and he comes to

pick her up from Doris's house. (Keatley 32) Keatley uses this situation as a metaphor for how men invade women's space and take control away from them. He is very invasive and impolite, which further exemplifies the attitude of a patriarchal society towards women. Despite this Doris does not confront him and keeps quiet. Keatley does this showing how even though Doris has strong opinions about some men she will not challenge them. There is a sense of irony at play here because lily of the valley is usually seen as a symbol for "the return of happiness", but because Ken ruins them it is as if he demolishes the future happiness for both Doris and Margaret. (Lily of the Valley Symbolism)

Keatley is free to express herself and her characters without restraint because she established a space free from the concept of time, called the Wasteground. The characters are represented as young children saying whatever is on their mind, which allows the audience to look into their subconscious mind. In the Wasteground they challenge each other and the boundaries of what they are expected to do. When Jackie says, "Let's kill our mummy" she shows how women want to be independent, free from what has control over them. (Keatley 5) The girls are strong willed in their desire to be independent from this mother figure, but later realize that they need her. Keatley represents these girls as strong, yet insecure by showing that they are still dependent on someone else. In this case it's their mother, but in other instances it's either a father or husband.

Jackie is the only woman who almost achieved independence because she prioritized her career over marriage and motherhood. Yet she was not able to accomplish full independence because she, as well as the others, became a mother, fulfilling the expectation of society. When Margaret comes to take Rosie away from Jackie and says, "You've got such opportunities." Jackie corrects her by saying, "Expectations." (Keatley 27) Margaret indicates to the fact that Jackie can accomplish certain things that she never could because she does not have to take on the responsibilities of a mother, but Jackie discards this saying that they are not opportunities but expectations. These expectations

being that she should be married before having a child. Keatly represents Jackie as a strong willed character that truly desires to be independent, but because she is Rosie's mother she can't escape the responsibilities of motherhood.

The fact that Keatley chose to write this play in a non-chronological order links to the representation of the women; by showing the audience the struggles women had to go through in different time periods she demonstrates how the social expectations are consistent throughout history. The play starts off with the four characters walking onto the stage together, meaning that they are all introduced at the same time. Keatly wants to stress how important it is that no character is more significant than another. This is done to further show the significance of the events that occur during the play such as Margaret's death. Keatley shows these women from many different sides and overall illustrates them as women with insecurities and doubts and yet they are trying to learn from their mistakes. When Margaret said to Jackie "You've got to go further than me – and Rosie too. (*Quietly*) Otherwise ... what's it been worth?" she illustrates how her desire for Jackie to succeed and not make the same mistakes as she did before. (Keatley 28)

Keatley represents these women as strong willed, yet not strong enough to break free from social expectations. She is successful in this through her depiction of the four character's attitude towards men. They are unable to stand up for themselves against these men, and this is how their strength diminishes. Through many different aspects of the play she manifests an idea of how women fight their way through life, trying to break free from a prejudicial society and its expectations. She chose to depict them in this manner to confront society and challenge the norms set by men. However she also shows how women have been unable to free themselves because of the already established power dynamics.

Works Cited

Keatley, Charlotte. *My Mother Said I Never Should*. London: Methuen, 1988. Print.

"Lily Of The Valley Symbolism." *Lilies of the Valley RSS*. N.p., n.d. Web. 9 May 2013.