

Please choose ONE option from the 3 below. You will need your novel and copy/notes to answer the questions.

Option 1: Formal Letter

Write a letter to the author, Siobhan Dowd, discussing your response to the novel. You should use the following 'Success Criteria Checklist' and the sentence starters to help you **(50 marks)**:

Success Criteria Checklist - Tick each off as you write your letter and check again when you are proofreading your essay

- Correct layout, addresses in the correct place, date etc.
- Begin with 'Dear Ms. Dowd'
- 5 paragraphs
- Introduce yourself (paragraph 1)
- Include 3 body paragraphs
- Paragraph 2 - Response 1 and discussion
- Paragraph 3 - Response 2 and discussion
- Paragraph 4 - Response 3 and discussion
- Paragraph 5 - Conclusion
- Use correct formal letter sign-off
- Check spelling, grammar and punctuation

Sentence starters/ hints: We have given you lots of reasons/responses to the novel.

Useful sentences for your introduction (par 1)

- My name is X and I am a 1st year student in Curragh Post-Primary School
- We recently read your novel 'Bog Child' in our English class...
- I am writing to tell you that I really enjoyed reading this novel...

- I didn't know much about 'The Troubles' or the situation in Northern Ireland in the 1980's before I read your novel...
- I was interested to discover more about...

Useful sentence starters for paragraphs 2,3,4 (body paragraphs)

Possible response/reason for a body paragraph

- One of the biggest reasons why I enjoyed reading your novel was the characters you portrayed...
- I particularly liked the character of Fergus because he was clever/brave/determined/had a good moral compass/caring/compassionate/empathetic etc.

Possible response/reason for a body paragraph

- Another reason why I found the novel captivating/interesting/engaging was Mel's story...
- In the beginning I believed that Mel was/ X happened to Mel, but as I read on, I began to think that...

Possible response/reason for a body paragraph

- Joey's hunger strike really grabbed my attention from the outset, I wanted to know more about...
- I felt sorry for Fergus when he became worried about Joe and thought about their memories together...
- I think that the McCann's did the right thing by putting Joey on a drip because...

Possible response/reason for a body paragraph

- I found the revelation about Uncle Tally shocking because...
- When I look back over the story, I realise that Uncle Tally never said much about the hunger strike or the IRA...perhaps you were foreshadowing (warning or indication of future events) the ending when you...

Possible response/reason for a body paragraph

- I really liked Cora and the effect she had on Fergus throughout the novel...she helped him to feel/forget about/etc...
- I was bitterly disappointed in her at the end of the novel, I know that Felicity forced her to move to Michigan but...

Possible response/reason for a body paragraph

- I loved your writing style through the novel...
- You use lots of interesting vocabulary to convey thoughts and feelings such as...
- I really enjoyed your use of imagery, two of my favourite images from the book are...because
(key words - simile, metaphor, personification)

Conclusion (par 5): possible sentence starters

- In conclusion, I really enjoyed your...
- Thank you for taking the time to read my letter...
- I hope to read more of your work in the future...
- I hope to learn more about this period in history...

Option 2: Book Review

Write a book review on the novel, 'Bog Child', by answering the questions below. (50 marks)

1. What happened in the story/what was the story about?
2. Describe the protagonist
3. Describe two interesting moments in the book.
4. Describe the climax of the book (the turning point where the tension reaches its highest point).

5. How does the protagonist change throughout the novel?
6. Describe a moment that shocked you.
7. Was there anything interesting about the way it was written?
The language? The imagery? The point of view (1st person/term person/changing perspectives)
8. Was it a good novel? Give two reasons for your answer.
9. Would you recommend this book to others? Why?
10. Who would be a suitable audience (readers) for this book?
Why?

Option 3 - Key Moment Question

- (a) Name of novel: Bog Child
- (b) Author: Siobhan Dowd

- (c) Describe a moment in the story that you particularly enjoyed reading (approximately 12 lines) **15 marks**

[Hints - choose a moment in the text that you can give lots of detail on. You need to describe this key moment in specific detail, writing exactly what happens in your own words and using quotes where appropriate. Begin with: One key moment that I really enjoyed was the moment where...]

- (d) Why did you enjoy your chosen moment? Give at least 2 reasons for your answers using PIE (approximately 12 lines) **15 marks**

[Hints -you must write at least 2 PIE paragraphs for this answer.]

- (e) Think about the opening pages of the novel (pgs. 3-6). Choose 2 quotes that you enjoyed that use imagery. Write these quotes down. **10 marks**

Quote 1:

Quote 2:

[Hint - remember an image is a descriptive passage from the text that you can imagine in your head like a film]

- (f) Using one of these quotes, explain how it shows that the author is a good writer. (approximately 5 lines) **10 marks**

[Hint - look for similes, metaphors, personification, colours sound images, things that appeal to the senses. What effect does the image have on you?]

Total: 50 marks