

## What is the Creative Response?

The Creative Response in English is an assignment that gives students an opportunity to develop their creative thinking and expression in response to the study of a particular piece of literature. **It is important to consult with your teacher to ensure that the task you undertake is appropriate to the literature and that it involves an appropriate level of thinking and creative work for either the Tertiary or Accredited unit you are studying.** For many students this is the most satisfying of the English assessment items; the one you keep.

*Allow yourself time and space to think about the text and your response. A long walk without company, without a mobile phone or music headphones to interrupt your thoughts about possible creative pieces, followed by a quiet time with a pencil and paper, is one of the best ways to prepare.*

Think about and brainstorm a number of possibilities. Perhaps one these ideas will set you on your creative path.

- You may think about the text as a whole or narrow your focus to even a single paragraph in a novel or speech in a play.
- Your response may be written or in a non-verbal form.
- Students may give new insights into the literature by changing the “voice” and/or point of view by writing from a particular character’s perspective. In doing this, aim to go beyond a simple retelling by adding a new dimension of understanding.
- You may like to explore what happened before or after the time frame of the literature.
- The themes and characters of your text can give you many ideas to develop. Experiment with sketching a theme. Will you use symbols to express this?
- Choose the most interesting character. What does this character seek? Are there different sides to the personality? How? Try sketching these. What do parts of your picture represent or symbolise?
- Choose a minor character, one who is rarely mentioned, and develop his/her story.

- You might respond with a series of diary entries, letters and other objects in a memory box, drawings, a painting, a model, a series of set designs sketches or costumes for a play, dance, music composition, poetry . . . (Usually poetry may be one long poem or a collection of at least three shorter poems – check with your teacher.)

Present your Creative Response in a polished form. Refer to the assessment criteria so you understand how your piece will be marked.

**Allow time for drafting and polishing the rationale.** It is a pity to lose a grade or two on a great creative piece because the rationale was a last minute effort.

Try for your best Creative Response ever by remembering to:

- Check out your idea with your teacher
- Show drafts of the creative and rationale to your class teacher and/or study support teacher.
- Remember the well set out title page for a professional presentation.
- Hand it in on time for the best possible mark.

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