

10 English

Text response Task

About a Boy (novel)

Context

You have read Nick Hornby's novel *About a Boy* and looked at how humour and juxtaposition of contrasting characters are used to explore serious themes in a sometimes lighthearted and occasionally shocking way. You have also tracked the development and transformation of the main characters through the book and seen how key relationships and events are used by the author to bring out different aspects of the characters' personalities.

Task

Write an essay responding to ONE of the following questions:

1. *About a Boy* is actually about *two* boys. How does the author represent different images of boyhood and manhood in the novel?
2. "No man is an island". Discuss this statement with reference to at least three key relationships represented in the novel (eg, Will & Marcus, Marcus & Clive, Fiona & Marcus, Will & Rachel etc).

Your response must contain specific quotations from the novel to justify your points and include reference to key features of the novel including:

- Plot
- Characters
- Themes
- Language use
- Humour

Length

500 words

Due

Monday 2nd May