

Write your answer to Section B here:

a) This extract shows that Four Eyes is desperate. "The change he had undergone since receiving his mother's letter was truly remarkable", showing that he ~~is~~ clings to the glimmer of hope which his mother gave him. Only 3 in 1000 people ~~can~~ went home after re-education and the promise of ~~his~~ his return to home has turned him wild and angry.

~~He is also~~

a) This extract shows that Four Eyes is desperate to return home "I hadn't ~~for~~ suspected that a tiny glimmer of hope for the future could transform someone so utterly". The letter that his mother sent asking for folk songs was his ticket out of Phoenix Mountain

(Section B continued) and his complete anger towards Luo and Ma shows how much he wants to return to his former life "before it would have been unthinkable for him to snap at us like this".

Four Eyes is also quite threatening when he wants to be "Your old miller... might even go to prison", showing that he isn't afraid to go to the authorities if it gets him a step closer to home. He already blackmailed Luo and Ma to get these songs using the promise of books.

This shows also that he ~~is~~ is ruthless, doing anything possible to get what he wants. "Don't you seriously think an official journal would even consider publishing this shit? You must be out of your minds"

He is also quite patronising. ~~He~~ "held up one of the pages... and waved it in our faces" like a "schoolmaster" to two children. He is doing this to show them that they have done wrong, but

(Section B continued) In a way that makes him seem above them.

b) The use of a swear word "this shit" highlights the anger as Four Eyes, a withdrawn and suspicious character, is suddenly shouting and swearing. This shows the desperateness of the situation and how ~~too~~ much he feels he needs to get home.

The hyperboles used when describing the old miller's songs were are an indication of his anger. "The ~~man~~ the old miller would be accused of spreading erotic material. He might even go to prison." There is very little chance of the miller going to prison based on a few ~~erotic~~ ^{raucous} songs and Four Eyes knows this, he is exaggerating the consequences to show his position of power ~~of~~ over all their fates.

Furthermore, the use of the ~~simple~~ minor sentence "I'm serious" after this statement provides a contrast with the rest of his ranting.

(Section B continued) The alliteration "scolding, schoolmasterly tone" also provides a reference to their shared background. The "scolding" tones of their teachers who used to be their worst nightmare draws up images of patronisation and anger building on both sides.

c) "Hope for the future" refers to the letter that Four Eyes' mother sent to him detailing an available job for someone who could collect village folk songs. This is a golden opportunity for Four Eyes to get off Phoenix mountain and return to normality.

‡ The "glimmer of hope" transforms Four Eyes, hardening his resolve and driving him forward. This transformation was also seen in Ma in the little coal mine when he saw the pinprick of light. This gave him hope that he would get out of the coal mine and stay out. This thought for the future drove him onward, forced him to not give up on life.

(Section B continued) The future is a bleak prospect on Phoenix Mountain. Only 3 in 1000 people are supposed to have gone home after ~~and~~ re-education and the 4 main characters seem to live in different times. Four Eyes is constantly looking ahead to the future desperately trying to get ~~away~~ away from re-education whereas Ma has resigned himself to his fate and lives in the moment. Luo is desperately clinging to the past, to the extent of recreating his old life by re-educating the little seamstress and furnishing their home with "bourgeois toys"

The little seamstress however is ~~is~~ running from her past into a new life brought to her by the western books. Ursule Mirouet was the glimmer of hope for her. It inspired within her a longing to change, a longing to become her own person and rule her own life.

She, ^{Luo} and ~~the~~ Ma are similar in this way, the books each inspired something different. For Luo it was the hope of re-creating his life by re-educating the little seamstress and for Ma it was an escape from the manual labour. He could wallow in a carefree world far away from his own after a day of hard work.

(Section B continued) a glimmer of hope that someday things will change - a hope for the future that China will return to normal after the cultural Revolution and its inhabitants will not live in constant fear of the Red Guards.

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 24 MARKS