

Studied - Fiction | Sample Answer

Imagine that one of the novels you have studied has won an award called, *The Junior Cycle English, Best Read Award, 2019*.

Title of novel: Once

Author: Morris Gleitzman

(a) Write a short citation for the novel receiving the award. In the citation you should identify the main reason why, in your view, the novel deserves the award.

Once is an outstanding novel that links historical events to the adventure of a young boy, and demonstrates interesting character development.

(b) With reference to at least two key moments in your chosen novel, discuss why the citation you proposed in part (a) is justified. (Question 7b, 2019)

The citation I proposed is justified in many ways throughout the novel.

The citation I proposed states that the novel links historical events to the adventure of a young boy. This book is set in the time of Nazi Germany and the whole book is based around this time period. For example, the book gives accurate information considering the ghettos and concentration camps. It gives a relevant piece of information about propaganda at the time through a conversation Felix overhears. Felix hears a man and a woman arguing on whether to go to the concentration camps or not, but the conversation is based on the propaganda shown to Jews at the time. The woman argues that they will be paid for farming and given free meals. This is of course not true, but it shows the information being given to the Jews at the time.

Another reason I think the citation I proposed is justified is the second point made in the citation, considering character development. The most prominent character development in this novel is Felix's. Felix is shown in similar situations at different stages of the novel to demonstrate his loss of innocence and gain of a more realistic outlook on life. At the beginning of the novel he

does not know the dangers of the Nazis and their hatred of Jews. He cluelessly waves at Nazis and thinks their attempt to kill him was a mistake. In contrast to this, at the end of the novel he bumps into a Nazi soldier and runs away, now knowing the hatred of the Nazis towards Jews. These changes of Felix's attitude in response to similar situations show Felix's character development.