

Rethinking assessment in secondary English: unpicking the problems with the dominant assessment model – images of two students' 'formative assessment', assessment preparation and 'summative assessment' piece

'The formative assessment'

Student A

Yew tree helps prince overthrow his step-grandmother
 Yew tree saves step-grandmother
 Yew tree takes step-grandmother to seaside village
 Understanding Thursday 24th September 2022

Pathetic Fallacy - a technique where the writer uses the weather to reflect the mood.

Sun - hot, bright/burning, usually symbolic of happiness and joy. Telling sun!
 Storm - dark, heavy, noisy, violent, angry like a storm.
 Sudden - sudden, unexpected, violent intentions.
 Twisted - twisted, violent intentions, metaphorical harm.

How does Ness present Conor as angry?

"My mum said we need to make allowances for you," Lily finally said. "Because of what you're going through."

And for a moment, the sun seemed to go behind the clouds. For a moment, all Conor could see was sudden thunderstorms on the way, could feel them ready to explode in the sky and through his body and out of his fists. For a moment, he felt as if he could grab hold of the very air and twist it around Lily and rip her right in two.

"Conor?" Lily said, startled.

"Your mum doesn't know anything," he said. "And neither do you."
 He walked away from her, fast, leaving her behind.

It was just over a year ago that Lily had told a few of her friends about Conor's mum, even though he hadn't said she could. Those friends told a few more, who told a few more, and before the day was half through, it was like a circle had opened around him, a dead area with Conor at the centre, surrounded by landmines that everyone was afraid to walk through.

Pathetic Fallacy
 Verb shows intention (from Hoban-Pinkley)
 Sun - hot, bright/burning, usually symbolic of happiness and joy. Telling sun!
 Storm - dark, heavy, noisy, violent, angry like a storm.
 Sudden - sudden, unexpected, violent intentions.
 Twisted - twisted, violent intentions, metaphorical harm.

Generally negative, some destruction (darkness) worrying superstition (bad luck)
 Suggests Conor's anger will result in violence
 Suggests that the sun is a symbol of happiness

Thursday 6th October 2022 How does Ness present Conor as angry?

Conor's anger is very aggressive because the book says, 'he felt as if he could grab hold of the very air and twist it around Lily and rip her right in two'.
 Ness uses the phrase, "For a moment, all Conor could see was sudden thunderstorms on the way" the word thunderstorms are a generally negative word and are usually very destructive. Ness uses pathetic fallacy and the word thunderstorms to show that Conor is extremely angry at Lily at that moment in the book. Ness uses this type of anger to show that Conor feels betrayed and angry at Lily because if Conor wasn't feeling this way there would be no reason to involve this quote, as if he could grab hold of the very air and twist it around Lily and rip her right in two. This will make the reader understand where Conor was coming from with his anger because Lily betrayed his trust.

Year 7 Success Criteria for analysis: How does Ness present Conor as angry?

What I should include:	Peer Assess	Teacher Assess
Skill 1.1: Use a clear opening to explore how Ness presents Conor's type of anger.	☹️	☹️
Skill 1.2: Use appropriate evidence from the extract. Copy it exactly and use quotation marks.	😊	😊
Skill 2.1: Zoom in on keywords/phrases and techniques. What do they mean? Have you been able to explore the use of pathetic fallacy and relate to anger?	😊	😊
Skill 2.2: Explore why the writer shows Conor's anger and how the reader feels about Conor in this moment.	😊	😊

Useful Feedback:
 I really like the section where you... Next time zoom in on keywords I really like when you wrote questions.
 Next time, I think you should include...
 Next time zoom in on keywords.
 Agree!

Student B

Repeated phrase shows Sun usually symbolic of Conor's emotions accelerating joy and happiness. This quickly, Conor is enraged with shows how his happiness Lily - she betrayed his trust. is turned into a rage.

How does Ness present Conor as angry?

"My mum said we need to make allowances for you," Lily finally said. "Because of what you're going through."

And for a moment, the sun seemed to go behind the clouds. For a moment, all Conor could see was sudden thunderstorms on the way, could feel them ready to explode in the sky and through his body and out of his fists. For a moment, he felt as if he could grab hold of the very air and twist it around Lily and rip her right in two.

"Conor?" Lily said, startled.

"Your mum doesn't know anything," he said. "And neither do you."
 He walked away from her, fast, leaving her behind.

It was just over a year ago that Lily had told a few of her friends about Conor's mum, even though he hadn't said she could. Those friends told a few more, who told a few more, and before the day was half through, it was like a circle had opened around him, a dead area with Conor at the centre, surrounded by landmines that everyone was afraid to walk through.

Narrow focus. Anger is taking over - it is all encompassing.
 Sometimes grabbing provides stability. Sense of fear - sun has lost power. Clouds have overtaken and Conor is losing control.
 The verb 'twist' shows the intention of harm. Violent intentions metaphorically harm Lily. Wants to manipulate the air.
 Word 'sudden' shows unexpected, uncontrollable anger. Word 'explode' metaphorically shows how Conor is going to burst his anger. Fists suggests Conor's anger will result in violence.
 Word 'thunderstorm' shows negative force - destruction (darkness) worrying superstition.

Thursday 6th October 2022 How does Ness present Conor as angry?

Patrick Ness presents Conor's anger as unstable. I know this because in the text, Ness uses phrases like 'all Conor could see was sudden thunderstorms on the way, could feel them ready to explode in the sky' to describe his anger. This shows how he is unstable because the word 'sudden' suggests that his anger was unexpected. Not only this, but Ness used the technique pathetic fallacy to describe Conor's rage. In the text, his anger is compared to 'sudden thunderstorms ready to explode' this shows how Conor has outburst of rage because of the word 'explode' shows how Conor has outburst of rage. Ness does this to show Conor's unstable emotions towards others to help the reader understand and empathise with Conor.

Year 7 Success Criteria for analysis: How does Ness present Conor as angry?

Skill 1.2: Use appropriate evidence from the extract. Copy it exactly and use quotation marks.	😊	😊
Skill 2.1: Zoom in on keywords/phrases and techniques. What do they mean? Have you been able to explore the use of pathetic fallacy and relate to anger?	😊	😊
Skill 2.2: Explore why the writer shows Conor's anger and how the reader feels about Conor in this moment.	😊	😊

Useful Feedback:
 I really like the section where you... Zoomed in on keywords.
 Next time, I think you should include...
 Explore how the reader feels about Conor.
 Agree!

The 'assessment preparation' for the final end of unit assessment

Student A

The word thunderstorm is a noun. Thunderstorms are usually destructive things. And any one in an area where a thunderstorm is happening they will usually be feeling very negative emotions. And in relation to Conor's anger it shows that he is feeling really angry.

Tuesday 8th November 2022 Assessment Preparation

Angry: Conor is Frustrated Hysterical
Violent uncontrollable Lonely Brave
self-sufficient

Angry: Conor is angry when after being dropped to his house by his grandma and goes up to the yew tree and starts kicking it. "He got to the trunk and started kicking it, "I said, wake up! I don't care what time it is!"

Frustrated: I know Conor is frustrated when his dad is telling him that he has to go back to camp because the new medicine won't work. "Conor, no!" "Yes, it is. It's going to work."

Reading Assessment

Support given to someone inside Conor's destruction of the house.

storm packed, overwhelming, energetic, emboldened, lead speed

Bulky, enormous, rough, heavy

Violent, uncontrollable, angry, shouting, shouting, shouting

Powerless, violent, angry, shouting, shouting, shouting

Unusable, destructive nature, verb aggressive, immediate

gain satisfaction, repetition, verb-destruction, Frustration

Impetuous, commanding, controlling the situation

Capital letters / capitalised, extreme, RAGE

Predatory, like Zoomorphism, aggressive, fierce

uncontrollable, Impetuous, Hysterical

Starting with this extract, explain how Ness presents Conor's emotions. Write about: How Ness presents Conor's emotions in this extract. How Ness presents Conor's emotions throughout the whole text.

Conor grow angry. "You said this was a story without tricks." I said this was the story of a man punished for his selfishness. And so it is. Seething, Conor looked again at the second monster destroying the paragon. A giant monstrous leg knocked over a staircase with one kick. A giant monstrous arm swung back and demolished the walls to the paragon's bedroom. Tell me, Conor O'Malley, the monster behind him asked. Would you like to join in? "Join in?" Conor said, surprised. It is most satisfying, I assure you. The monster stopped forward, joining its second self, and put a giant foot through a window not unlike Conor's grandma's. The monster looked back at Conor, waiting. What shall I destroy next? It asked, stepping over to the second monster, and in a twinkling of the eyes, they merged together, making a single monster who was even bigger. I await your command, boy, it said. "Conor could feel his breathing growing heavy again, his heartbeat racing and the numb feeling had come over him once more, he waited a long moment. "Then he said, "Back over the fireplace." The monster's fist immediately lashed out and struck the stone hearth from its foundation, the brick chimney tumbling down on top of it in a loud clatter. Conor's breath got heavier still. Like he was the one doing the destroying. "Throw away your beds," he said. The monster picked up the beds from the two roofed bedrooms and flung them into the sea, so hard they seemed to sail nearly to the horizon before crashing to the ground. "Smash their furniture!" Conor shouted. "Smash everything!" The monster stomped around the interior of the house, crushing every piece of furniture it could find with satisfying crashes and crunches. "TEAR THE SHEETS FROM CONOR!" the monster roared, and the monster raised its return and pounded at the remaining walls, knocking them to the ground. Conor could hear the monster picking up a fallen branch and crushing it through the windows that hadn't already been broken. He was yelling as he did it, and he couldn't hear himself think, disappearing into the frenzy of destruction just mindlessly smashing and smashing and smashing. The monster was right. It was very satisfying. "Conor screamed until he was hoarse, smashed until his arms were sore, roared until he was sappy falling down with exhaustion."

* Screamed, smashed, roared and falling!
 Verbs
 destruction
 violence

 hoarse!
 sore throat
 voice crack
 raspy

 exhaustion!
 uncomfortable
 relief / tired / peaceful / tranquil
 Tired

 reckless
 mindless
 impulsive
 instinct
 out of control
 Adverb

 and:
 emphasising his energy explosion
 repetitive action - endless / constant
 rigorous

 Listing
 Polysyndeton
 Reaction of said in a sentence

Ness presents Conor's emotions as unstable and uncontrollable within this extract. Conor seems to have lost control of himself as he considers damaging the Pearson's house. "Conor could feel his breathing growing heavy again. His heart was racing and that feverish feeling had come over him once more." The verbs "growing" and "racing" indicate that Conor's emotions are becoming wild and taking over his logical mindset. The phrase "once more" also suggests that Conor has lost control before and struggles to keep his emotions stable. The adjective "feverish" links to an illness and is as if the anger is taking over him and infecting him. This makes the reader feel sympathetic towards Conor as he is struggling to come to terms with his mum's terminal illness and has no one to blame for it. We understand that he is a young child who doesn't know how to cope with the very adult emotions he is experiencing and also doesn't have anyone to confide in to help him through this dark period of his life.

Conor seems unstable in this extract. "Conor could feel his breathing growing heavy again. His heart was racing and that feverish feeling had come over him once more." This shows that he is unstable as he uses lots of words to show this. I think that Ness wants us to feel sorry for Conor because his mum is ill and he just keeps getting really angry.

Colour code your sheet: WHAT HOW WHY

Tuesday 15th November 2022 Assessment Plan

Bildungsroman - a novel that focuses on a person's early years of life. Shows growth and change throughout.

Paragraph 1

Conor gets overwhelmed throughout the extract

"Conor could feel his breathing growing heavy again. His heart was racing and that feverish feeling coming over him once more."

Paragraph 2

Conor gets tired near the end of the extract

"Conor screamed until he was hoarse, smashed until his arms were sore, roared until he was nearly falling down with exhaustion."

Paragraph 3

To show us how people can progress from sadness.

Ness wants to teach the reader that you shouldn't hide anything.

Ness wants us to feel sympathetic for Conor so we can experience what Conor is experiencing.

So we can progress through the story like Conor.

Student B

The verb 'explode' shows how Conor's ~~unstable~~ anger is uncontrollable because of how betrayed he felt ~~by~~ ^{by} Lily. Ness tries to make the reader try to understand how Lily's actions has affected Conor's emotions and his entire life, which helps the reader sympathise with Conor and understand him better.

Tuesday 8th November 2022

Assessment Preparation

Angry
The word 'angry' can be used as one of Conor's characteristics because in the text it says 'Conor felt the anger rising in the pit of his stomach'.

Frustrated
Conor is sometimes frustrated because of the monster's stories. We know this because in the text, it says 'He was still irritated at the monster's story from the cheating and twisting way it went'.

Violent
Conor became violent when Harry started to ignore him. In the text, it says 'Conor knocked Harry flying across the floor' and 'Conor was banging his head against the floor'.

Uncontrollable
Conor was uncontrollable when he was destroying his grandpa's living room; he couldn't hear himself think, disappearing into the frenzy of destruction, just mindlessly smashing and smashing and smashing.

Lonely
He felt lonely at school because people treat him as invisible.

Brave
Conor was brave to finally reveal his truth, despite the fact he was scared to.

Self-sufficient
When his mum was too weak to do anything, Conor did all of the washing and cleaning and made his own food.

Verbs

- Destruction
- Violence

Conor **screamed** until he was **hoarse**, **smashed** until his arms were **sore**, **reared** until he was nearly **falling** down with **exhaustion**.

Sore throat, raspy, creaky voice.

Commas
Create speed/exhaustion for reader.
Sympathise with Conor.
• Overwhelming.

relief / tired
Relaxed
Tranquil

Reading Assessment

Conor grew angrier. "You said this was a story without tricks." I said this was the story of a man punished for his arrogance. And it is. Something Conor looked again at the second monster, destroying the paragonage. A giant monstrous arm swung back and demolished the walls to the paragon's bedrooms. Tell me, Conor O'Malley, the monster behind him asked. Would you like to join in?

Tell me? Conor said, surprised. It is most satisfying, I assure you. The monster stepped forward, joining his second self, and put a giant foot through a window not unlike Conor's grandpa's. The monster looked back at Conor, waiting.

What shall I destroy next? He asked, stepping over to the second monster, and in a terrible blaring of the eyes, they engaged together, making a single monster who was even bigger. I grant your thousand, boy, it said. Conor could feel his **chest** **grinding** **again**. His heart **beating** and that **terrible** **feeling** **had** **come** **back**. He walked a long moment.

Then he said, "Knock over the fireplace!" The monster's fist immediately lashed out and struck the stone hearth from its foundation, the brick chimney tumbling down on top of it in a loud clatter. Conor's breath got heavier still, like he was the one doing the destroying. "Throw away their beds," he said. The monster picked up the beds from the two roofless bedrooms and flung them into the air, so hard they seemed to sail nearly to the horizon before crashing to the ground. **Smash** their furniture! **Conor shouted**, **smash** everything!

The monster stomped around the interior of the house, crushing every piece of furniture it could find with satisfying cracks and crunches. **THAN THE WINDY FRENCH DOG!** **Conor** **shouted**, and the monster reared in return and pounded at the remaining walls, knocking them to the ground. **Conor reared in to him**, picking up a fallen branch and **charging** it through the windows that hadn't already been **smashed**. He was yelling as he did it, so loud he couldn't hear himself think, disappearing into the frenzy of destruction, just mindlessly **smashing** **and** **smashing**.

The monster was right. It was very satisfying. **Conor screamed** until he was **hoarse**, **smashed** until his arms were **sore**, **reared** until he was nearly **falling** down with **exhaustion**. Where?

Starting with this extract, explain how Ness presents Conor's emotions. Write about:

- How Ness presents Conor's emotions in this extract
- How Ness presents Conor's emotions throughout the whole text

Annotations:

- Burden breathing struggle
- uncontrollable
- Adrenaline coursing through his body
- Hysterical
- verb, uncontrolled
- Anxiety/Anger is growing bigger than him (taking over)
- Hysterical/violent
- Violent/Angry
- Nothing is left
- uncontrollable
- uncontrollable/Hysterical
- Exclamation Mark
- Loud, Angry, Frustrated
- Powerful
- Verb Worry/Nerves
- Mixed Shouting
- Infected
- Out of control
- This feeling has happened before
- Emotions have full control over Conor
- Repetition
- verb - Destruction Frustration
- Controlling the situation
- Verb aggressive/Intimidating
- Destructive
- nature
- Capital letters
- Extreme rage
- Desperate to release emotions/relief
- Predictable Idea
- onomatopoeia Aggressive/force
- Verb
- Energetic, Scared, Excitement, Speed
- Support, To aid someone Instead, Conor is destroying the home.
- Unusable Sadness/Angry - Conor is a broken person emotionally

Impulsive decision
Losing Control
Desires / instinct
Adverb

He was mindlessly smashing
(and) smashing (and) smashing.

Repetition
Endlessy smashing
Emphasising his
energy expulsion.
Repetition of 'and' → Polysyndeton
in a sentence.

Ness presents Conor's emotions as unstable and uncontrollable within this extract. Conor seems to have lost control of himself as he considers damaging the Parson's house: "Conor could feel his breathing growing heavy again. His heart was racing and that feverish feeling had come over him once more". The verbs "growing" and "racing" indicate that Conor's emotions are becoming wild and taking over his logical mindset. The phrase "once more" also suggests that Conor has lost control before and struggles to keep his emotions stable. The adjective "feverish" links to an illness and is as if the anger is taking over him and infecting him. This makes the reader feel sympathetic towards Conor as he is struggling to seem to terms with his own physical stress and has no one to blame for it. We understand that he is a young child who doesn't know how to cope with the very adult emotions he is experiencing and also doesn't have anyone to confide in to help him through this dark period of his life.

Conor seems unstable in this extract: "Conor could feel his breathing growing heavy again. His heart was racing and that feverish feeling had come over him once more". This shows that he is unstable as he uses lots of words to show this: "I think that Ness wants us to feel sorry for Conor because his mum is ill and he just keeps getting really angry."

Colour code your sheet: WHAT HOW WHY

Tuesday 15th November 2022

Assessment Plan

Key term - Bildungsroman
a novel that focuses on a person's early years of life. Shows growth and change throughout.

Paragraph 1

What - In this extract, Conor shows that he is overwhelmed. We know this because it shows this in the quote: "Conor could feel his breathing growing heavy again. His heart was racing and that feverish feeling had overcome him once more."

How - verb "growing" → Anxiety / Anger is growing bigger than him, uncontrollable.
'Over come him' → He cannot control his emotions.

Why → Ness does this to show how Conor's experiences have affected his negative emotions, which are overwhelming him. Despite this, he does not want to accept his truth and continues to struggle.

Paragraph 2

What → Conor is ^{vivid} angry (Conor experiences anger).
Quote "Conor rushed in to help, picking up a fallen branch and smashing it through the windows that hadn't already been broken"

How → verb "smashing" → wants destruction.
'rushed' shows how desperate he was to destroy things.

Why → Shows how his emotions are too strong and he reflects these negative emotions onto objects (aggressive).

Paragraph 3

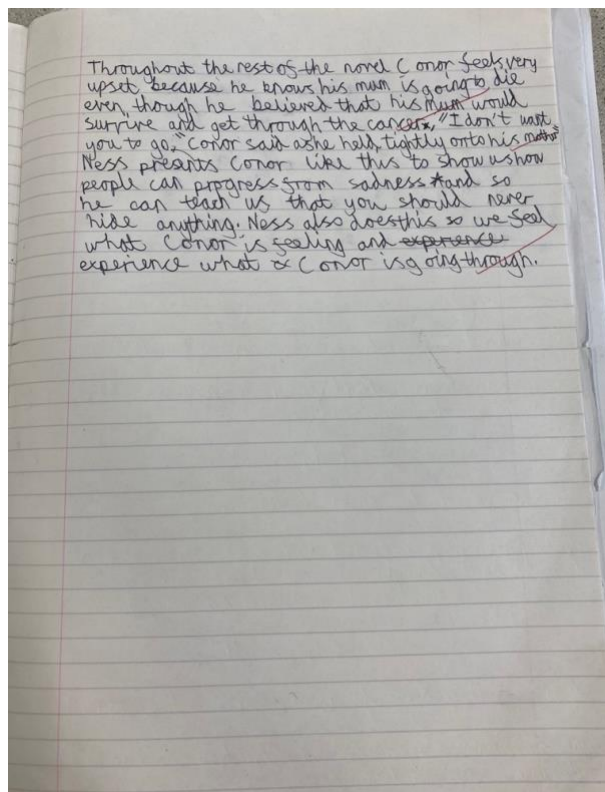
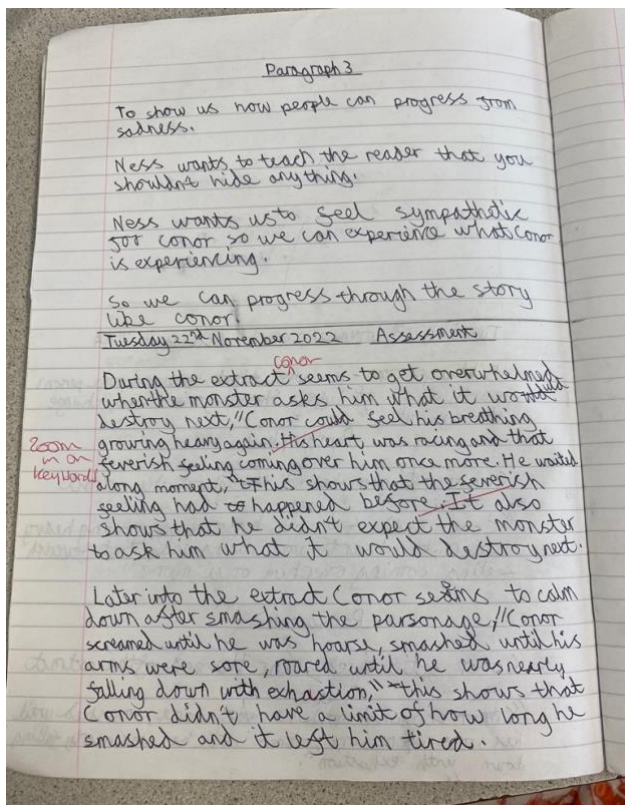
Conor felt relief
Quote → "And, at last, he spoke the final and total truth" and "he could finally let her go"

How → "At last" → finally accepted his truth after so long.
Sense of tranquility → He has let go of his emotions and is no longer overwhelmed.

Why → Ness did this to take us on Conor's mental journey and maybe help readers who have experienced or are currently experiencing his struggles.

The 'summative assessment' piece

Student A



Student B

