YEAR 11 | ENGLISH LITERARY ANALYSIS

STUDENT PAPER — original practice assessment

Name: _____ Date: _____

Suggested time: 60–75 minutes. Show reasoning, cite evidence where appropriate, and answer in complete sentences.

Read this original literary extract

1. At six, Mara returned to the station. The clock above the platform had stopped at 4:17, though trains still arrived on time. She kept her father’s ticket in her coat pocket, its edges worn smooth by the movement of her thumb. Every announcement sounded like the beginning of an apology. Across the tracks, windows flashed with brief reflections of strangers who looked, for an instant, familiar. When the last train came, Mara stood. She did not board. Instead, she placed the ticket on the bench and walked towards the street, where the lamps were only just coming on.

Section A — Close reading (24 marks)

1. Analyse the symbolism of the stopped clock and its contrast with punctual trains. (6)

2. How does the description of the ticket reveal character without directly naming an emotion? (6)

study_w_me hk

3. Explain the effect of “Every announcement sounded like the beginning of an apology.” (6)

4. Discuss two possible interpretations of the ending. (6)

Section B — Extended analysis (16 marks)

1. In 300–400 words, analyse how the writer uses setting, imagery and symbolism to explore memory and change. (16)

ANSWER KEY & TUTOR GUIDANCE

English Literary Analysis

The following pages contain suggested answers, marking points and tutor guidance. For open-ended tasks, answers are indicative rather than the only acceptable responses.

study_w_me hk

YEAR 11 | ENGLISH LITERARY ANALYSIS

TUTOR GUIDE — indicative responses and marking points

Read this original literary extract

1. Interpretations: halted clock evokes frozen grief; worn ticket suggests attachment; personification of announcements; reflections evoke longing; leaving ticket may mark release, but ambiguity matters.

Section A — Close reading (24 marks)

1. Time is emotionally suspended for Mara while ordinary life continues. Award interpretation 2, quotation 2, developed effect 2.

2. Worn edges and repeated thumb movement imply ritual, grief, memory and attachment. Evidence and effect required.

3. Auditory imagery/personification projects regret onto impersonal station announcements; hints unresolved loss.

4. Moving on or temporarily relinquishing a memory; uncertainty about future. Reward well-supported alternative readings.

Section B — Extended analysis (16 marks)

1. Mark: argument 4, close textual analysis 6, organisation 3, precise language 3. Strong responses integrate stopped time, reflections, ticket, and evening lamps into a coherent interpretation.

study_w_me hk