

Analytical Essay Years 7 to 9: Anderson's Journey

Set Question: Discuss the various issues presented by the author throughout the novel Anderson's Journey.

The novel Anderson's Journey by Jenny Anderson presents a variety of issues that explore people's ability to cope with the challenges that life offers. The beauty of the novel lies in the fact that even though people can be frail and selfish, the same characters have the ability to be determined and courageous in another set of circumstances. In a sense Anderson's Journey explores people, demonstrating the complexities of the human condition.

Human beings are often complex creatures. This is clearly displayed in the character of John, the eldest of the Anderson children. At the beginning of the story John is caught up in a very complicated situation where he is torn between the love of two women. He is a sensitive man who does not want to alienate either woman, however his inability to decide eventually destroys his relationship with both women, causing great angst amongst the small community. John's solution to this somewhat sordid situation is to run away, his actions reflecting a certain level of cowardice. Clearly, at this point in the novel John's character is less than perfect; however, as in life, experience is the greatest of teachers and we see a considerably different man as further events unfold.

As human beings we all experience fear. It is how we contain and overcome fear that defines bravery. In Anderson's Journey, the character of John was extremely weak when confronted by certain decisions, however when faced with another set of circumstances John not only overcomes fear, his actions are extremely heroic. John's character evolves as he experiences life, especially when thrown into the horrors of war. Initially John viewed war as an escape from his past, however the versatility of this character is demonstrated in his great fight for survival. Through his experiences in war John learns about loyalty, trust and friendship, concepts that had eluded him up to this point in life.

An aspect of the human condition reflected in the novel Anderson's Journey is the ability of human beings to discover their inner strength and great will to survive even in the most horrendous of circumstances. People have great potential, however in day to day life that capacity is

Title is underlined

States essay contention

Shows order of body paragraphs

Concludes with a linking sentence to the first body paragraph

Contractions, slang and abbreviations are not used

Past tense action verbs to retell events or summarise

Use of complex sentences

Formal, impersonal language

Integrates examples into sentences as evidence in TEEL or TEAL paragraphs

*T: clear topic sentence
E: state the example
E: explain / analyse example and how it shows the main argument, giving more evidence during the analysis
L: Links analysis back to contention or forward to next body paragraph*

rarely seen. Throughout the various war scenarios presented in Anderson's Journey it becomes very clear just how determined and strong human beings can be. From the unselfish acts displayed by young soldiers on the battlefield to the difficult and life altering decisions made by their leaders, it is obvious that each character draws on their inner strength to deal with problematic and often life threatening situations. Throughout the pages of Anderson's Journey this wonderful aspect of the human condition is explored in a realistic and convincing manner.

The novel Anderson's Journey presents an interesting study of people, their strengths and weaknesses, successes and failures. The realism of the characters, their ability to make mistakes and recover and learn from these mistakes ensures that Anderson's Journey has a great deal to offer about being human.

Uses a blend of past and present tense

Refers to and recaps contention, summing up main points

Ends with a strong statement

Source: Dove, J. 'English Writing Skills: Book B', 2006, User Friendly Resources, NSW, Page 40.