

## 2.5 Literary Exploration Planning Sheets

**Complete** this page based on the question, “**What is your opinion of the idea that our response to difficult circumstances shapes who we become in the future?**” **Refer to a text (or texts) and a character (or characters) you have studied earlier in this course.** If you would like to refer to the Mai Goda Essay “Still Me Inside” as an ADDITIONAL text, you may, but you must discuss a text from the course.

**Once you hand in this assignment, you must wait** until you receive a passing mark and feedback from your marker before proceeding to the 2.6 Literary Exploration Essay.

### *Initial Planning*

**Suggested Time: 10 minutes**

Read the assignment question at the top of the page and write your controlling idea below.

Select a character (or characters) from a text you have studied in ELA 30–2.

***Character(s) Chosen:***

***Literary Text(s) and Author(s):***

Briefly identify details about the character(s) that you intend to use to develop your ideas. Make sure the details associated with this character are relevant to your ideas about the topic question.

## Using Character Transformation in Essay Writing

Refer to the Using Character Transformation in Essay Writing Tutorial to help you complete each box in this handout. Contact your teacher if you would like assistance.

### Step 1: Reread your essay question.

What is your opinion of the idea that our response to difficult circumstances shapes who we become in the future?

### Step 2: Decode the question.

- Cross off the stem of the question to focus on what it's asking.
- Then circle the keywords.

#### Example of Decoding:

~~What is your opinion of the idea that our~~ beliefs are influenced by the actions of others?

**Your Original Question:** What is your opinion of the idea that our response to difficult circumstances shapes who we become in the future?

#### Now You Try (Decode Question):

### Step 3: Rephrase the original question into a simple answer, and write it in the space below.

**Example Question:** What is your opinion of the idea that our beliefs are influenced by the actions of others?

**Example of Rephrasing:** Our beliefs are influenced by the actions of others.

**Your Original Question:** What is your opinion of the idea that our response to difficult circumstances shapes who we become in the future?

#### Now You Try (Rephrase Question):

**Step 4: Choose a character who transforms (from a text you have studied in the course). Explain how you could use that character's transformation to answer the essay question.**

**Example Question:** "What is your opinion of the idea that our beliefs are influenced by the actions of others?"

**Here's how transformation could be used to answer the question:**

Wes Holman from the short story "Long, Long After School" could be used to answer the question because **Mrs. Tretheway causes Wes to transform**. Her **actions** toward him **influenced** the way he thought about himself and helped him **transform** into a strong student who felt worthy of love.

**Your Original Question:** "What is your opinion of the idea that our response to difficult circumstances shapes who we become in the future?" How could you use transformation to answer the question?

**Now You Try (Choose a Character):** What character could you use to answer that question? Explain in the space below.

**Step 5: Write your thesis using a "because" or "but" clause. Then plug it into the thesis statement formula.**

Name the type of text (photo, novel, film, etc.), the title, and the author or text creator.

- Titles of longer texts should be *italicized* or underlined.
- Titles of shorter texts should be in "quotation marks."

Formula: In [type of text] [text title], [poet/photographer/filmmaker/etc.] suggests that [thesis statement].

**Example Question:** What is your opinion of the idea that our beliefs are influenced by the actions of others?

**Example Thesis:** In the short story "Long, Long After School," author Ernest Buckler suggests that other people's actions can influence or transform our beliefs because they can inspire us to see the best in ourselves.

**Your Original Question:** What is your opinion of the idea that our response to difficult circumstances shapes who we become in the future?

**Now You Try (Write Thesis):** In the [insert type of text], [insert title], [insert author] suggests that [insert thesis statement].

Remember: Avoid simply summarizing the plot! Your evidence in each body paragraph should help you prove the thesis.

Introduction	
<b>Hook</b>  Use a creative attention getter—short anecdote, quotation from the text excerpt, question, strong statement, statistic, etc.	
<b>Background Information</b>  Introduce the topic and the text/author/character you'll be discussing.  Remember, you must write about a text you studied earlier in the course. Only discuss "Still Me Inside" as an optional and additional text.	
<b>Thesis Statement</b>  Copy from previous page.	

Body Paragraph #1 – Character <i>Before</i> Transformation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introduce the character, and explain that character's difficult circumstance.</li> <li>➤ Describe the character initially responds to the difficult circumstance, before he or she transforms.</li> <li>➤ Discuss specific examples from the text that support your point, always showing how the evidence proves the thesis.</li> </ul>	
<b>Topic Sentence</b>  Relate it to the thesis and focus on how the character initially responds to the difficult circumstance <i>before</i> he or she transforms.	
<b>Supporting Example #1 from Beginning of Text</b>  One example in each body paragraph needs to be a quotation from the text with the page number.	
<b>Supporting Example #2 from Text</b>	
<b>Supporting Example #3 from Text</b>	
<b>Concluding Statement</b>  Relate the evidence back to the thesis.	

## Body Paragraph #2—*Causes* of Character’s Transformation

- Explain what causes the character to begin responding to the difficult circumstance in a different way, causing his or her transformation to begin.
- Support your ideas with examples from the text that show the causes of transformation, always showing how the evidence proves the thesis.

<b>Topic Sentence</b>  Relate it to the thesis and focus on what <i>causes</i> the character to respond to the difficult circumstance in a new way and begin to transform.	
<b>Supporting Example #1 from Text</b>  One example in each body paragraph needs to be a quotation from the text with the page number.	
<b>Supporting Example #2 from Text</b>	
<b>Supporting Example #3 from Text</b>	
<b>Concluding Statement</b>  Relate the evidence back to the thesis.	

## Body Paragraph #3—Character *After* Transformation

- Describe how the character has changed. Explain the outcome of the transformation—who the character “is” at the end of the text.
- How has the character’s new response to the difficult circumstance transformed him or her?
- Support your ideas with specific evidence from the text that the character has transformed in an important way.

<b>Topic Sentence</b>  Relate it to the thesis and focus how the character’s new way of responding to the difficult circumstance has transformed him or her.	
<b>Supporting Example #1 from Text</b>  One example in each body paragraph needs to be a quotation from the text with the page number.	
<b>Supporting Example #2 from Text</b>	
<b>Supporting Example #3 from Text</b>	
<b>Concluding Statement</b>  Relate the evidence back to the thesis.	

## Conclusion

### Thesis Statement

Restate in different words.

### Essay Wrap-Up

- Reconnect with your intro paragraph.
- How has your character helped you explore the topic?
- How does this discussion connect with the excerpt from the text or your personal experience, depending on what you discussed in your intro.?
- What have you discovered about the topic?
- How does it relate to people in society?

### Clincher

Include a quotation, an anecdote, or a strong statement or question to leave the reader thinking.