

GCSE English Literature
5ET1H/01

Heroes
Higher Tier

The purpose of this pack is to provide centres with the question paper, mark scheme and a set of exemplar materials with commentaries.

The individual documents can be found on our website at www.edexcel.com

Included in this pack:

- Question and extract from Summer 2012 Paper
- Marked scripts with the mark and band
- Examiner commentary and mark scheme

Heroes – Higher Tier

*12 Explore the significance of betrayal in the novel.

You **must** consider the context of the novel.

Use **evidence** to support your answer.

(Total for Question 12 = 40 marks)

Script 1

21 marks

AO1 – Band 3 – 9 marks

AO4 – Band 3 – 12 marks

In the novel *Heroes* Cormier uses the significance of betrayal to show that people who are classed with the title "Heroes" are not actually who they make out to be. All the people of Frenchtown consider Larry La Salle a hero, he was the ~~1st~~ among the first in Frenchtown to enlist for WW2 after the bombing of Pearl Harbour, also to the teenagers he was a hero, this shows the teenage culture in the USA in the 1940s, but he was a sex offender, when he was on leave from the war he had a party, but at the end he raped Nicole Renard, this could be effects from the war so he's got Post Traumatic Stress Disorder which was common coming out of a war. Francis Cassavant who is

considered A Hero but, "I Love
The Sweet Young things" suggest
Larry's Raped more girls than just
Nicole so he's more twisted and
evil than we all think,
Also he compares the girls to "things"
suggesting that he uses girls
as objects and that he
actually doesn't care about them.
Francis Cassavant is ~~once~~ considered
to be a hero ~~but actually~~
betray because he jumped onto
a grenade to save his comrades
in the war but actually after
the Rape of Nicole by his Hero
Larry, Francis wants to kill
himself "I thought of My Mother
and Father- could i disgrace them this
way" He was going to betray

his own Religion by committing suicide, but as a Catholic he couldn't. Religion in the 1940s was very strict and the teaching where if you sin you'll go to Hell. However when Francis was at war he broke one of the ten commandments which was thou shalt not kill, he killed some ~~young~~ German soldiers "to young to shave" so he betrayed his Religion by killing/taking other ~~people's~~ people's lives. Nicole Renard considers Francis a hero "My silver star hero" after he beat Larry La Salle in a table tennis ~~contest~~ competition, but then feels very betrayed by Francis by blaming him for letting Larry rape her, this betrayal causes the Renard's to move and Francis to enlist in the US Army, where he wants to die, the bit about the table tennis could be USA teenage culture in the 1940s and Nicole blaming Francis for the rape could be Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, this can be caused by the rape and she wants to avoid people who remind

her of it. Francis could

Relate to Nicole as a Hero²⁸

"I knelt there like a knight at her feet,
her sword having touched my shoulder"

This shows Francis has a really
strong relationship for Nicole, but
feels betrayed when Nicole blames
him for her rape from Larry
and also for messing him about

by ignoring him and ~~probably~~ probably
being a bit of a flirt. This might
relate to being USA teenage culture
in the 1940s, but ~~could be~~

Larry La Salle, let's Francis win in the
table tennis competition but feels betrayed

by Francis when Francis goes to

kill him "Does that one sin wipe
away all the good things?" This suggests

Larry doesn't want to die from Francis

so tries to remind him of all the
good he did for them. The

Part where Francis wants to kill
Larry could be Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Betrayal is very key in the novel, all
the characters feel betrayed somehow and
all the characters betray one another
so betrayal could be the most
important part of the novel.

Examiner summary:

This response is sustained with examples of the theme of betrayal from across the novel. The candidate shows a thorough understanding of theme and context which are supported by relevant textual details. Some of the context points lack focus on the question, but this does not impact on the marks awarded.

Band this response achieves in the mark schemes:

A01

3	8-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustained responses to text supported by relevant textual reference.• Selection and evaluation of textual detail show thorough understanding of theme/ideas.
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A04

3	11-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustained reference to context supported by relevant textual reference.• Explanation of importance of theme/idea shows thorough understanding. <p>*Sentences are appropriately structured, with sustained control of expression and meaning with thorough control of the full range of punctuation devices. Spelling is almost always accurate, with occasional errors.</p>
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To move up to the next bands: This response needs to develop the points about the theme of betrayal and support them with more sustained evidence from the text.

Script 2

40 marks

AO1 – Band 5 – 16 marks

AO4 – Band 5 – 24 marks

The theme of Betrayal is very significant to this novel. It is one of the main underlying ^{lying} features to this novel which centres the ~~best~~ sadness of this novel due to ~~cause~~ the theme of betrayal causing the beat-up between Francis & Nicole & then causing Francis to want to kill Larry. There are many significant examples of this theme throughout the book.

Betrayal is the main cause of Francis' lust to kill his former role-model & mentor Larry LeSalle. This therefore shows why betrayal is significant for it is what causes Francis to want to kill Larry which is arguably the plot & generality of the book - Francis' "mission" to take revenge for a betrayal. Betrayal is created

through Larry building up a great sense of trust between himself & Francis, & indeed with the more minor characters who attended the West Centre as well as with Nicole, through flattery, encouragement & care. The trust is then broken when Larry rapes one of his own "saviourites", Nicole, breaking his trust with her & even as with Francis for the reasons. Francis looks up to Larry but he ~~soon~~ turns out to be a serial paedophile & also due to Larry raping Francis' very own girlfriend. This is therefore a clear betrayal to Francis & Nicole & to all who regard him as a "hero."

In the context of small town America where there are few entertainments & few role-models or "heroes" to guide teenagers, the developing & breaking of trust by Larry is made much easier. In the context which I have just mentioned, Larry is seen as somebody who is extraordinary or special due to his "dazzling movie-star teeth" & his broad range of abilities shown through him having "the broad shoulders of an athlete & the narrow hips of a dancer." Due to being completely perfect Larry is able to in some ways buy the teenagers trust for him. This is significant ^{to the betrayal} - so he is able to become more & more popular making his betrayal even worse.

In the context of the Second World War where there is a legacy of soldiers giving way to their feelings & taking advantage of the vanquished through rape, Larry when he returns from war is able to betray all who loved him, especially Francis & Nicole, in an even more important way. Also in the context of the war giving Larry a "hero" status, he feels all the more free to betray Francis & Nicole through the rape. The war has made him feel as though he no longer needs to repress his feelings. He gives rise to them & betrays all in raping Nicole.

The betrayal created by the rape is important for a number of reasons. It leads to Nicole hating Francis due to the believe that he betrayed her. It leads to Francis become suicidal and nearly jumping to his death. The ~~two~~ greatest significance of the betrayal is also that it cause Francis to enlist for suicidal reasons, lose his face & gain a "hero" status just like Larry & then ^{hustling} to want to kill Larry.

Focusing on the initial significance of the betrayal by Larry, the theme of betrayal ~~is~~ is caused by Nicole feeling betrayed by Francis. She feels as though

both Francis & Larry have betrayed her. This therefore leads to Francis & Nicole breaking up. Nicole's feeling of betrayal is emphasised by her immense anger with "anger flashing in her eyes" & then her saying, "You didn't do anything", which shows that she feels greatly betrayed.

A second significance of Larry's betrayal is when Francis decides that suicide is his best option. The theme of betrayal is therefore highly significant for Larry's betrayal & Nicole's accusation that ~~she~~ he betrayed her drive to the point where he wants to die with ^{him} saying, "How long would it take to plunge towards the sidewalk." However in the context of a god-searing society & in the context of the believe that suicide was wrong & not noble in those days, he decides against jumping off for it would "disgrace his Chris parents' name."

This leads on to a third significance. The theme of betrayal leads to Francis, in the context of the Second World War where soldier is died honourable death, to join the army in order so that he can too

die an honourable death with it saying, "The next afternoon, I boarded the bus to Fort Delta... & became a soldier in the United States Army." The betrayal then becomes even more significant as it indirectly causes him to jump on a grenade to kill himself in France. However he is not killed but terribly disfigured. Therefore the theme of betrayal is significant as it indirectly causes him to "lose his face" with "lower eyes to speak of" & "two small ears" instead of a nose. This therefore shows how the betrayal as it has destroyed his face.

Also the betrayal is significant as it indirectly leads to him becoming a "hero" with him being awarded the Silver Star for saving his entire platoon by jumping on the grenade. This theme of heroism is another key theme to the book & the in some ways the heroism of Francis was caused by the theme of betrayal increasing its significance.

Finally the most significant results of the theme of betrayal is Francis' want to kill Larry LaSalle - a mission which he simply established at the beginning of the book when he says, "Pray for

your enemies," which, in context, is Larry LaSalle. However he cannot bring himself to kill Larry at the end but Larry then shoots himself due to there being no more "sweet young things for him".

In conclusion the theme of betrayal is highly significant in the way in which it leads to a chain reaction of results leading eventually to the death of Larry.

Examiner summary:

This response shows a perceptive understanding of both the theme of betrayal and the context of the novel. The points are supported with sustained, relevant textual reference.

Band this response achieves in the mark schemes:**AO1**

5	14-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convincing responses to text supported by sustained relevant textual reference.• Selection and evaluation of textual detail show perceptive understanding of theme/ideas.
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AO4

5	21-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convincing reference to context supported by sustained relevant textual reference.• Explanation of importance of theme/idea shows perceptive understanding. <p>*Sentences are convincingly structured, with sophisticated control of expression and meaning with precise control of the full range of punctuation devices. Spelling is consistently accurate.</p>
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This response received full marks.