

## STAGE 1 ENGLISH

### ASSESSMENT TYPE 1: TEXT ANALYSIS

The 'About a Boy' by Nick Hornby and the film by the same name directed by Paul and Chris Weitz present a number of serious issues within a humorous context that draws us as an audience closer to exactly what is happening. The techniques used throughout both of these are sarcasm, taboos and funny ridiculous scenes. I will be answering the question "Why are we laughing?" and to answer this question I will be looking at Dead Duck scene and Fiona confronting Will about Marcus's visit. These are all techniques used in these scenes and made us laugh and more interesting to listen and read on.

The use of sarcasm used throughout the movie and novel about a boy is hilarious and makes the audience aware of what is happening like in the Dead duck scene in the movie when Will says "Marcus loves ducks" when he clearly doesn't since he killed the poor thing in the first place. Another form of sarcasm used in the novel is when the park keeper says "I was told he was throwing bloody french loaves at it" and Will says "He was, but I've stopped him now. Boys will be boys". This is a good pick of sarcasm as Will has just gotten Marcus out of trouble and then seems to bring it all back again and make the park keeper think he has really killed the duck. In the scene where Fiona confronts Will about Marcus's visit we see a lot of sarcasm. One particular scene in the novel is when Fiona screams at Will saying "Why would a grown man want to hang out with a twelve year-old boy day after day?" Will replies "are you suggesting what I think you're suggesting?" This definitely makes us laugh as the audience could take that in anyway possible but it still falls under sarcasm and makes us laugh and focus more attention on what could happen next.

Another technique used in the film and novel is ridiculous situations and this is clearly showed in a scene in the film when Will is sitting at lunch with Christine and Fiona comes barging in and they fight but one particular bit that is unexpected is when Will says "I won't bother next time, Sod off the pair of you. Now if you've finished, you can piss off" well we don't quite expect him to use this sort of language and being in the restaurant with people around so it's ridiculous and crazy. A scene in the novel is when Will says "You haven't got a clue, have you?" I mean we didn't quite think he would say that but it was unexpected. In the Dead duck scene ridiculous scene in the novel is when Marcus comes back to Suzie and Will and says "I think I've killed a duck" well this was completely not planned to happen and the looks on their faces said it all and to how shocked they were and to how ridiculous it all was.

One last technique used in both the novel and film is breaking taboos so socially unacceptable things that happen so in the novel when Fiona confronts Will a breaking taboo is when Will gets angry and is directing it at Fiona and says, "I don't have a choice, do I? Your son comes round uninvited every night". Wow this was completely unacceptable for him to say but he let all his anger out alright and really got into her and to exactly how he felt. Then in the film when Will sits down after arguing with Fiona and she sits down on his table and he says "Are you ok there?" Well we didn't know he was going to say that maybe thought he would simply ignore her completely. Dead Duck scene a breaking taboo in the film is when Will says "is that the bloody french loaf we don't expect him to use that language around the children and didn't quite think he would use those words but he did so it was unexpected."

The director did an amazing job of making us laugh in the film it grabbed the audience's attention and we were really into it and to what was happening and the ones I love is the unexpected to what someone is going to say and it makes you laugh more personally I think nothing needed to be changed at all it was hilarious just the way it was.

Word count  
756 words