

2024 MCAS Educator Professional Development

Essay Item Participant Pack

English Language Arts (ELA)

Grade 10

English Language Arts

Read the excerpts about characters who reflect on their recent interactions with loved ones and friends. Then answer the questions that follow.

In the 1800s, women were expected to marry by a certain age. In this excerpt from the novel *The Signature of All Things*, Alma reacts to the news that her friend Retta and sister Prudence are both getting married and moving away.

from *The Signature of All Things*

by Elizabeth Gilbert

- 1 In all of our lives, there are days that we wish we could see expunged from the record of our very existence. Perhaps we long for that erasure because a particular day brought us such splintering sorrow that we can scarcely bear to think of it ever again. Or we might wish to blot out an episode forever because we behaved so poorly on that day—we were mortifyingly selfish, or foolish to an extraordinary degree. Or perhaps we injured another person and wish to disremember our guilt. Tragically, there are some days in a lifetime when all three of those things happen at once—when we are heartbroken and foolish and unforgivably injurious to others, all at the same time. For Alma, that day was January 10, 1821. She would have done anything in her power to strike that entire day from the chronicle of her life.
- 2 She could never forgive herself that her initial response to the happy news from both her dear friend and her poor sister had been a mean show of jealousy, thoughtlessness, and (in the case of Retta, at least) physical violence. What had Beatrix always taught them? *Nothing is so essential as dignity, girls, and time will reveal who has it.* As far as Alma was concerned, on January 10, 1821, she had revealed herself as a young woman devoid of dignity.
- 3 This would trouble her for many years to come. Alma tormented herself by imagining—again and again—all the different ways she might have behaved on that day, had she been in better control of her passions. In Alma’s revised conversations with Retta, she embraced her friend with perfect tenderness at the mere mention of George Hawkes’s name, and said in a steady voice, “How lucky a man he is to have won you!” In her revised conversations with Prudence, she never accused her sister of having betrayed her to Retta, and certainly never accused Retta of having stolen George Hawkes, and, when Prudence announced her own engagement to Arthur Dixon, Alma smiled warmly, took her sister’s hand in fondness, and said, “I cannot imagine a more suitable gentleman for you!”

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- 4 Unfortunately, though, one does not get second chances at such blundered episodes.
- 5 To be fair, by January 11, 1821—merely one day later!—Alma was a much better person. She pulled herself back into order as quickly as she could. She firmly committed herself to a spirit of graciousness about both engagements. She willed herself to play the role of a composed young woman who was genuinely pleased about other people’s happiness. And when the two weddings arrived in the following month, separated from each other by only one week, she managed to be a pleasant and cheerful guest at both events. She was helpful to the brides and polite to their grooms. Nobody saw a fissure in her.
- 6 That said, Alma suffered.
- 7 She had lost George Hawkes. She had been left behind by her sister and by her only friend. Both Prudence and Retta, directly after their weddings, moved across the river into the center of Philadelphia. Fiddle, fork, and spoon¹ were now finished. The only one who would remain at White Acre was Alma (who had long ago decided that she was *fork*).
- 8 Alma took some solace² in the fact that nobody, aside from Prudence, knew about her past love for George Hawkes. There was nothing she could do to obliterate the passionate confessions she had so carelessly shared with Prudence over the years (and heavens, how she regretted them!), but at least Prudence was a sealed tomb, from whom no secrets would ever leak. George himself did not appear to realize that Alma had ever cared for him, nor that she might ever have suspected him of caring for *her*. He treated Alma no differently after his marriage than he had treated her before it. He had been friendly and professional in the past, and he was friendly and professional now. This was both consoling to Alma and also horribly disheartening. It was consoling because there would be no lingering discomfiture³ between them, no public sign of humiliation. It was disheartening because apparently there had never been anything at all between them—apart from whatever Alma had allowed herself to dream.
- 9 It was all terribly shameful, when one looked back on it. Sadly, one could not often help looking back on it. . . .

¹Fiddle, fork, and spoon—nicknames the girls gave themselves

²solace—comfort

³discomfiture—awkwardness

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- 10 Alma knew it would be hopeless ever to find a suitable husband, and she said as much one day to Hanneke de Groot,⁴ as the two women clipped boxwoods together in Beatrix's old Grecian garden.
- 11 "It will never be my turn, Hanneke," Alma said, out of the blue. She said it not pitifully, but with simple candor. There was something about speaking in Dutch (and Alma spoke only Dutch with Hanneke) that always elicited simple candor.
- 12 "Give the situation time," Hanneke said, knowing precisely what Alma was talking about. . . .
- 13 "I am merely saying that you do not know the future, child, quite as much as you believe you do. And there is something more I need to tell you, besides." Hanneke stopped working now, and her voice became serious. "Everyone has disappointments, child."
- 14 Alma loved the sound of the word *child* in Dutch. *Kindje*. This was the nickname that Hanneke had always called Alma when she was young and afraid and would climb into the housekeeper's bed in the middle of the night. *Kindje*. It sounded like warmth itself.
- 15 "I am aware that everyone has disappointments, Hanneke."
- 16 "I'm not certain you are. You are still young, so you think only of your own self. You do not notice the tribulations that occur all around you, to other people. Do not protest; it is true. I am not condemning you. I was as selfish as you, when I was your age. It is the custom of the young to be selfish. Now I am wiser. It's a pity we cannot put an old head on young shoulders, or you could be wise, too. But someday you will understand that nobody passes through this world without suffering—no matter what you may think of them and their supposed good fortune."
- 17 "What are we to do, then, with our suffering?" Alma asked.
- 18 This was not a question Alma would ever have posed to a minister, or a philosopher, or a poet, but she was curious—desperate, even—to hear an answer from Hanneke de Groot.
- 19 "Well, child, you may do whatever you like with *your* suffering," Hanneke said mildly. "It belongs to you. But I shall tell you what I do with mine. . . . I cast it to the ground, and I grind it under the heel of my boot. I suggest you learn to do the same."

⁴Hanneke de Groot—the family housekeeper

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In this excerpt from the novel *Emma*, Miss Emma Woodhouse is enjoying an outdoor gathering of friends on a nice day. While playing a game, she makes a comment to an older woman—Miss Bates—causing her friend Mr. Knightley to pull her aside.

from *Emma*

by Jane Austen

- 1 “Ladies and gentlemen—I am ordered by Miss Woodhouse to say, that she waves her right of knowing exactly what you may all be thinking of, and only requires something very entertaining from each of you, in a general way. Here are seven of you, besides myself, (who, she is pleased to say, am very entertaining already,) and she only demands from each of you either one thing very clever, be it prose or verse, original or repeated—or two things moderately clever—or three things very dull indeed, and she engages to laugh heartily at them all.”
- 2 “Oh! very well,” exclaimed Miss Bates, “then I need not be uneasy. ‘Three things very dull indeed.’ That will just do for me, you know. I shall be sure to say three dull things as soon as ever I open my mouth, shan’t I?—(looking round with most good-humoured dependence on every body’s assent)—Do not you all think I shall?”
- 3 Emma could not resist.
- 4 “Ah! ma’am, but there may be a difficulty. Pardon me—but you will be limited as to number—only three at once.”
- 5 Miss Bates, deceived by the mock ceremony of her manner, did not immediately catch her meaning; but, when it burst upon her, it could not anger, though a slight blush showed that it could pain her.
- 6 “Ah!—well—to be sure. Yes, I see what she means, (turning to Mr. Knightley,) and I will try to hold my tongue. I must make myself very disagreeable, or she would not have said such a thing to an old friend.” . . .

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- 7 "Oh! for myself, I protest I must be excused," said Mrs. Elton; "I really cannot attempt—I am not at all fond of the sort of thing. . . . These kind of things are very well at Christmas, when one is sitting round the fire; but quite out of place, in my opinion, when one is exploring about the country in summer. Miss Woodhouse must excuse me. I am not one of those who have witty things at every body's service. I do not pretend to be a wit. I have a great deal of vivacity in my own way, but I really must be allowed to judge when to speak and when to hold my tongue. Pass us, if you please, Mr. Churchill. Pass Mr. E., Knightley, Jane, and myself. We have nothing clever to say—not one of us."
- 8 "Yes, yes, pray pass *me*," added her husband, with a sort of sneering consciousness; "I have nothing to say that can entertain Miss Woodhouse, or any other young lady. An old married man—quite good for nothing. Shall we walk, Augusta?"
- 9 "With all my heart. I am really tired of exploring so long on one spot. Come, Jane, take my other arm."
- 10 Jane declined it, however, and the husband and wife walked off. . . .
- ***
- 11 While waiting for the carriage, [Emma] found Mr. Knightley by her side. He looked around, as if to see that no one were near, and then said,
- 12 "Emma, I must once more speak to you as I have been used to do: a privilege rather endured than allowed, perhaps, but I must still use it. I cannot see you acting wrong, without a remonstrance. How could you be so unfeeling to Miss Bates? How could you be so insolent in your wit to a woman of her character, age, and situation?—Emma, I had not thought it possible."
- 13 Emma recollected, blushed, was sorry, but tried to laugh it off.
- 14 "Nay, how could I help saying what I did?—Nobody could have helped it. It was not so very bad. I dare say she did not understand me."
- 15 "I assure you she did. She felt your full meaning. She has talked of it since. I wish you could have heard how she talked of it—with what candour and generosity. I wish you could have heard her honouring your forbearance,* in being able to pay her such attentions, as she was for ever receiving from yourself and your father, when her society must be so irksome."

*forbearance—patience and tolerance

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- 16 "Oh!" cried Emma. "I know there is not a better creature in the world: but you must allow, that what is good and what is ridiculous are most unfortunately blended in her."
- 17 "They are blended," said he, "I acknowledge; and, were she prosperous, I could allow much for the occasional prevalence of the ridiculous over the good. Were she a woman of fortune, I would leave every harmless absurdity to take its chance, I would not quarrel with you for any liberties of manner. Were she your equal in situation—but, Emma, consider how far this is from being the case. She is poor; she has sunk from the comforts she was born to; and, if she live to old age, must probably sink more. Her situation should secure your compassion. It was badly done, indeed!—You, whom she had known from an infant, whom she had seen grow up from a period when her notice was an honour, to have you now, in thoughtless spirits, and the pride of the moment, laugh at her, humble her—and before her niece, too—and before others, many of whom (certainly *some*,) would be entirely guided by *your* treatment of her.—This is not pleasant to you, Emma—and it is very far from pleasant to me; but I must, I will,—I will tell you truths while I can, satisfied with proving myself your friend by very faithful counsel, and trusting that you will some time or other do me greater justice than you can do now."
- 18 While they talked, they were advancing towards the carriage; it was ready; and, before she could speak again, he had handed her in. He had misinterpreted the feelings which had kept her face averted, and her tongue motionless. They were combined only of anger against herself, mortification, and deep concern. She had not been able to speak; and, on entering the carriage, sunk back for a moment overcome—then reproaching herself for having taken no leave, making no acknowledgement, parting in apparent sullenness, she looked out with voice and hand eager to show a difference; but it was just too late. He had turned away, and the horses were in motion. She continued to look back, but in vain; and soon, with what appeared unusual speed, they were half way down the hill, and every thing left far behind. She was vexed beyond what could have been expressed—almost beyond what she could conceal. Never had she felt so agitated, mortified, grieved, at any circumstance in her life. She was most forcibly struck. The truth of his representation there was no denying. She felt it at her heart. How could she have been so brutal, so cruel to Miss Bates!—How could she have exposed herself to such ill opinion in any one she valued! And how suffer him to leave her without saying one word of gratitude, of concurrence, of common kindness!

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19 Time did not compose her. As she reflected more, she seemed but to feel it more. She never had been so depressed. Happily it was not necessary to speak. There was only Harriet, who seemed not in spirits herself, . . . and very willing to be silent; and Emma felt the tears running down her cheeks almost all the way home, without being at any trouble to check them, extraordinary as they were.

Emma by Jane Austen. In the public domain

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For this question, you will write an essay based on the passage(s). Write your essay in the space provided on the next two pages. Your writing should:

- Present and develop a central idea/thesis.
- Provide evidence and/or details from the passage(s).
- Use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Based on the excerpts, write an essay explaining how Hanneke in *The Signature of All Things* and Mr. Knightley in *Emma* each play a significant role in the life of the main character. Be sure to use details from **both** excerpts to develop your essay.

Write your answer on the next two pages.

A large rectangular box containing 25 horizontal lines for writing.

Grade 10 English Language Arts Essay Rubric

Idea Development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QUALITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL IDEA/THESIS * • SELECTION AND EXPLANATION OF EVIDENCE AND/OR DETAILS * • ORGANIZATION • EXPRESSION OF IDEAS • AWARENESS OF TASK AND MODE 	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central idea/thesis is insightful and fully developed • Skillful selection and explanation of evidence and/or details • Skillful and/or subtle organization • Rich expression of ideas • Full awareness of the task and mode
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central idea/thesis is clear and well-developed • Effective selection and explanation of evidence and/or details • Effective organization • Clear expression of ideas • Full awareness of the task and mode
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central idea/thesis is general and moderately developed • Appropriate selection and explanation of evidence and/or details • Moderate organization • Adequate expression of ideas • Sufficient awareness of the task and mode
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central idea/thesis may be present and is somewhat developed • Limited selection and explanation of evidence and/or details • Limited organization • Basic expression of ideas • Partial awareness of the task and mode
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central idea/thesis is not developed • Insufficient evidence and/or details • Minimal organization • Poor expression of ideas • Minimal awareness of the task and mode
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response shows evidence the student has read the text, but does not address the question or incorrectly responds to the question.

*For narrative writing (Standard 3), the quality and development of narrative elements will be assessed in place of a central idea. Narrative elements should include but are not limited to: plot, character, setting, dialogue, action, and/or description. Students should use evidence/details to demonstrate understanding of text.

Standard English Conventions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SENTENCE STRUCTURE • GRAMMAR, USAGE, AND MECHANICS 	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent control of a variety of sentence structures relative to length of essay • Consistent control of grammar, usage and mechanics relative to complexity and/or length of essay
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly consistent control of sentence structures relative to length of essay • Mostly consistent control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to complexity and/or length of essay
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little control and/or no variety in sentence structure and/or • Little control of grammar, usage, and mechanics relative to complexity and/or insufficient length
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentences are formed incorrectly with no control of grammar, usage and mechanics and/or insufficient length.

Anchor Set of Student Responses (with scores)

Idea Development: 5

Conventions:3

In the novels *The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert and *Emma* by Jane Austen, the main characters Alma and Emma are similar in several ways, yet one prominent outside factor that guides them throughout each passage is the presence of someone else and their opinion. In *The Signature of All Things*, this character is Hanneke, Alma's housekeeper. In *Emma*, this character is Mr. Knightley, who comes to the defense of Emma's older acquaintance named Miss Bates. The roles that Hanneke and Mr. Knightley play are shared in both novels; they are both generally older and respectable people, are obliged to point out wrongdoing of the main character, and provide advice on how to fix or avoid it in the future.

In *The Signature of All Things*, the reader is easily able to see that Hanneke is an adult figure in Alma's life, and her opinion certainly means a lot to Alma. We are able to see their old and young relationship in paragraph 14 of the passage, which reads, "Alma loved the sound of the word *child* in Dutch. *Kindje*. This was the nickname that Hanneke had always called Alma when she was young and afraid and would climb into the housekeeper's bed in the middle of the night" (*The Signature of All Things*). This section of the passage provides insight into the depth of the relationship between Alma and Hanneke, both emotionally and in regard to time. In *Emma*, although the relationship between Emma and Mr. Knightley is a bit more difficult to decipher, how she reacts to his confrontation tells the reader that he is older and his opinion is certainly respected by Emma. Mr. Knightley said to Emma, "How could you be so insolent in your wit to a woman of her character, age, and situation?" (*Emma*, paragraph 12). Emma's reaction shows that she is embarrassed and sorry, clearly uncomfortable in the situation. By reading this situation, the reader is able to infer that Mr. Knightley is an elder to Emma because she would likely not be so embarrassed had Knightley been around her age. Hanneke and Mr. Knightley are clearly both older and in a respected position to their corresponding main characters.

The supporting characters Hanneke and Mr. Knightley are able to fulfill their role as an older and respected figure by pointing out the faults and mistakes made by each younger character. In *The Signature of All Things*, Hanneke tells Alma that she may not be as aware of the people around her and their disappointments as she thinks. She tells Alma, "I'm not certain you are. You are still young, so you think only of your own self... Do not protest; it is true" (*The Signature of All Things*, paragraph 16). Hanneke understands that her job is to help guide Alma through life, which is partly why she is such a significant figure to her. Mr. Knightley also understands his task of not letting Emma continue to make the same mistakes. He tells Emma, "[Miss Bates] is poor, she has sunk from the comforts she was born to... Her situation should secure your compassion. It was badly done, indeed!" (*Emma*, paragraph 17). Although using a slightly more aggressive tone and word choice, Emma is still equally influenced by his pointing out of her wrongdoing. This goes to show that both Mr. Knightley and Hanneke draw much of their significance from being a guide to their respective main characters.

The last role that Hanneke and Mr. Knightley have to fulfill is providing advice on how to either correct or avoid making similar mistakes in the future. In *The Signature of All Things*, Hanneke gives Alma advice on how to deal with suffering. Hanneke tells her, "Well, child, you may do whatever you like with *your* suffering...[b]ut I shall tell you what I do with mine... I cast it to the ground, and I grind it under the heel of my boot. I suggest you learn to do the same" (*The Signature of All Things*, paragraph 19). Rather than just telling Alma what is right to do and what is wrong to do, Hanneke gives her an idea on how to handle things herself. This shows how and why Hanneke plays a significant role in Alma's life. In *Emma*, Mr. Knightley takes a slightly different approach. Instead of telling her exactly how to act in the future, he makes her feel slightly guilty in hopes that she now knows that it is better to not speak than to risk hurting others. Knightley told Emma, "...I will tell you truths while I can, satisfied with proving myself your friend by very faithful counsel, and trusting that you will some time or other do me greater justice than you can do now" (*Emma*, paragraph 17). By expressing his regrets regarding Emma's actions, Mr. Knightley is almost saying "do not let me down", which now puts the responsibility in Emma's hands and provides a valuable lesson.

In the novels *The Signature of All Things* and *Emma*, each main character is accompanied by an older, respected figure who points out flaws and lends advice. Their significant roles help shape their character and provide insight that can be used later on in their journey.

Idea Development: 5

Conventions:3

Many novels feature characters acting out of character that require assistance in making decisions that are moral. In both *The Signature of All Things*, by Elizabeth Gilbert, and *Emma*, by Jane Austen, the main characters seek guidance from a mentor after acting out of character. Hanneke, from *The Signature of All Things*, is a housekeeper for Alma, the main character, and her family. Mr. Knightley, a man who knows Emma and her character well, gives her advice after not following the values he holds her to. Ultimately, both excerpts feature a mentor offering advice to characters who have made mistakes to show development and learning from their mistakes.

To begin with, in *The Signature of All Things*, Hanneke speaks to Alma after she expresses her regret about her mistakes. Alma acted out of character when she found out the man she loves is engaged to another. In regret, she receives advice from Hanneke, who begins with assuring her that there will be misfortunes in life and that "everyone has disappointments" (*The Signature of All Things*, Paragraph 13). Clearly, there is a mutual trust between the two of them, so Hanneke is able to give advice to Alma and act as a role model or trusted adult figure. Specifically, this piece of advice is blunt and honest, but comforting. It does not embellish the truth, but offers her consolation for the situation. Furthermore, to Alma, Hanneke's voice "sounded like warmth itself" (*The Signature of All Things*, Paragraph 14). Hanneke creates comfort and trust with Alma, simply by the tone of her voice. Therefore, she finds comfort in Hanneke. On top of this, Alma wonders what she should do with the suffering, and speaks on the desperation she feels to hear an answer from Hanneke, specifically. Hanneke responds, "you may do whatever you like with *your* suffering. It belongs to you. But I shall tell you what I do with mine...I cast it to the ground, and I grind it under the heel of my boot. I suggest you learn to do the same" (*The Signature of All Things*, Paragraph 19). Not only does she give sufficient advice, but she implies that Alma must be independent and figure it out on her own. However, Hanneke still explains what she would do in that situation. Alma obviously values Hanneke's opinions, as she asks her for guidance and desperately wants a response. She is viewed as a highly intelligent mentor to Alma, which makes her a crucial role in her life.

Similarly, in Jane Austen's *Emma*, Emma makes an impulsive decision in which she is rude to Miss Bates, and Mr. Knightley has to help her remember her values. Clearly, there is a mutual respect between Mr. Knightley and Emma, because he values her privacy, but is not afraid to call her out on her wrong-doings. Once nobody is around them, Mr. Knightley tells Emma, "I cannot see you acting wrong" (*Emma*, Paragraph 12). Mr. Knightley refuses to see Emma in a state in which she jeopardizes her own dignity, which reveals his admiration for her general values and character. Moreover, Emma refuses to believe that Miss Bates took any offense to her words, yet Mr. Knightley assures Emma that "she felt [Emma's] full meaning. She has talked of it since" (*Emma*, Paragraph 15). Although it may be blunt, Mr. Knightley helps Emma attempt to realize the consequences of her actions, which displays a positive and healthy relationship between them. Clearly, Mr. Knightley is comfortable enough with Emma to explain to her where she acted out of character. Emma, out of stubbornness, continued to refuse to believe Mr. Knightley's claims. However, Emma clearly values his opinions, because she soon realizes that he was right to confront her. Emma explains, "Never had she felt so agitated, mortified, grieved, at any circumstance in her life. She was most forcibly struck. The truth of his representation there was no denying. She felt it at her heart. How could she have been so brutal, so cruel to Miss Bates!" (*Emma*, Paragraph 18). Despite it taking some time to sink in, Emma ultimately takes Mr. Knightley's words into account. Also, Mr. Knightley took the time to confront Emma, risk her being angry at him, to guide her back to acting moral. This demonstrates the role he takes as a positive role model for Emma.

Both Hanneke and Mr. Knightley care for the main characters enough to guide them to success. Without them, Alma and Emma may have struggled with positive decision making and staying true to their values. Elizabeth Gilbert and Jane Austen successfully created mentors that were curated carefully to guide their characters to becoming their most moral and good versions of themselves. These relationships proved to be representative of the role models that humans need today.

Idea Development: 4

Conventions:3

In both "The Signature of All Things" and "Emma" characters fitting an old and wise archetype play significant roles in the lives of the main character. Hanneke in "The Signature of All Things" helps Alma to understand herself and the others around her. As Mr. Knightley in "Emma" helps Emma to recognize her own mistakes and actions. Both characters help to teach the girls a lesson and alter their perspective on life.

Alma in "The Signature of All Things" encounters a variety of disappointments when she learns of her sister's and closest friend's engagement. Not only does it increase the pressure she feels to get married, but her sister is also marrying the man that Alma had loved and most of all Alma feels guilt for the way she reacted to the engagement announcements. Upset about her situation Alma begins to complain to her housekeeper, Hanneke. Instead of consoling her, Hanneke offers Alma some important advice, she claims "Everyone has disappointments, child" (Paragraph 13 of The Signature of All Things). By offering Alma this advice she helps her to put her situation into perspective. Instead of feeling pitiful for herself Hanneke instead suggests that Alma should remember that being disappointed is normal and expected for everyone. Hanneke again claims that "nobody passes through this world without suffering- no matter what you may think of them and their supposed good fortune" (Paragraph 16 of The Signature of All Things). This advice also helps Alma to realize that instead of being jealous of what others have she should remember that everyone suffers alike and she should be grateful because sometimes things are not as good as they appear to be for others. All the advice and comfort that Hanneke offers to Alma has a dramatic effect on her outlook of life as she continues to battle the hardships of her current situation.

Similarly in "Emma" Mr. Knightly confronts Emma after she makes a remark to an older Miss Bates. Young and niece Emma often does not recognize the extent to which her words can affect the people around her and fails to take other people's situations into hand when speaking to them. When Emma makes a rude remark to Miss Bates a poor woman, she does not recognize how hurtful her words were or how unfortunate Miss Bates' situation was. Mr. Knightly claims "Her situation should secure your compassion" (Paragraph 17 of Emma). By making Emma aware of Miss Bates' situation, Mr. Knightly teases Emma about why her words were so offending and how she should have acted differently. However, after her conversation with Mr. Knightly, Emma feels "only anger against herself, mortification, and deep concern" (Paragraph 18 of Emma). Mr. Knightly proved to have a deep effect on Emma by teaching her about compassion, considering her angered reaction toward herself for what she had done. The conversation they shared together helped Emma to realize that she should think before she speaks and feel further sympathy for those around her.

Both Hanneke and Mr. Knightley have acquired much more wisdom from their old age than either Alma or Emma, and are able to have a lasting impact on the girls' lives. Hanneke teaches Alma the importance of understanding that suffering is normal and happens to everyone. As Mr. Knightley teaches Emma that her words can have an effect on people and the importance of compassion. The roles of Hanneke and Mr. Knightley are important on teaching the main characters significant lessons about life.

Idea Development: 3

Conventions:3

Hanneke in *The Signature of All Things* and Mr. Knightley in *Emma* both help the reader decipher more of the characters' feelings while providing words of wisdom. However, the difference between the two is that Hanneke gives Alma advice, while Mr. Knightley only makes Emma realize her wrongs, not what to do about it.

In *The Signature of All Things*, Hanneke comes into the picture near the end of the passage, when Alma finally tells a new person about her feelings about her marriage situation and George. Alma's main concerns are how to get rid of her suffering, and Hanneke gives her advice. Hanneke's response are words of comfort; she says that she is still young and that time and growth will help (paragraph 16). However, this paragraph is underscored by certain things such as the implication that Alma is selfish, which could come off the wrong way for some. Alma does not take this the wrong way, possibly because of Hanneke's tone, and because of her general curiosity to deal with her suffering. The passage ends off with Hanneke telling Alma what she did, but the rest is up to her. This interaction helps readers learn more about Alma's feelings because of how she didn't get offended by Hanneke's words; it could be that she realizes they are true and because of how she truly does want to do better.

In *Emma*, Mr. Knightley's interaction with Emma reveals to readers that her previous actions were not with great intentions. The interaction also tells readers that Emma acted out of impulse - she says "Nay, how could I help saying what I did?" (paragraph 14). This shows that she is impulsive and doesn't think about what her actions could do, and Mr. Knightley's words help readers realize this. He essentially tells Emma off in paragraphs 15 and 17, so in paragraph 18, Emma realizes the impact of her actions. Mr. Knightley's advice was to take time to reflect. The difference between the advice given by him in this passage and the advice given by Hanneke in *The Signature of All Things* is that the writer reveals that the advice did not work. It could almost be said that Mr. Knightley caused Emma to settle into the despair that Alma was in before talking to Hanneke.

Idea Development: 2

Conventions:2

In the excerpts, *The Signature of All Things* and *Emma*, there are two characters that play a similar but important role in each of the main characters lives.

In *The Signature of All Things* Hanneke, the family housekeeper is someone who gives advice and wisdom to the main character, Alma. Towards the end of the excerpt, Alma starts to talk to Hanneke, explaining her problem vaguely. Hanneke then gives some wisdom to Alma, a good example is paragraph 16 where it states, "You are still young, so you only think of yourself...you will understand that nobody pass through this world without suffering." Hanneke is like a motherly figure to Alma and is why Alma relays on her so much.

In *Emma* Mr.Knightley is someone who helps the main character Emma see her faults and wrongings, hopefully to help Emma see it too. During the middle of the excerpt, Mr.Knightley starts to explain what Emma had done, as said in paragraph 12, "How could you be so unfeeling to Miss Bates, How could you be so insolent in your wit to a woman of her character, age, and situation?" Emma soon realizes her fault and starts to think back on it, as stated in paragraph 18, "She felt it at her heart. How could she have been so brutal, so cruel to Miss Bates." Mr.Knightley and Hanneke both play an important role to each of the characters by being someone that helps and understands the main characters,

Idea Development: 1

Conventions:1

In the excerpts, both Hanneke and Mr. Knightley provide key learning lessons for the main characters.

In *The Signature of All Things*, Hanneke when discussing suffering tells Alma that she "casts it to the ground, and I grind it under the heel of my boot" (19). This advice helps Alma realize her shortcomings.

In *Emma*, Mr. Knightley tells Emma that "I must once more speak to you as I have been used to do" (12). Mr. Knightley is a role model for Emma as he tells her to be less insolent to others.

Overall, in both excerpts, the adults provide useful information to the main characters.

Idea Development: 0

Conventions:0

they play a major role in their stories because they help with getting to think about what they did

Set of Student Responses without Scores (for educator practice)

Based on both of the passages I read Hanneke in "The signature of All Things" and Mr. Knightly in "Emma" Both play a significant role in the main character's life because they both made them realize how insincere they were being in their situations.

In "The Signature of All Things" Hanneke helped Alma get over the fact that George wasn't going to be hers anytime soon. In the text it states, "I am merely saying that you do not know the future, child, quite as much as you believe you do. And there is something more I need to tell you besides." Hanneke stopped working now, and her voice became serious. "Everyone has disappointments, child." This shows that Hanneke played a major part in Alma's life because she made her realize that not everything goes the way we think it will and we just have to deal with it.

In "Emma" Mr. Knightley talks to Emma about how insincere she is being about Miss Bates' situation. In the text it states, "Emma, I must once more speak to you as I have been used to do: a privilege rather endured than allowed, perhaps, but I must still use it. I cannot see you acting wrong, without a remonstrance..." Mr. Knightley played a significant role in Emma's life because he taught her to have remorse for people when they are going through something.

All in all, Hanneke and Mr. Knightley play a significant role in the main character of their stories' lives because they teach the main characters a lesson.

Sometimes we can get lost in our own world. This is a pretty normal thing to happen, but it becomes an issue when you can't escape that world. That's why having strong relationships with wise friends can help you out. Emma and Alma both had these friends, who were able to fix the situation and help them find reality. In "The Signature of All Things" and "Emma", we see these relationships significantly impact the main characters in a positive way. To do this, their friends bring them back to reality, give them the facts, and reassure them to make sure they are feeling well.

In "The Signature of All Things", Alma is struggling with the idea of moving on from her past. She can't help but replay that day in her head over and over. Thinking of where she went wrong and what she could have done instead. This process was described as "Alma tormented herself by imagining—again and again—all the different ways she might have behaved on that day" (Gilbert, 3). She clearly doesn't want to remember this day, but her guilt forces her to. Despite the fact that she still has good relationships with all the people she feels she wronged, Alma still felt incredible guilt. Her impulsive reaction will live with her forever, that instead of being happy for her sister and friends marriages, she was jealous and annoyed. It wasn't until she talked with her families housekeeper, Hanneke de Groot, that she got a reality check. Hanneke says "nobody passes through this world without suffering—no matter what you may think of them and their supposed good fortune" (Gilbert, 16). She helped remind Alma that she isn't alone, and that everyone regrets certain choices they made in life. But everyone needs to deal with that suffering, and Alma needs to find her way too. Having this conversation helps Alma calm down and start the process of moving on, but it all wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for Hanneke de Groot.

Another character that played a significant role in the life of the main character was Mr. Knightley, in "Emma". Similar to Alma, Emma made an impulsive decision that she would later regret. Except this time, she didn't regret her decision instantly like Alma. Emma had no idea the impact she had made on Miss Bates from just one simple comment. It took the help of Mr. Knightly to show Emma where she went wrong. He wasn't happy with her at all, noting how disappointed he was in her. She had embarrassed Miss Bates in front of her family and friends and he wanted to know why. Emma didn't have much of a response for him, besides the fact that she felt terrible for what she did once she knew the impact. Once Emma was alone with her thoughts, she "felt the tears running down her cheeks almost all the way home" (Austen, 19). Mr. Knightly had played an important role for not only Emma, but for Miss Bates too. He had stood up for her and in the process, given Emma a story she will never forget. This experience will stay with her forever, hopefully making her a better person. But without Mr. Knightly standing up and saying something to Emma, she may have never known the impact her words had on Miss Bates that day.

Both of these stories are great examples of how to be a good friend. They differ slightly in how they helped, but both made a significant impact. Hanneke is wise and gave Alma all the knowledge she could to help her heal. As for Mr. Knightly, he gave Emma all the information she could need to know the truth. But this truth did nothing but depress her, as she now lived with incredible guilt. Overall, these two friends played a major role that helped shape the main characters story, new outlook on life, and new appreciation for friendship.

Response C

Idea Development: Conventions:

they both play a significant role in each others life because they both know the role other poeple play in their life they understand how things go and how they want things to go they just dont know how things really are.

Both Hanneke in *The Signature of All Things* and Mr. Knightly in *Emma* help the main character to realize the effects of their actions and how they can grow in the future.

In *The Signature of All Things*, Alma acts poorly upon the announcement of her best friend's engagement and her sister's engagement. After she reacts poorly she realizes that she has made herself seem undignified and she regrets her actions. Although she regrets her actions, she regrets them in a selfish manner, Hanneke helps reveal this to her. In her conversation with Alma, Hanneke says, "You are still young, so you think only of your own self. You do not notice the tribulations that occur all around you, to other people...But someday you will understand that nobody passes through this world without suffering--no matter what you may think of them and their supposed good fortune" (16). Hanneke is explaining to Alma that although it seems like her friends do not have to suffer like she does, they do and they will. She is explaining that her perception of the world is off. This allows Alma to reflect more on her actions and have a new perspective of the world.

Mr Knightly plays a similar role in *Emma*. Emma Woodhouse is a young lady with high status and she is at a gathering with friends. During the gathering people are invited to entertain Miss Woodhouse in some way, leading Miss Bates to say something. Emma seemingly mocks Miss Bates without questioning it and moves on with her evening. Miss Bates, however, was upset by Miss Woodhouse's comment. Following the gathering Mr. Knightly approaches Emma and says, "How could you be so unfeeling to Miss Bates? How could you be so insolent in your wit to a woman of her character, age, and situation?" (12). Here Mr. Knightly is condemning Emma for what she said as it was very rude of her. Emma does not believe that it could have affected Miss Bates that much though. Mr. Knightly goes on to explain how the comment affects her based on the nature of the comment and the status of both women. Only after speaking with Mr. Knightly does Emma realize the effects of her words. She, like Alma from *The Signature of All Things*, now has a new perspective and is able to reflect further on her actions.

Hanneke and Mr. Knightly both act as guides to the main character of their respective novels in order to provide new insight and perspective to them.

Response E

Idea Development: Conventions:

In both stories these characters both play a role of a person who is interested in showing guidance or support. In *The Signature of All Things* Hanneke tells Alma that she should just let go of her suffering. In *Emma*, Mr. Knightley gives advice to Emma about how she is treating people. He tells her that she made a mistake by acting how she acted. You cannot act spoiled or rude to people because it always comes back in the end. Both of these characters from both passages helped they're partners out by giving them good advice for their lives.