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EA300A – Northern Lights Final

Q: Agency the main character Lyra represents

Among the different ideas that the novel *Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman is its appealing for children to construct an identity. This cause is presented in the novel through the agency the main character Lyra represents.

The novel presents the character of Lyra with a variety of unique characteristics. Lyra is young girl who has been described as very powerful. She has a unique personality that is shown through her free will. She deals with others in a mature way. In addition to the mentioned characteristics of Lyra, the responsibility of Lyra forms her independent identity. She does not hesitate to help her family and other characters in the novel.

Therefore, the premise of the novel to construct children with an identity of their own appears in the unusual description of the agency of Lyra. The agency of Lyra stands as a shift of the conventional description of children who cannot act by their own selves. Moreover, Lyra is eager for having knowledge. This eagerness refers to her unique identity. For example, she is eager to know about things like “the North, and the Dust,” which indicates an unusual representation of children characters. therefore, Lyra’s identity in the novel makes close to adults not children.

In conclusion, the strong characteristics that Lyra has are references to the novel’s try to empower children, representing them as able to act on their selves without relying on adults all the time. Moreover, the novel forms the example of Lyra’s agency in order to appeal children to adopt similar identity that includes being responsible and having the freedom to decide your own life without depending on other just because you are a child.

Q: Philip Pullman's *Northern Lights* empowers children to construct an identity of their own. Discuss with reference to the novel.

Philip Pullman's *Northern Lights* is a unique novel that presents different challenging thoughts. A remarkable interest has been employed in the novel to present the children characters as powerful, and therefore, to empower children to build an identity of their own.

In the discussion of empowerment children, the theme of child agency stands as the most significant theme in the novel. The character of Lyra is the main character that shows great agency that displays her power. As being the protagonist of the novel, Lyra is very smarter, and she is even equal or smarter than adults. This quality of the character of Lyra stands as a direct representation to the way the novel adopts for empowering children. Representing the agency of Lyra in the novel changes the past representation of the children's characters in literature.

In this instance, children were represented as being passive, that is, not having the will to create affection in their lives. However, *Northern Lights* change this representation of children through empowering the character of Lyra. Lyra is presented with remarkable personalities. She acts upon her own self, without waiting the adults to tell her what to do. Moreover, the way in which Lyra represents a unique sense of responsibility for her brothers and father indicates the novel's intentions to empower children to have a liberated personality like the one of Lyra's.

In conclusion, the theme of child agency is an important factor in representing the way the novel indicates to empower the children to contrast their identities. Thus, the child agency of Lyra is an obvious thing from the starting of the novel till the end of it.

Q: Discuss Philip Pullman's *Northern Lights* as a children's book.

There are many ways to define children's literature as the body of works that are dedicated for children. The themes used in children's literature are not limited as Pullman sees, which made him present *Northern Lights*. It is a story of a child that moves between worlds and have her adventure of growth.

Lyra is the heroine of the novel, and she is a child that was able to fight for her friends and to have an extraordinary adventure. She was aware of the world of adults and its complications, which made her interact with them like an equal. Lyra was representing children's agency as she was able to make her choices, which children in real life miss. Lyra was representing the powerful female character and the one that lives in a charming world. The presence of talking animals is interesting for children and that makes the novel present a fantastic world.

Moreover, she was a child living in a college and that makes her life related to education and teachers all the time. She has been able to fight for her friends and to move from one world to another with the gypsies. She was seeking knowledge about the Dust, which is an interesting idea for children as the unknown provokes their feelings towards discovery. The setting was a world full of magic and witches, which attract children too. She was able to save Lord, which opened the door for her adventure and that attracted children to her story.

In conclusion, Lyra was the main reason to make the novel suit children with her unique character. Also, the world she lived in with her daemon and Iorek attracts children. The plot was another factor because it is about the development of a child from innocence to experience

Q: Discuss the role of 'daemons' in P. Pullman's *Northern Lights*.

The representation of the daemons, as a literary feature in children's literature. Is very common in most literary works appeal to children's readers. P. Pullman's novel *Northern Lights* is one of the famous novels that shows the effective role of daemons on the both the characters as well as the sequence of the story's events.

Daemons are defined as the actual manifestation of people's inner selves. Pullman's novel *Northern Lights*, introducing the daemons, asserts the fact that no character should be presented without his own daemon, "A human being with no daemon was like someone without a face." This stands as the starting point that shows the major role that the daemons play in the novel. The daemons are changed-formed creatures that move from shape into another, and finally remain in stable form. They are talking animals that add the fantasy of the novel in order to present the adventurous side of the novel. For this reason, the daemons are among the essential fantastic features that should be included in any literary work of children literature.

In addition, the role of the daemons is seen as being representatives of their own people. For example, the power of the daemons has been used by Lyra's parents in order to stop her rebellion. Lyra's parents employ their own daemons 'beat Pan' in order to limit Lyra's power that derives her to act in a rebellion attitude against them. Moreover, the daemons manifest the inner feelings that the characters could not expose throughout the novel. This characteristic is appeared through the way Lyra's daemon Panteleimon helps her to show her intimate feelings towards the other characters that she cares about in the novel.

In conclusion, the role of the daemons is essential in the novel as they are representatives of the main characters. They play an important part in showing the deep thoughts of the characters and act effectively accordingly in the novel.

Q: Pullman's *Northern Lights* celebrates love and loyalty as well as intellectual curiosity. Discuss with reference to episodes from the novel to support your stance.

Pullman's novel *Northern Lights* stands as a unique novel because it presents several important ideas that carry great value for children's readers. Among these ideas, love, loyalty, and intellectual curiosity are important ideas the novel presents for the children to learn about.

Throughout the stages of the novel, there are several events that refer to the ideas of love, loyalty and intellectual curiosity, and their main effect on the characters. Love stands as a valuable idea in the novel because it is represented in different natures. For example, the importance of love is seen on Lyra's lack of having parental love. She is an orphan who does not know her parents. However, later in the novel, she finds out that Lord Asriel is her father. This event stands as essential in the novel because it affects the feelings of the main character Lyra as changing from the lack of having parental love to have it.

The novel focuses on presenting the themes of love, loyalty, and intellectual curiosity in order to shape the relationships between the main characters in the novel, as well as closing the readers with the personal characteristics of these characters. The themes of love and loyalty show the natures of the relationships between the characters and how they developed throughout the novel. The novel presents the parental love in a traditional way although the novel is classified among the modern literary works. The love that Lyra's parents show is formed through their caring. Although this depiction presents the authority of adults, but it is derived out of the parental love that the parents have for their daughter. In terms of the theme of loyalty, the novel presents the friendship between the main characters and shows how these friends are loyal to each other in every difficulty they face.

Regarding the theme of intellectual curiosity, this theme concerns on showing the personal desires of the character of Lyra who wants to be unconventional. The mentioned relationship between Lyra and her parents is also characterized by her rebelling. As she wants to be adventurous, she protests

on her father's rules for the sake of empowering herself. In this instance, Pullman tries to present a modern view of the positive side of being rebelling through having the positive curiosity for achieving positive goals.

In conclusion, the novel ensures children with great benefits through presenting the themes of love, loyalty, and intellectual curiosity. These themes define the proper types of relationship between people and the need to represent a position in children.

Q: Discuss the theme of 'Journey' in P. Pullman's *Northern Lights*.

Northern Light is a masterpiece of Philip Pullman who is a remarkable name in the bildungsroman literature which is a prominent literary genre that gives attention to the psychological and moral growth of children. Lyra's life is a constant series of journeys from the external to the internal world. The story describes the journey of mental and physical growth of the central character of the story.

The travel is symbolic because it is related to the world of innocent to maturity. The idea of journey is related to the self as well as world discoveries. The character of the novel is traveling in the whole story, but their approaches are different from each other because some are the companions of goodness, and some are traveling for getting destructive powers. Lyra learns to trust her instincts that lead her towards a moral victory that is the result of the journey of life. Life is not static and stagnant, and it needs the change according to the circumstance for getting victory as the dæmon changes according to the situation. Hence it indicates that life is a journey. The people who have abilities and proficiencies to change, become a winner.

Travel is a sign of self-discovery because it is related to the world of innocent to maturity. She considers herself an orphan. It is a journey of ignorance to knowledge because, in her journey, she

comes to know about her parents and identity. No doubt the whole novel moves around the theme of a journey that is a source of identification of the inner self of the presented characters.

To sum up, it can be concluded that journey is the central theme of the story, and the all-important incidents and characters are presented with travel from ignorance to knowledge of identity.

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