Western Cape Government

CURRICULUM FET

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE

LEARNER MATERIAL

TERM TWO 2026

Back on Track

BACK ON TRACK PROGRAMME

GRADE 12

Western Cape Government

QUALITY EDUCATION

for every child | in every classroom | in every school in the province.

SESSION ONE: 25th April 2026
OVERVIEW OF THE NOVEL: *Life of Pi*

Author: Yann Martel
First Published: 2001
Genre: Philosophical adventure novel

Life of Pi, is a novel that explores survival, faith, and the power of storytelling. The story is told through the perspective of **Piscine Molitor 'Pi' Patel**, an Indian teenager who survives 227 days adrift in the Pacific Ocean on a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger.

Plot Structure
The novel is divided into three distinct parts:

- **Part One: Pondicherry, India** – Pi grows up as the son of a zoo manager. He is a vegetarian and simultaneously practices **Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam**, seeking to "just love God". In the mid-1970s, due to political instability, his family decides to move to Canada, bringing some of their zoo animals with them on a cargo ship.
- **Part Two: The Pacific Ocean** – The ship, the *Tsimtsum*, sinks in a storm, leaving Pi as the sole human survivor on a lifeboat. His companions are a spotted hyena, a wounded zebra, an orangutan, and a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. After the other animals are killed, Pi must use his knowledge of animal psychology to "tame" the tiger and survive alongside it for **227 days.**
- **Part Three: Mexico** – After washing ashore in Mexico, Richard Parker disappears into the jungle. Pi is interviewed by two Japanese officials investigating the shipwreck. When they find his animal story unbelievable, he tells a second**, brutally realistic version** where the animals are replaced by human survivors who turn to violence and cannibalism.

Key Themes
- **The Power of Storytelling** – The novel famously asks which version of the survival story is 'better,' suggesting that the stories we choose to believe shape our reality.
- **Survival and Resilience** – Pi's physical and spiritual transformation highlights the lengths to which a living creature will go to survive.
- **The Nature of Faith** – Martel uses the narrative to explore how different religions and systems of belief can help individuals endure suffering.

Overview of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Author: Oscar Wilde
First Published: 1890 (revised edition in 1891)
Genre: Gothic fiction / Philosophical novel

Summary
The Picture of Dorian Gray tells the story of **Dorian Gray**, a beautiful and impressionable young man living in Victorian London. When the talented artist **Basil Hallward** paints Dorian's portrait, Dorian becomes aware of—and obsessed with—his own extraordinary beauty.
Influenced by **Lord Henry Wotton**, who preaches a philosophy of hedonism and the pursuit of pleasure above all else, Dorian makes a fateful wish:
that **he might remain young and beautiful forever**, while the **portrait** bears the marks of age and sin instead.
Miraculously, his wish comes true.

As the years pass:

- Dorian stays physically youthful and charming.
- The portrait grows older, uglier, and more corrupted with every immoral act he commits.
- He lives a life of indulgence, cruelty, and moral decay—while society remains enchanted by his flawless appearance.

The turning point comes when Dorian ends up responsible for the death or ruin of several people, including Basil, who confronts him after seeing the corrupted painting. Dorian murders Basil to keep his secret.
Tormented by guilt and unable to escape the monstrous image on the canvas, Dorian attempts to destroy the portrait with a knife. Servants later find a **withered, hideous old man** dead on the floor—Dorian—while the portrait has returned to its original beauty.

Key Themes

1. The Danger of Vanity & Hedonism
Dorian's downfall begins when he values beauty above morality. Lord Henry's influence represents the seductive, destructive power of pleasure without conscience.

2. The Duality of Human Nature
The portrait becomes a symbol of the hidden self—the inner corruption that society cannot see.

3. Art and Morality
Wilde explores whether art should reflect moral values or exist purely for aesthetic pleasure, challenging Victorian expectations.

4. Influence and Manipulation
Basil loves Dorian sincerely, Lord Henry influences him intellectually, and Dorian becomes the product of others' ideals.

Why the Novel Matters
Wilde's only novel remains one of the most important works of Gothic and philosophical fiction. It critiques societal obsession with beauty, the dangers of unchecked desire, and the masks people wear to hide their true selves.

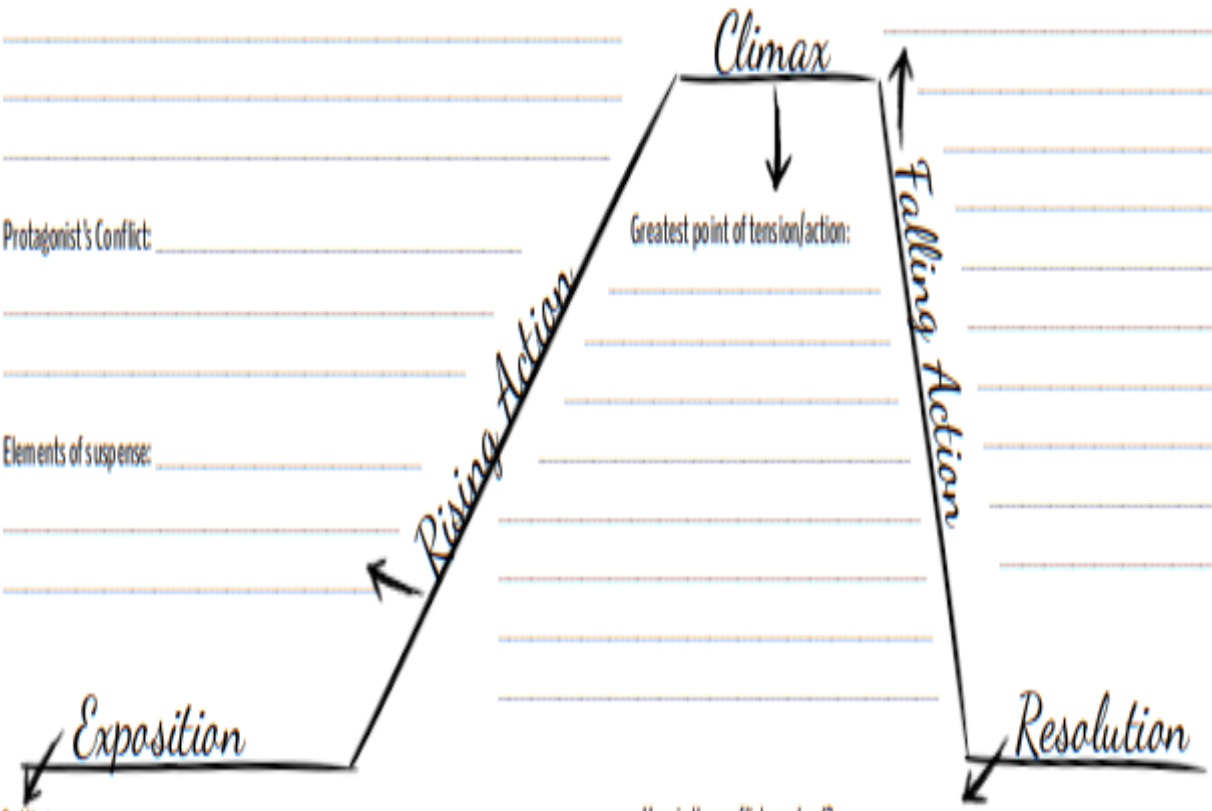
TITLE: _____ AUTHOR: _____

Focusing on THE PLOT STRUCTURE

Main Events of Rising Action: _____

Protagonist's Conflict: _____

Elements of suspense: _____



Greatest point of tension/action: _____

Main Events of Falling Action: _____

Setting: _____

Narrative Perspective: _____

Characters introduced: _____

Opening Events: _____

How is the conflict resolved? _____

Ending: _____

How is the protagonist changed? _____

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FOCUSING ON NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE

NOVEL/STORY TITLE: _____ **AUTHOR:** _____

FROM WHOSE PERSPECTIVE IS THE STORY TOLD?

THE TENSE OF THE NARRATION:

THREE WORDS WHICH CHARACTERIZE THE NARRATOR:

DESCRIBE THE NARRATOR (IN AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE):

THE NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE IS:

(TICK ONE)

- ☐ FIRST-PERSON
- ☐ SECOND-PERSON
- ☐ THIRD-PERSON LIMITED
- ☐ THIRD-PERSON OBJECTIVE
- ☐ THIRD-PERSON OMNISCIENT

HOW IS THIS SHOWN THROUGH THE LANGUAGE?

SHOULD THE READER TRUST THE NARRATOR? WHY OR WHY NOT?

IS THE NARRATOR A 'LIKEABLE' CHARACTER? WHY OR WHY NOT?

WHAT ROLE DOES THE NARRATOR PLAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLOT?

WHAT ROLE DOES THE NARRATOR PLAY IN THE CHARACTERIZATION OF ONE OR MORE OF THE CHARACTERS?

DESCRIBE THE TONE OF THE NARRATION:

WHY THIS CHOICE OF NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE? HOW IS IT EFFECTIVE?

A QUOTATION FROM THE TEXT WHICH CLEARLY DISPLAYS THE NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE/CHARACTER OF THE NARRATOR:

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Name:

Character Type:

Personality:

Physical Description:

How other characters see them:

Key Quotations:



Name:

Character Type:

Personality:

Physical Description:

How other characters see them:

Key Quotations:

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Character Type:

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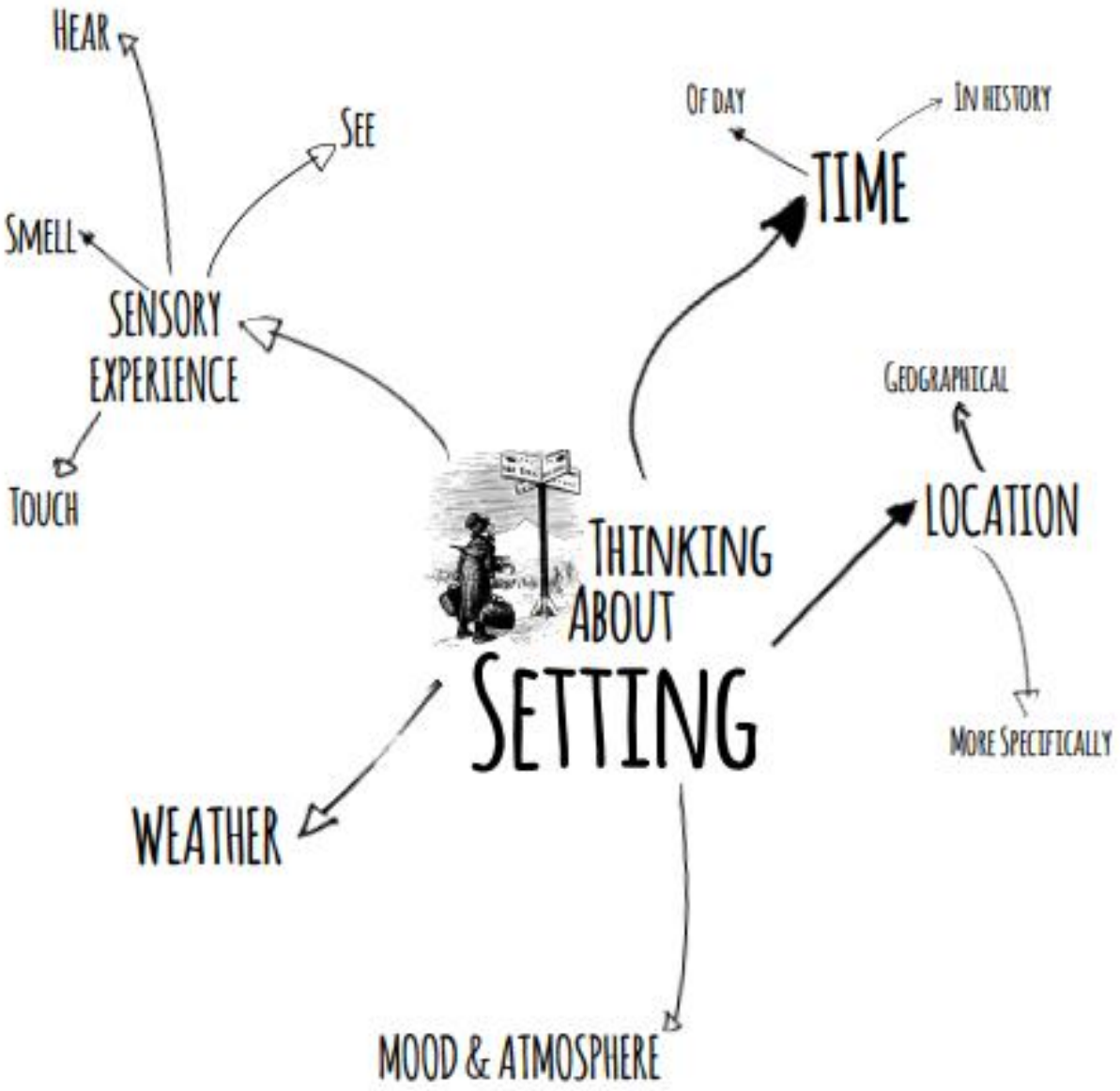
Personality:

How other characters see them:

Key Quotations:



TITLE: _____ GENRE: _____



COMMENT ON WHY THE SETTING IS IMPORTANT: _____

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NOTES:

SESSION TWO: 16 MAY 2026
NOVEL: LIFE OF PI CONTEXTUAL QUESTIONS:

I looked at him, full of fearful wonder. There being no immediate threat, my breath slowed down, my heart stopped knocking about in my chest, and I began to regain my senses.

I had to tame him. It was at that moment that I realised this necessity. It was not a question of him or me, but of him *and* me. We were, literally and figuratively, in the same boat. We would live – or we would die – together. He might be killed in an accident, or he could die shortly of natural causes, but it would be foolish to count on such an eventuality. More likely the worst would happen: the simple passage of time, in which his animal toughness would easily outlast my human frailty. Only if I tamed him could I possibly trick him into dying first, if we had to come to that sorry business.

But there's more to it. I will come clean. I will tell you a secret: a part of me was glad about Richard Parker. A part of me did not want Richard Parker to die at all, because if he died I would be left alone with despair, a foe even more formidable than a tiger. If I still had the will to live, it was thanks to Richard Parker. He kept me from thinking too much about my family and my tragic circumstances. He pushed me to go on living. I hated him for it, yet at the same time I was grateful. I *am* grateful. It's the plain truth: without Richard Parker, I wouldn't be alive today to tell you my story.

[Chapter 57]

9.1 Refer to line 4: 'I had to tame him.'

Explain how Pi gained the knowledge that enabled him to tame Richard Parker. (3)

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9.2 Refer to line 1: 'I looked at him, full of fearful wonder.'

Account for Pi's contradictory response toward Richard Parker. (3)

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9.3 Refer to lines 8–10: 'More likely the … that sorry business.'

Comment on how these lines influence your response to Pi's current state of mind. (3)

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9.4 Pi states that 'despair (is) a foe even more formidable than a tiger' (line 13).

Discuss the reasons for Pi's statement. (3)

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As confidently as if I had done it a thousand times, I jammed the knife just to the right of the turtle's head, at an angle. I pushed the blade deep into the folds of skin and twisted it. The turtle retreated even further, favouring the side where the blade was, and suddenly shot its head forward, beak snapping at me viciously. I jumped back. All four flippers came out and the creature tried to make its getaway. It rocked on its back, flippers beating wildly and head shaking from side to side. I took hold of a hatchet and brought it down on the turtle's neck, gashing it. Bright red blood shot out. I grabbed the beaker and collected about three hundred millilitres, a pop can's worth. I might have got much more, a litre I would guess, but the turtle's beak was sharp and its front flippers were long and powerful, with two claws on each. The blood I managed to collect gave off no particular smell. I took a sip. It tasted warm and animal, if my memory is right. It's hard to remember first impressions. I drank the blood to the last drop.

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The living rest of the turtle I lifted and dropped into Richard Parker's territory. He was making noises and sounded as if he were about to stir. He had probably smelled the turtle's blood. I fled to the raft.

I watched sullenly as he loudly appreciated my gift and made a joyous mess of himself. I was utterly spent. The effort of butchering the turtle had hardly seemed worth the cup of blood.

[Chapter 70]

9.1 How is Pi's treatment of the turtle uncharacteristic of him? (3)

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9.2 Refer to line 17: 'I watched sullenly as he loudly appreciated my gift'.

Explain what this line suggests about Pi's attitude toward Richard Parker at this point in the novel. (3)

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9.3 Refer to line 14: 'The living rest ... Richard Parker's territory' and line 16: 'I fled to the raft.'

Discuss how Pi's growing up in a zoo makes him aware of the importance of establishing separate territories for himself and Richard Parker. (3)

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9.4 In light of your knowledge of the novel as a whole, discuss the significance of Richard Parker's presence on the lifeboat. (3)

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The smell of vegetation was extraordinarily strong. As for the greenness, it was so fresh and soothing that strength and comfort seemed to be physically pouring into my system through my eyes.

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I heard a growl. I turned. Richard Parker was observing me from the lifeboat. He was looking at the island, too. He seemed to want to come ashore but was afraid. Finally, after much snarling and pacing, he leapt from the boat. I brought the orange whistle to my mouth. But he didn't have aggression on his mind. Simple balance was enough of a challenge; he was as wobbly on his feet as I was. When he advanced, he crawled close to the ground and with trembling limbs, like a newborn cub. Giving me a wide berth, he made for the ridge and disappeared into the interior of the island.

I passed the day eating, resting, attempting to stand and, in a general way, bathing in bliss. I felt nauseous when I exerted myself too much. And I kept feeling that the ground was shifting beneath me and that I was going to fall over, even when I was sitting still.

...

[Richard Parker] killed beyond his need. He killed meerkats that he did not eat. In animals, the urge to kill is separate from the urge to eat. To go for so long without prey and suddenly to have so many – his pent-up hunting instinct was lashing out with a vengeance.

[Chapter 92]

9.5 Place the extract in context. (3)

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9.6 Refer to lines 9–10: 'Giving me a … of the island.'

Based on your knowledge of the novel as a whole, discuss the implication of Richard Parker's behaviour in these lines. (3)

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9.7 Refer to lines 16–17: 'To go for … have so many'.

Comment on the extent to which these lines foreshadow the effect that Pi's ordeal will have on his life. (3)

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9.8 Refer to lines 11–12: 'I passed the … bathing in bliss.'

Do you agree that the island represents the contrast between reality and illusion? Justify your response, using this extract as a starting point. (4)

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THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY: CONTEXTUAL

EXTRACT A

One thing, however, he felt that it had done for him. It had made him conscious how unjust, how cruel, he had been to Sibyl Vane. It was not too late to make reparation for that. She could still be his wife. His unreal and selfish love would yield to some higher influence, would be transformed into some nobler passion, and the portrait that Basil Hallward had painted of him would be a guide to him through life, would be to him what holiness is to some, and conscience to others, and the fear of God to us all. There were opiates for remorse, drugs that could lull the moral sense to sleep. But here was a visible symbol of the degradation of sin. Here was an ever-present sign of the ruin men brought upon their souls.

Three o'clock struck, and four, and the half-hour rang its double chime, but Dorian Gray did not stir.

…

He did not know what to do, or what to think. Finally, he went over to the table, and wrote a passionate letter to the girl he had loved, imploring her forgiveness, and accusing himself of madness. He covered page after page with wild words of sorrow, and wilder words of pain. There is a luxury in self-reproach. When we blame ourselves we feel that no one has a right to blame us. It is the confession, not the priest, that gives us absolution. When Dorian had finished the letter, he felt that he had been forgiven.

[Chapter 8]

7.1 Place the extract in context. (2)

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7.2 Why does Dorian call his love for Sibyl 'unreal'? (2)

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7.3 Refer to lines 12–14: 'He did not … himself of madness.'
Explain what these lines reveal about Dorian's state of mind at this point in the novel. (2)

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7.4 Refer to lines 3–6: 'His unreal and … to us all.'
Discuss the extent to which Dorian is able to sustain his decision to use the portrait as his moral compass. (3)

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7.5 Refer to lines 15–18: 'There is a … had been forgiven.'
Discuss the significance of these lines in relation to the novel as a whole. (3)

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EXTRACT B

'I can tell you, Harry. It is not a story I could tell to anyone else. I spared somebody. It sounds vain, but you understand what I mean. She was quite beautiful, and wonderfully like Sibyl Vane. I think it was that which first attracted me to her. You remember Sibyl, don't you? How long ago that seems! Well, Hetty was not one of our own class, of course. She was simply a girl in a village. But I really loved her. I am quite sure that I loved her.'

…

'I should think the novelty of the emotion must have given you a thrill of real pleasure, Dorian,' interrupted Lord Henry. 'But I can finish your idyll for you. You gave her good advice, and broke her heart. That was the beginning of your reformation.'

…

'I can't bear this, Harry! You mock at everything, and then suggest the most serious tragedies. I am sorry I told you now. I don't care what you say to me. I know I was right in acting as I did. Poor Hetty! As I rode past the farm this morning, I saw her white face at the window, like a spray of jasmine. Don't let us talk about it any more, and don't try to persuade me that the first good action I have done for years, the first little bit of self-sacrifice I have ever known, is really a sort of sin. I want to be better. I am going to be better. Tell me something about yourself. What is going on in town? I have not been to the club for days.'

'The people are still discussing poor Basil's disappearance.'

[Chapter 19]

7.1 Refer to line 18: 'The people are still discussing poor Basil's disappearance.'
Account for Basil's disappearance. (2)

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7.2 Refer to lines 4–6: 'Well, Hetty was … I loved her.'
Discuss the irony in these lines. (2)

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7.3 Refer to lines 15–16: 'I want to be better. I am going to be better.'
Discuss Dorian's resolution 'to be better'. (3)

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7.4 Refer to lines 8–9: 'You gave her … of your reformation.'
Comment on how these lines indicate a change in Lord Henry's attitude towards Dorian. (3)

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7.5 Refer to lines 13–15: 'Don't let us … sort of sin.'
Using these lines as a starting point, critically discuss Dorian's understanding of 'self-sacrifice'. (3)

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ESSAY TEMPLATE:

PREPARATION	
Topic	
Question aspects (2)	
Theme	
Characters (4)	
PLANNING	
INTRODUCTION **TOPIC** **4 MAIN POINTS**	**In the drama/ novel, " ", TOPIC.**
BODY	**Each paragraph is a PEAL paragraph.**
Paragraph 1	**P:**
	E: 2
	E/ A:
	L: This shows
Paragraph 2	**P:**
	E:
	A:
	L: It is clear
Paragraph 3	**P:**

	E:
	A:
	L: Therefore
Paragraph 4	**P:**
	E:
	A:
	L: It is evident.
CONCLUSION **SUM UP 4 P+E.** **STATE THE A.** **Global statement.**	**In conclusion,**

P: Point, E: Evidence/ examples, A: Argument, L:Link

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SESSION THREE: 30 MAY 2026 DRAMA

HAMLET

Overview of *Hamlet*

Hamlet is a Shakespearean **tragedy** that follows Prince Hamlet of Denmark as he seeks to avenge his father's murder. The play explores themes of **revenge, madness, morality, appearance vs. reality, and the struggle between action and inaction**.

Plot Summary

The Inciting Incident

The story begins when the **ghost of Hamlet's father** appears to the guards and to Horatio, creating a tense, foreboding mood.When Hamlet meets the ghost, he learns the devastating truth: **King Hamlet was murdered by his brother Claudius**, who poured poison in his ear while he slept. The ghost commands Hamlet to **avenge his death**.

Hamlet's Inner Conflict

Hamlet becomes consumed by doubt and contemplation. Throughout the play, he struggles with:

- Whether the ghost is truthful
- When and how to take revenge
- His own fear, morality, and tendency to overthink. He adopts an **"antic disposition"**—pretending to be mad—to uncover the truth about Claudius without raising suspicion.

Key Turning Points

- **The play-within-a-play ("The Mousetrap")** confirms Claudius's guilt when he reacts with horror and storms out.
- Hamlet accidentally **kills Polonius**, thinking he is Claudius hiding behind a curtain.
- Polonius's death drives **Ophelia into madness**, and she later **drowns**
- Her brother, **Laertes**, returns seeking revenge.

The Final Tragedy

Claudius and Laertes plot to kill Hamlet during a **duel**, using:

- A poisoned sword
- A poisoned cup of wine
  The plan results in disaster:
- **Gertrude** drinks the poisoned wine
- **Laertes** and **Hamlet** wound each other with the poisoned blade
- **Laertes confesses the plot** before dying
- **Hamlet kills Claudius** and then dies himself
- Horatio survives to **tell Hamlet's story**

Why the Play Endures

Hamlet remains one of Shakespeare's most studied works because it blends psychological depth with political tension and philosophical questions about:

- Death and the afterlife
- Moral justice vs. personal vengeance
- Human hesitation and self-doubt
- The blurred line between appearance and reality

Overview of *Othello*

Othello is a Shakespearean tragedy that explores jealousy, manipulation, racism, love, and betrayal. The play follows Othello, a respected Moorish general in the Venetian army, whose life unravels when he becomes the target of a calculated scheme by his ensign, Iago.

Plot Summary

The Inciting Incident

The play opens in Venice, where Iago reveals his hatred for Othello for promoting Cassio over him. Intent on destroying Othello, Iago begins plotting.
Meanwhile, Othello secretly marries Desdemona, causing outrage from her father, Brabantio. The duke supports the marriage and sends Othello to Cyprus to defend it from a Turkish threat.

Iago's Manipulation

In Cyprus, Iago sets his plan into motion. He manipulates:

- **Roderigo**, who loves Desdemona;
- **Cassio**, whom he gets drunk and disgraced;
- **Othello**, by suggesting Desdemona is unfaithful.

Iago uses small "clues," especially Desdemona's misplaced handkerchief, to convince Othello that she is having an affair with Cassio.

Othello's Growing Jealousy

Once a calm, noble leader, Othello becomes consumed by jealousy and doubt.
He begins to mistrust Desdemona, growing increasingly aggressive and emotionally unstable, while Iago continues feeding him lies.

The Tragic Climax

Driven into a frenzy, Othello confronts Desdemona.
Believing betrayal is real, he murders her in their bed.
Emilia (Iago's wife) exposes Iago's plot, revealing Desdemona's innocence—too late.

The Final Resolution

When Othello understands the truth, he is devastated.
He kills himself, dying beside Desdemona.
Iago is arrested but refuses to explain his motives.

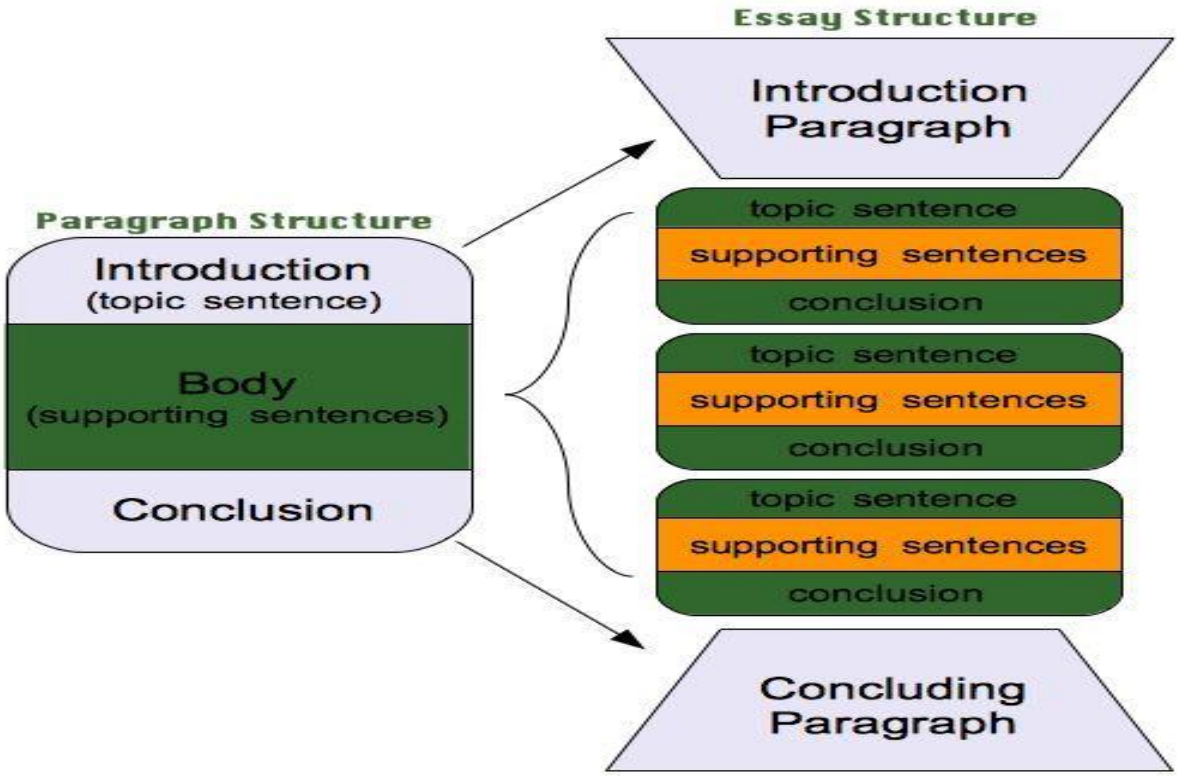
Why the Play Endures

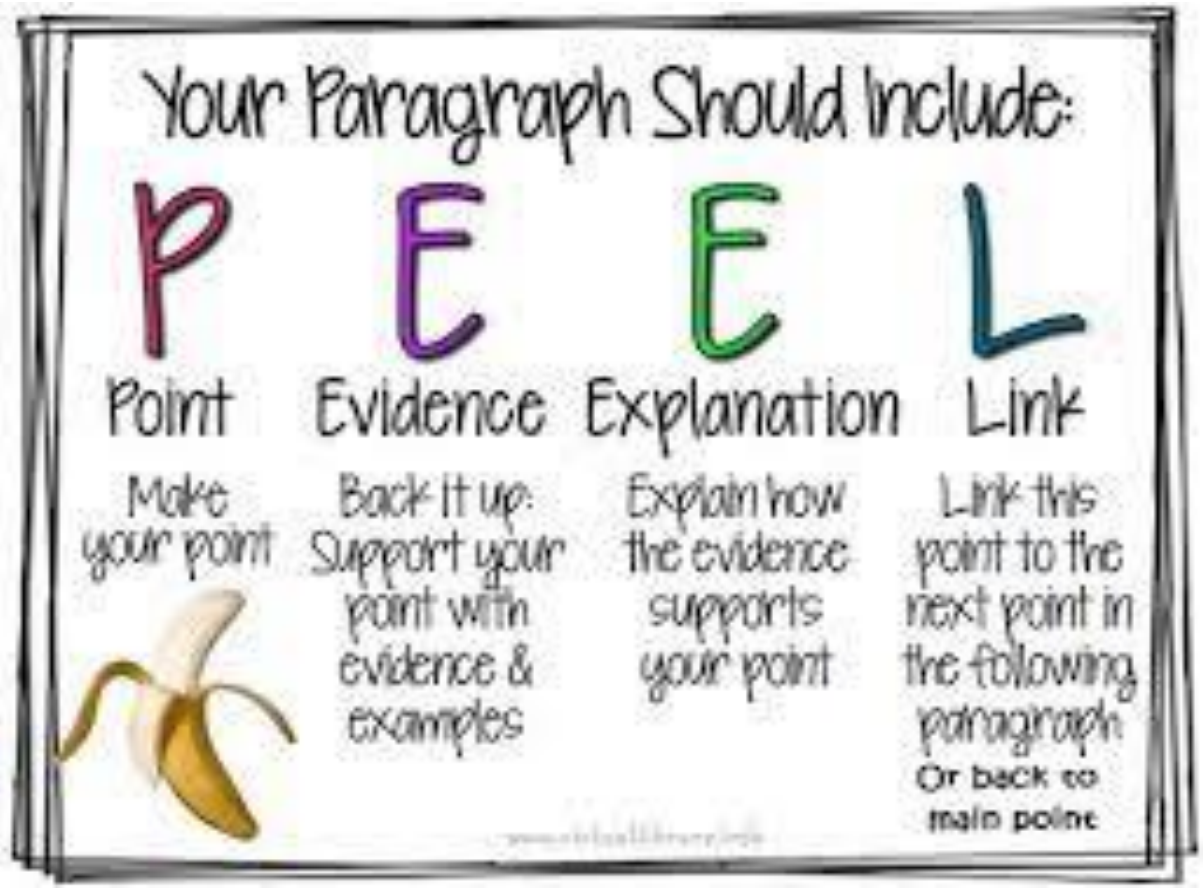
Othello remains widely studied for its exploration of:

- **The destructive power of jealousy**
- **The psychology of manipulation and trust**
- **Racism and otherness**
- **Love, honour, and betrayal**
- **How small doubts can spiral into tragedy**

The play's emotional intensity and complex characters make it one of Shakespeare's most powerful tragedies.

WRITING THE LITERARY ESSAY





PREPARATION	
Topic	
Question aspects (2)	
Theme	
Characters (4)	
PLANNING	
INTRODUCTION **TOPIC** **4 MAIN POINTS**	**In the drama/ novel, “ “, TOPIC.**

BODY	**Each paragraph is a PEAL paragraph.**
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THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR MID YEAR EXAMINATIONS!!