

GCSE English Coursework Assignment: Seamus Heaney

Assignment Task: write an essay on the following topic:

“Discuss how Seamus Heaney presents childhood and growing up through his poetry”.

Refer in your essay to **two** of the following poems: “The Early Purges”; “An Advancement of Learning” or “Personal Helicon”.

You are writing a formal critical essay here that will use information on Heaney’s ideas and poetic techniques which you should have acquired from our class discussions on each of the four poems we have studied.

You will get good grades if the essay is:

Well thought out: you have thought carefully about exactly what the essay wants you to discuss and you can write about Heaney’s ideas about childhood and how we change as we get older as well as being able to write about the poetic techniques used in each of the poems to express these ideas. You will be rewarded in particular for identifying ideas and techniques that the poems have in common or that differ between them.

Well organised: you discuss your ideas in a sensible, logical order that avoids waffle or repetition and allows the reader to follow your ideas easily. Make sure you have a clear introduction and conclusion to the essay.

Well argued: you should be able to back up any ideas you have or points you make with evidence from the poems, either by quoting lines or referring to events/ images from the poems. (Remember- quotes should normally be no more than a couple of lines long).

Accurate: you must use formal, Standard English (no slang and no contracted words like “can’t”) and correct spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Assignment length: 1000 words approximately

Assignment deadline:

