



National Certificate of Educational Achievement
TAUMATA MĀTAURANGA Ā-MOTU KUA TAEA

Exemplar for Internal Assessment Resource

English Level 2

Resource title: Sink your teeth into texts!

This exemplar supports assessment against:

Achievement Standard 91104

Analyse significant connections across texts, supported by evidence

Student and grade boundary specific exemplar

The material has been gathered from student material specific to an A or B assessment resource.

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	Grade Boundary: Low Excellence
1.	<p>To achieve this standard at Excellence the student needs to analyse significant connections across texts perceptively, supported by evidence.</p> <p>The student refers to four texts and analyses a significant thematic connection across these texts: 'attitudes to romantic love and how they alter over time.' Within this, the student also perceptively analyses connections on 'the power of love' and 'how Facebook is changing society and love.'</p> <p>The student develops insightful interpretations of these connections, integrating supporting evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>His love for her overpowers the fact that she is not the prettiest or the best, she is merely who he loves and he loves her because of this.</i>(Paragraph 3) • <i>Mr Darcy cannot help but love her for this. It is in fact his pride that is “conquered” by the power of his love Elizabeth. Both men realise and accept how “ardently” they “admire and love” their respective women. This is the true power of love and is something that needs to be recognised in society today.</i>(Paragraph 4) • <i>Now people no longer have the same problems that Mr Darcy and Shakespeare had with having to love people in spite of their flaws, because now people no longer have any flaws.</i>(Paragraph 5) • <i>I also think the point that even in Jane Austen's or William Shakespeare's times people were still hiding from their true feelings, is very interesting. This shows that despite society changing since, the basic nature of individual humans hasn't followed this change.</i>(Paragraph 6) <p>To meet Excellence more securely the student could develop an insightful interpretation of attitudes to romantic love in <i>The Facebook Sonnet</i>.</p>

1 What is true love? I have considered attitudes to romantic love and how they alter over time. Two of my texts: *Sonnet 130* by Shakespeare, *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen consider the power of true love and how it overcomes obstacles. The other two texts deal with attitudes to love in today's world. *Psyche's Dark Night* by Francesca Block and *The Facebook Sonnet* both deal with attitudes to love in a world with a different obstacle where public/private spaces are blurred.

2 *Sonnet 130* by William Shakespeare and *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen both discuss the power of love and how, despite obstacles and objections, when love is true these things don't matter. During Mr Darcy's declaration of love to Elizabeth "his sense of her inferiority-of its being degradation-of the family obstacles....were dwelt on". However he continues to then talk about the "strength of that attachment which, in spite of all his endeavours he found it impossible to conquer." In this one speech Austen shows that despite the many objections Mr Darcy has to loving Elizabeth, such as her "inferior" social status and his many "endeavours" to try "conquer" his love for her, in the end he has given in to the fact that he loves her and is now willing to overlook his objections. Here Austen is making a point that love is more powerful than any other feeling, whether that feeling be pride, fear or judgements you have made it doesn't matter because the power of love will overcome it all. This is best shown when Mr Darcy says "in vain I have struggled. It will not do. My feelings will not be repressed. You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you."

3 This connects with what Shakespeare says in *Sonnet 130*. Throughout the whole sonnet he expresses how the women with whom he is in love with is not the best or the prettiest, "her eyes are nothing like the sun" and "coral is far more red than her lips' red". He compares her features to that in which he feels are their superlative and in doing so immediately gives the impression that because her lips aren't the brightest red and her eyes don't sparkle as bright as the sun that he sees these as flaws and reasons for him not to love her. However at the end of the sonnet he then expresses "by heaven, I think my love as rare as any she belied with false compare." So as with Mr Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*, Shakespeare overcomes his objections towards the women he loves and again this shows the power of love. In *Sonnet 130* Shakespeare's love evolves to the point where he loves her not in spite of these flaws but because of them. His love for her overpowers the fact that she is not the prettiest or the best, she is merely who he loves and he loves her because of this.

4 This is the same in *Pride and Prejudice*. Elizabeth is lower class, inferior and she refuses to follow the rules of society at the time, but by the end of the book Mr Darcy cannot help but love her for this. It is in fact his pride that is "conquered" by the power of his love Elizabeth. Both men realise and accept how "ardently" they "admire and love" their respective women. This is the true power of love and is something that needs to be recognised in society today.

5 *The Facebook Sonnet* by Alexie Sherman and *Psyche's Dark Night* by Francesca Block both discuss how Facebook is changing society and love is one of the major things subject to this change. By saying 'Welcome to past friends / And lovers, however kind or cruel. / Let's undervalue and unmend / The present..' Sherman is stating that the lessons we learn privately about life and love are changed and depersonalised by putting it on the internet as a public statement. It's also an unreal presentation of ourselves where 'we pretend / Every stage of life is the same.' So with social media we are moving away from the awareness that the true power of love goes beyond physical appearance or societal acceptance. It is a superficial extension of 'the games / That preoccupy the young'. In the story *Psyche's Dark Night* it is love that changes and becomes impersonal. By saying 'they were both very attracted to each other's profiles' Block is commenting on how attraction has now moved even further away from being based on personality. Now attraction is based on how they appear as a person on a social networking page. Now people no longer have the same problems that Mr Darcy and Shakespeare had with having to love people in spite of their flaws, because now people no longer have any flaws. In the case of Psyche and Cupid their initial attractions and opinions towards each other were based on 'the facts-the things they had learned from reading each other's profiles and talking on the phone.' And while it is only these things that they know about each other their relationship is perfect. It's not until they both stop hiding behind their profiles Block shows that their relationship begins to break down. "Psyche wanted more" and "Cupid was afraid of commitment." By showing that their relationship only worked when both of them were hiding themselves and their true feelings behind technology and a profile page, Block is commenting on how people in society today are too afraid to properly commit to love.

6 I think that the idea of hiding oneself, be it concealing part of yourself behind a public profile or hiding from love because you're scared is becoming extremely common in society today. However I also think the point that even in Jane Austen's or William Shakespeare's times people were still hiding from their true feelings, is very interesting. This shows that despite society changing since, the basic nature of individual humans hasn't followed this change.

	Grade Boundary: High Merit
2.	<p>To achieve this standard at Merit the student needs to analyse significant connections across texts convincingly, supported by evidence.</p> <p>The student refers to four texts and analyses a significant thematic connection across these texts: 'finding true love.' Within this, the student also convincingly analyses connections on the idea that true love will prevail and the characterisation of women who find love.</p> <p>The student develops reasoned and clear interpretations of these connections, integrating evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Here she proves her strong-willed nature by saying, "I am perfectly serious in my refusal. You could not make me happy and I am convinced that I am the last woman in the world who would make you so." This was a shock to everyone around Elizabeth at the time as it was not custom to reject a marriage proposal from a man who would provide everything you needed in life, even if you were not in love with him.</i>(Paragraph 2) • <i>... the link between strong characteristics within the lead female and love is an interesting one to make because it does reflect where our society is right now and it teaches us the value of the characteristics that Elizabeth, Clementine and Antigone constantly demonstrate.</i>(Paragraph 5) • <i>You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you."</i> This shows the readers that Darcy believes his previous battles against his feelings towards Elizabeth were for nothing and that true love was more important than the grievances he once had towards her.(Paragraph 7) • <i>I think my love as rare, as any she belied with false compare."</i> Here the author is showing us that despite all her aesthetic faults, he still loves her and that is what is important.(Paragraph 8) <p>There is an insightful interpretation of the link between characterisation and finding true love:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>... this also proves to the readers that having these bold characteristics can be a good thing, as by rejecting Mr. Collins Elizabeth later ended up in a happy marriage with a man who, on the contrary, she was in love with – Mr. Darcy.</i>(Paragraph 2) <p>To meet Excellence the student could develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the connection between <i>the audacious character of Clementine</i> and how she makes <i>the audience really think about their current views on love</i> (Paragraph 3) • the connection between the shock at Antigone as <i>a forthright female character</i> and her finding true love. (Paragraph 5)

I have chosen the genre of love to study and make connections on. Love can be portrayed in several ways to give you different perspectives on finding true love. The texts that helped to make these connections were 'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind', a film directed by Michael Gondry, 'Pride & Prejudice', an extended novel by Jane Austen, 'Antigone', a play by Sophocles and 'Sonnet 130', by William Shakespeare. The significant two connections that I made using these texts were the idea that true love will always prevail and the use of characters who displayed headstrong characteristics in the pursuit of true love.

A significant connection that I have made between some of my chosen texts is the fact that the main female characters have similar characteristics of being strong-willed, headstrong, opinionated and stubborn. This is common in the texts because these characteristics in a main character show us things about this particular genre, such as finding true love is not always simple. For example, in 'Pride & Prejudice', by Jane Austen, Elizabeth Bennet is the character that displays her strong opinions when it comes to love. In the time and place where this novel was set, marriages were not for love but mainly for fortune and property inheritance. However, Elizabeth refuses to get married for any reason other than truly being in love with the man she weds and turns down a proposal from her fairly well to do cousin, Mr Collins for this very reason. Here she proves her strong-willed nature by saying, "I am perfectly serious in my refusal. You could not make me happy and I am convinced that I am the last woman in the world who would make you so." This was a shock to everyone around Elizabeth at the time as it was not custom to reject a marriage proposal from a man who would provide everything you needed in life, even if you were not in love with him. However, this also proves to the readers that having these bold characteristics can be a good thing, as by rejecting Mr. Collins Elizabeth later ended up in a happy marriage with a man who, on the contrary, she was in love with – Mr. Darcy.

We see similar characteristics in Clementine from 'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind'. Clementine is an extremely bold and opinionated character who is not afraid of sharing her thoughts and is not someone who follows the crowd. We can see this mainly through costume – she always has a different colour of hair which is bright and unnatural, such as blue or tangerine, therefore showing her independence and willingness to be different. She falls into a rather unconventional love with Joel, a shy and quiet person who could not be more opposite to her. Clementine is definitely the more erratic of the two and has a very straightforward approach to love. I think that Gondry's purpose here in using the audacious character of Clementine was to make the audience really think about their current views on love and emphasise the idea that love is not always conventional.

The characterisation of Antigone in the play 'Antigone' by Sophocles has many similarities to that of Elizabeth and Clementine, even though they are completely different in terms of place and time. They share characteristics that we see so often within the love genre. Antigone is yet again forthright and extremely stubborn concerning love – she believes that she is truly in love with Haemon and is a recalcitrant character when it comes to voicing her opinions on him. The King, Creon tries to convince Antigone that she does not truly love him but she replies

saying, "Haemon is good and Haemon is true and I love him with all my heart. His eyes..." and goes on to describe his appearance. This proves to the readers of Antigone's strong character, as a man who has more authority and power than her is attempting to tell her what she should think, which would scare most young women into conformity during this time but Antigone refuses.

- 5 The characteristics between the main female characters is interesting because it is certainly not what we would consider to be cliché – the women are all headstrong and opinionated rather than being submissive and timid. It reflects a change in women in society throughout time – Antigone was written first out of these examples and at the time it was shocking to have such a **forthright female character** in a play. When *Pride & Prejudice* was written and set, women were still of course considered inferior to men and Elizabeth's attitude towards love was not at all ordinary. However, the more modern 'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind' reflects more the society we have currently where women have equal rights and we are taught to stand up for ourselves and be 'different' – the kind of character Clementine is in this film. I think overall **the link between strong characteristics within the lead female and love is an interesting one to make because it does reflect where our society is right now and it teaches us the value of the characteristics that Elizabeth, Clementine and Antigone constantly demonstrate.**
- 6 Another connection I have been able to make between my texts concerning finding love was the idea that true love always prevails. It is an idea that is quite clichéd but does arise in many texts both modern and old. I saw this idea predominantly in 'Pride & Prejudice' by Jane Austen and 'Sonnet 130' by William Shakespeare.
- 7 'Pride & Prejudice' in fact uses the idea that true love will prevail as one of its main themes - although both of the main characters, Elizabeth and Darcy, go through several struggles and bumps along the road the true love that they have for each other does end up prevailing and they end up happily married at the end of the novel. Despite the prejudices and hesitance Darcy has against marrying someone with a lower wealth and less family connections than him, he overcomes this by eventually declaring his love for her. "In vain I have struggled," he says. "It will not do. My feelings will not be repressed. **You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you.**" This shows the readers that Darcy believes his previous battles against his feelings towards Elizabeth were for nothing and that true love was **more important than the grievances he once had towards her.**
- 8 I think that we see a very clear similarity here between the love Elizabeth and Darcy share and the love described in Shakespeare's 'Sonnet 130'. The man constantly compares his mistress to things with attractive and beautiful connotations, emphasising how ugly she is in comparison to them. He says, "If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head," showing the readers how wiry and unalluring his mistress' hair is. We are continually reminded of her unattractiveness and this is reinforced through emotive language - he says, "and in some perfumes there is more delight than the breath that from my mistress reeks." The word reeks is strong emotive language, causing us as the readers to feel repulsed and disgusted by his lover. However, we see the idea that true love will prevail come through at the end when the sonnet finishes with, "And yet, by heaven, **I think my love as rare, as any**

she belied with false compare.” Here the author is showing us that despite all her aesthetic faults, he still loves her and that is what is important.

- 9 These two texts are both really trying to speak out to society about love and the struggles that come with it. I think the main message that Austen and Shakespeare are attempting to get across here is that in love, nothing matters except the fact that you are in love with them and all other obstacles must be overcome in order to achieve this.
- 10 In conclusion, I made two significant connections between four texts about finding love: the use of a headstrong, opinionated main female character and the idea that true love always prevails. I think that in all of these texts the authors and director were definitely trying to connect to the wider world - whether it be reflecting where our society is currently or sending a message out to our society about the importance of true love.

	Grade Boundary: Low Merit
3.	<p>To achieve this standard at Merit the student needs to analyse significant connections across texts convincingly, supported by evidence.</p> <p>The student refers to four texts and analyses a significant thematic connection across these texts: 'real love needs genuine communication.'</p> <p>The student develops generally reasoned and clear interpretations of connections across texts, using supporting evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There will always be pain in your life and you have the choice of either running from it, or loving and accepting it. Both Sherman and Franzen show the way that online social networks erode genuine communication because they are superficial.</i>(Paragraph 3) • <i>Characters in 'Pride and Prejudice' also sacrificed their integrity, like Charlotte did to get Mr Collins to marry her. She agreed with him or ignored him so she could have an "establishment and a comfortable home" of her own. This really upsets Elizabeth because it was so superficial and not genuine.</i>(Paragraph 4) • <i>These texts are about the importance of being real. If people fail to communicate or be real, then chances are that their relationship will fail too.</i>(Paragraph 7) <p>To meet Merit more securely the student could develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear interpretation of the connection between love and ideas in "The Facebook Sonnet" • reasoned interpretation of Cupid and Psyche's misunderstandings, linking it to <i>the pressures of society... that threaten genuine communication.</i>(Paragraph 4)

- 1 When studying a variety of texts from the love genre, I noticed links between the texts that tell me more about the struggles of love and the definition of love itself. Real love needs genuine communication. Jonathan Franzen and Alexie Sherman tell us that Facebook has threatened what love means, with people now being able to show perfect images of themselves to others. 'Psyche's Dark Night' and 'Pride and Prejudice' show examples of relationships and the effect that miscommunication has on love.
- 2 "The Facebook Sonnet" by Alexie Sherman looks at the impact of social networking sites on connections between people. She compares Facebook to "a high school reunion" where everyone pretends to have perfect lives. She also uses the metaphor "the altar of loneliness" to show that we spend so much time making our online selves seem as perfect and likeable as possible to the facebook community, that that we are losing connections to the real world
- 3 Like Alexie Sherman, Jonathon Franzen's article 'Liking is for Cowards. Go for What Hurts' is about the impact of Facebook on communicating in a genuine way. Franzen explains that Facebook has enabled us to "dedicate your existence to being likeable". But by going to "integrity-sacrificing lengths to be likable", you give up on being loved for your true self. He uses imagery to compare Facebook to a "private hall of flattering mirrors" and this emphasises how you can use Facebook to drastically alter the way you appear to others. Relationships are about loving and understanding all the traits of another person, whether they are likeable or not. There will always be pain in your life and you have the choice of either running from it, or loving and accepting it. Both Sherman and Franzen show the way that online social networks erode genuine communication because they are superficial.
- 4 However, it is not just modern on line communities that threaten genuine communication. Even in the days of 'Pride and Prejudice', a novel by Jane Austen, people felt the pressures of society when it came to marriage. You had to appear to be perfect. For example, be accomplished to attract a partner. For example, Miss Bingley thought that women must have knowledge in singing, music, languages and dancing. They couldn't just be themselves, like Elizabeth. Characters in 'Pride and Prejudice' also sacrificed their integrity, like Charlotte did to get Mr Collins to marry her. She agreed with him or ignored him so she could have an "establishment and a comfortable home" of her own. This really upsets Elizabeth because it was so superficial and not genuine. Wealth and security was the most important feature that people would look for and if they liked the person they were marrying, that was a bonus rather than an essential.
- 5 Miscommunication keeps Elizabeth and Darcy apart. The first encounter between her and Mr Darcy gave each of them a bad first impression of the other, when Mr Darcy described Elizabeth as 'tolerable; but not handsome enough to tempt' him. He didn't want to be used by someone who just saw him as someone who could make her look good in front of her friends. Elizabeth just remembered how rude he was to her and this made her prejudiced towards him. An example of this is when Elizabeth believed what Wickham told her about Darcy's mistreatment of him, though it turned out that Wickham was actually the one in the wrong. However, after some time apart, when they were eventually able to talk over their miscommunication, Elizabeth

discovered that there were reasonable explanations for most of Darcy's actions and he took on board her criticism as well. Genuine communication had to take place for them to there to be true love.

- 6 Misunderstanding also broke up Cupid and Psyche. They had contrasting beliefs [Cupid knew "that in the dark he could hold onto himself", whereas "the darkness was not safety" for Psyche]. At the beginning of their relationship, Psyche had very set out expectations of what she wanted the relationship to be, she had even "already picked out the name of their unborn daughter". Psyche lost confidence in herself and the relationship. Once they met up again they were able to make some progress towards working out their differences because they were able to talk over what caused the relationship to fall apart, and they were able to understand each other better because of this.
- 7 These texts are about the importance of being real. If people fail to communicate or be real, then chances are that their relationship will fail too. It is the way that people deal with the setbacks that they face during love, which proves the love itself.

	Grade Boundary: High Achieved
4.	<p>To achieve this standard the student needs to analyse significant connections across texts, supported by evidence.</p> <p>The student refers to four texts and analyses a significant thematic connection across these texts: 'being able to find love in unexpected places.' Within this, the student also analyses the characterisation of women connection across the texts <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> and <i>Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i>.</p> <p>The student recognises and interprets the connection 'being able to find love in unexpected places', using supporting evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "...you were the last man in the world I could ever be prevailed upon to marry"... Unexpectedly, Elizabeth too changes her mind as she gets to know him better.(Paragraph 2) • Despite these initial negative comparisons, Shakespeare says "And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare as any she belied with false compare." For him, true love is something that comes when you know and accept someone for who they are. (Paragraph 4) • For the poet the unexpected sight of the open building brings back unexpected feelings of love.(Paragraph 5) <p>The student begins to give a clear and reasoned interpretation of the connection of the characterisation of women who find love, supported by evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is because of Elizabeth's characteristics of being true to what she thinks, and saying it, that Mr Darcy falls in love with her, realising that these qualities are more important to him than money.(Paragraph 2) • even from their first meeting, Joel and Clementine were deeply in love with each other: it was because of Clementine's characteristics that this could happen.(Paragraph 3) <p>To meet Merit the student could develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear support between evidence from the text and the connection for <i>Scar Tissue</i> • reasoned interpretation of the idea of finding love in unexpected places in <i>The Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i>.

- 1 My four texts all share the common idea of being able to find love in unexpected places. Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind directed by Michel Gondry, 'Sonnet 130' by William Shakespeare, and 'Scar Tissue' by Lauris Edmond. This idea is reinforced through the characterisation of the heroines of both Pride and Prejudice and Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.
- 2 In Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice Elizabeth Bennet is characterised as an independent young woman who has very strong opinions about most aspects of life. After their first meeting, she says to Mr Darcy that from the first moment she met him, "your arrogance and conceit, your selfish disdain for the feelings of others made me realize that **you were the last man in the world I could ever be prevailed upon to marry**". This quote shows the loathing from Elizabeth's point of view and it proves that she thoroughly dislikes Mr Darcy. It also shows her willingness to say what she thinks, even though Mr Darcy is her social superior and in those days young women in her situation were expected to be nice and polite to people like him. Elizabeth is determined that she will marry the love of her life and not the person her mother wants her to (Mr Collins). **It is because of Elizabeth's characteristics of being true to what she thinks, and saying it, that Mr Darcy falls in love with her, realising that these qualities are more important to him than money. Unexpectedly, Elizabeth too changes her mind as she gets to know him better. Austen is perhaps warning readers to take time before they marry.**
- 3 Clementine from Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind is also independent and says what she thinks. She is an alternative type of woman who frequently dyes her hair different colours depending on her mood and feelings. However, despite having a flamboyant personality she, like Elizabeth, cares about others. She tries to help Joel and aims to cheer him up and enlighten him about the aspects of life he may be missing in his depressed state. She tells Joel "Look man, I'm telling you right off the bat, I'm high-maintenance, so... I'm not gonna tip-toe around your marriage, or whatever it is you've got goin' there. If you wanna be with me, you're with me". This abrupt statement indicates Clementine's brusque nature and lets us know that she is not afraid to tell people how she feels. It's because of this unwillingness to compromise she would rather erase her brain of any memory of Joel rather than see things from another point of view. Joel and Clementine agree to rekindle their love and to try their relationship again after having their minds erased after their first relationship. Joel says to himself of their relationship "It was so intimate, like we were already lovers." This clearly demonstrates that **even from their first meeting, Joel and Clementine were deeply in love with each other: it was because of Clementine's characteristics that this could happen.** The film shows us that in today's busy society it is important for us to take time to find true love, and it may happen between people who initially would be considered unlikely to become a couple.
- 4 Shakespeare in 'Sonnet 130' is demonstrating the real meaning of true love, where people must learn to love the bad things about their partner and love them for who they are, not who you want them to be. Or what society thinks they should be. He uses negative connotations of his lover in order to demonstrate his love for her. She depicted as unattractive when compared to the popular imagery of romantic love. "Coral is far more red than her lips red... if hairs be wires black wires grow on her

head...I have seen no such roses in her cheeks." This description of this man's mistress is far from complimentary and highlights all of the physical flaws which his mistresses possesses, rather than focusing on the lovely parts of her. But by stating things as they are, like we see with Elizabeth's and Clementine's outbursts, he is being more honest about love. It is more than just about physical appearance or being polite. Despite these initial negative comparisons, Shakespeare says "And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare as any she belied with false compare." For him, true love is something that comes when you know and accept someone for who they are.

- 5 The poem 'Scar Tissue' describes an old building in Wellington where the author used to walk past "on windy nights...stinking of beer and early closing". This is also a trigger for the poet's memories about a relationship that she had at that time. Yet now, as the building is about to be demolished, the author discovers the things which she thought were disgusting in this building are actually the things that she loves about it. The "periwinkle sprawling on the stones and fennel, ripe and strong, grasping the bank will be missed once the building is gone." But also with time, after a relationship that has gone sour is long over, she can look back and remember the good aspects of it – why she fell in love in the first place. For the poet the unexpected sight of the open building brings back unexpected feelings of love. Even though they are only memories, they help her to remember some truths about the one she loved then.
- 6 In the genre of love, the key connection between my four chosen texts is that of finding real love in unexpected places. These texts urge us to accept people for who they are and to learn to love their faults. Society makes initial judgements on first impressions without reserving judgement and getting to know them better. We must learn from these messages and aim to be more accepting of others in order to find true love.

	Grade Boundary: Low Achieved
5.	<p>To achieve this standard the student needs to analyse significant connections across texts, supported by evidence.</p> <p>The student refers to four texts and begins to analyse a significant thematic connection across these texts: 'being able to find love in unexpected places.' Within this, the student also analyses the characterisation of women connection across the texts <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> and <i>Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i>.</p> <p>The student just sufficiently recognises and interprets the connection 'being able to find love in unexpected places', using supporting evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "...you were the last man in the world I could ever be prevailed upon to marry"... her feelings towards him also change for the better once she discovers more about his character.(Paragraph 2) • "And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare as any she belied with false compare." Here, he is showing that in spite of all of these negative features which his mistress possesses, he loves her dearly.(Paragraph 4) <p>The student just sufficiently recognises and interprets the connection of the characterisation of women who find love, supported by evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Bennet is an independent young woman who has very strong opinions about most aspects of life... Elizabeth is determined that she will marry the love of her life and not the person her mother wants her to (Mr Collins).(Paragraph 2) • "...If you wanna be with me, you're with me". This abrupt statement indicates Clementine's brusque nature and lets us know that she is not afraid to tell people how she feels.(Paragraph 3) <p>To meet Achievement more securely the student could develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognition and interpretation of a more significant connection in <i>Scar Tissue</i>. (The idea of love of physical place is a limited link to the romantic love connection across the other texts) • interpretation of the idea of finding love in unexpected places in <i>The Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i>.

- 1 Within the genre of love, connections can be made amongst the following texts; Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind directed by Michel Gondry, Sonnet 130 by William Shakespeare, and Scar Tissue by anonymous. The heroines of both Pride and Prejudice and Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Elizabeth Bennet and Clementine Kruczynski are very alike in both their personality and the way in which they approach challenges. Another connection that can be made is between the texts of Pride and Prejudice, Sonnet 130 and Scar Tissue. These texts all share the common idea of being able to find love in unexpected places.
- 2 In Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice the main female character Elizabeth Bennet is an independent young woman who has very strong opinions about most aspects of life. After their first meeting, she says to Mr Darcy that from the first moment she met him, "your arrogance and conceit, your selfish disdain for the feelings of others made me realize that you were the last man in the world I could ever be prevailed upon to marry". This quote shows the loathing from Elizabeth's point of view and it proves that she thoroughly dislikes Mr Darcy. Elizabeth is determined that she will marry the love of her life and not the person her mother wants her to (Mr Collins). As the plot develops it is revealed that Mr Darcy is in love with Elizabeth, and her feelings towards him also change for the better once she discovers more about his character. Austen demonstrates throughout the text that love is more important than money. Jane Austen herself was not successful in love and is perhaps warning readers before they marry.
- 3 Clementine from Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind is also of a caring nature and is accepting of people's differences. Clementine is an alternative woman herself, as she frequently dyes her hair different colours depending on her mood and feelings, however despite having a flamboyant personality she tries to help Joel and aims to cheer him up and enlighten him about the aspects of life he may be missing in his depressed state. She tells Joel "Look man, I'm telling you right off the bat, I'm high-maintenance, so... I'm not gonna tip-toe around your marriage, or whatever it is you've got goin' there. If you wanna be with me, you're with me". This abrupt statement indicates Clementine's brusque nature and lets us know that she is not afraid to tell people how she feels. I believe that we should all aspire to be like Clementine and we should all hope to be people who are not afraid to speak up, yet are kind and accepting of others. Joel and Clementine agree to rekindle their love and to try their relationship again after having their minds erased after their first relationship. Joel says to himself of their relationship "It was so intimate, like we were already lovers." This clearly demonstrates that even from their first meeting, Joel and Clementine were deeply in love with each other. In today's busy society it is important for us to take time to find true love, and to not marry someone when we don't really know them.
- 4 Similarly to Austen, in Shakespeare's Sonnet 130 he uses negative connotations of his lover in order to demonstrate his love for her. She is incredibly ugly as "coral is far more red than her lips red... if hairs be wires black wires grow on her head... I have seen no such roses in her cheeks." This rather foul description of this man's mistress is far from complimentary and highlights all of the flaws which his

mistresses possesses, rather than focusing on the lovely parts of her. Shakespeare has taken all of the main elements which we recognise beauty within a woman and has made them as unappealing as possible for the time this was written in. Although they may sound appealing to us in modern times, in Shakespearian times it was important to have deep red lips, white porcelain skin and sleek golden hair and this mistress does not possess any of these beautiful qualities. Despite these negative connotations with this woman, Shakespeare says "And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare as any she belied with false compare." Here, he is showing that in spite of all of these negative features which his mistress possesses, he loves her dearly. Shakespeare is demonstrating the real meaning of true love, where people must learn to love the bad things about their partner and love them for who they are, not who you want them to be. Shakespeare aims to encourage us to learn to love these faults of our partners instead of trying to change them like many people do currently.

- 5 The poem Scar Tissue talks of something which has undesirable features but is a place that is loved by the author. It describes an old building in Wellington where the author used to walk past "on windy nights...stinking of beer and early closing". Yet now, as the building is about to be demolished, the author discovers the things which she thought were disgusting in this building are actually the things that she loves about it. The "periwinkle sprawling on the stones and fennel, ripe and strong, grasping the bank" is just one of the many elements that she will miss once the building is gone. This idea of beginning to love something just as its time is up is another theme which can be highlighted in this text and may apply not only to a building or object but to people as well. It is only now that the author is appreciating the building and what it means to her as it is about to be destroyed and this also relates to the idea of finding love in places where it is unexpected.
- 6 In the genre of love, key connections can be made between my four chosen texts. These texts intertwine and can help us to discover the real meaning of true love. Austen, Shakespeare, Gondry and Anonymouse enlighten us about the possibilities of true love and they urge us to accept people for who they are and to learn to love their faults. Society makes initial judgements on first impressions without reserving judgement and getting to know them better. We must learn from these messages and aim to be more accepting of others in order to find true love.

	Grade Boundary: High Not Achieved
6.	<p>To achieve this standard the student needs to analyse significant connections across texts, supported by evidence.</p> <p>The student refers to four texts and begins to analyse a significant thematic connection across three of these texts: 'trust and overcoming things is important to relationships.'</p> <p>The student recognises and interprets this connection across two texts, using supporting evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>however much his mistress's breath reeks or however loudly she treads, that he loves her just as much. This shows you need to look beyond the outside.</i> (Paragraph 2) • In his comments about his mistress, Shakespeare shows that individual "problems" can easily be overcome in a relationship as long as the two love each other. (Paragraph 3) • Darcy realises that his pride has hurt people ... and Elizabeth realises that her anger ... has made her behave foolishly and unfairly. Love conquers because Jane Austen has allowed Elizabeth and Darcy to develop respect and understanding of each other over time in spite of these flaws. In this novel, there is no perfection. Each character has believable flaws. (Paragraph 4) <p>Although the student recognises this connection in <i>Psyche's Dark Night</i>, using supporting evidence, there is insufficient interpretation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psyche and Cupid have both had issues with previous relationships. Psyche is possessive and overemotional, while Cupid is afraid of commitment....They break up- however, the author leads them back together by rebuilding their links. (Paragraph 3) <p>The student recognises the connection in <i>Medea</i> but it is not interpreted or supported by evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • love fails because she gets rejected by her husband when she gets older and less attractive compared to younger women. <p>To achieve the standard the student could develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interpretation of the connection 'trust and overcoming things is important to relationships' in <i>Psyche's Dark Night</i> and <i>Medea</i> • supporting evidence from <i>Medea</i>.

- 1 Love has always been important to texts. This is shown in Shakespeare's 'Sonnet 130' and Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice, where the opening line is a sarcastic. It is mocking our society's obsession with stuff as we substitute loving for liking. You need to overcome stuff to be in love. In Francesca Lia Block's Cupid and Psyche and Euripides' play Medea, this is shown. The previously mentioned texts 'Sonnet 130' and Pride and Prejudice also show that trust and overcoming things is important to relationships.
- 2 Austen's opening line of Pride and Prejudice is "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." In this single sentence, Austen is being sarcastic. This shows shallowness. Love should be more than being shallow. People at this time were shallow. We are also shallow now. Shakespeare's sonnet looks at all the ugly things that someone can be. He begins with, "My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun," and it all goes downhill from there. However, his last lines, "And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare/ As any she belied with false compare" are a statement that show that despite these faults he has just listed, however much his mistress's breath reeks or however loudly she treads, that he loves her just as much. This shows you need to look beyond the outside.
- 3 A major theme linking Psyche's Dark Night, "Sonnet 130" and Pride and Prejudice is the idea that love can conquer all. Medea is the only case where love fails because she gets rejected by her husband when she gets older and less attractive compared to younger women. In Psyche's Dark Night, Psyche and Cupid have both had issues with previous relationships. Psyche is possessive and overemotional, while Cupid is afraid of commitment. They begin to sleep together, when Psyche upsets their relationship by trying to see Cupid, as in the myth the short story is based on. They break up- however, the author leads them back together by rebuilding their links. Francesca Lia Block describes her writing as "contemporary fairy tales with an edge". In fairy tales, couples often live "happily ever after". 'Sonnet 130', already analysed in terms of love, has another side. In his comments about his mistress, Shakespeare shows that individual "problems" can easily be overcome in a relationship as long as the two love each other.
- 4 Pride and Prejudice's title is a reference to the main character Elizabeth Bennet, and Mr. Darcy. The pride, and prejudice that prevented them from falling in love with each other has been overcome by the end of the novel, Darcy realises that his pride has hurt people and he has been unjust and Elizabeth realises that her anger, when he first snobbed her has made her behave foolishly and unfairly. Love conquers because Jane Austen has allowed Elizabeth and Darcy to develop respect and understanding of each other over time in spite of these flaws. In this novel, there is

no perfection. Each character has believable flaws, and so Austen simulates the real world, showing flaws and how the characters find love despite them.

- 5 In all of these books the idea that love can overcome all personal problems. Each has a slightly different way of showing it. Love can take many paths. These four pieces of love literature, written over such a long period of time and so individual, share strong links over society's view of love.