

2016 Lit Ques 3 (Intentional Deception) Student Samples/Anchors

Essays are typed as written by students

Sample C Score 1

“The Great Gatsby” is an excellent example of a novel with a deceptive character. Gatsby deceives other characters in many situations throughout the novel. Sometimes Gatsby deceives others by not saying anything at all, which allows people to start rumors about him. Gatsby only reveals small details about himself, and more often than not Nick is the only character he allows knowledge about himself.

Gatsby tells many stories about himself throughout the novel, and it is difficult to discern which stories are true.

2-1 Although these essays make some attempt to respond to the prompt, they compound the weaknesses of the papers in the 4-3 range. Often, they are unacceptably brief or incoherent in presenting their ideas. They may be poorly written on several counts and contain distracting errors in grammar and mechanics. The writers’ remarks may be presented with little clarity, organization, or supporting evidence. Essays scored a one (1) contain little coherent discussion of the text.

Sample E Score 2

The novel I chose is the Kite Runner. Have you ever seen a kid you’d just love to drop kick? A brat that just gets everything? Well in this story Amir is that kid. He’s the rich kid lacking nothing, but daddy’s affection. He repeatedly hurts his friend Hassan. When Hassan is getting raped by Asseff he hides. To make things worse Hassan knows Amir knows, so what does Amir do to get rid of his guilt? He hides a watch and money under Hassans mat. This leads to Hasson and his father leaving. To save his own backend he burned Hassan. Through the story Amir struggles with these actions that he’s made as a child. It changes him. With time he grows into a better, more understanding person. He fixes his wrongs and stands up for what’s right. Without the transformation through the story it would have been pointless. The theme of the book was redemption and Amir found it. The least likely person to and he found it. He just had to realize there was a way to be good again, and he found that way by saving Hasson’s son. Amir is the protical son who is redeemed. He is the story.

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Sample A Score 3

In the play “The Crucible”, Abigail convinces the town of Salem that there are witches in the town. She tricks and convinces the town of this lie in order to get the attention and affection the Procter. Additionally, to get rid of the Procter’s wife so she could have him. This deception shows the crazed, group think aspect of society. That a perceived threat can ensue parania.

The motivation behind creating these acussions are petty and childlike in nature. Abigail, also, creates these circumstances to draw blame away from herself. She doesn’t want her father to know of the night she and other girls where chanting and dancing in the forest. Abigail’s lies go so far as when the court trial is taking place, she gets the whole group of girls to speak in unisen. The town is easily talked into these acusations.

This harm to others and infringing on life, was started so a girl wouldn’t get caught and so she could have her way. The reason the trail started is for childish reasons and with little base behind the claims. This play reflects the times the author, Joseph McCarthy, was living in. A

society accusing and attacking other because some one said so. Society is easily manipulated into all thinking the same. Going crazy and being paranoid because everyone else is, because there is a perceived threat. The Crucible exemplifies the crazed, group think nature of society.

4-3 These lower-half essays fail to offer an adequate analysis of the motives for a character's deception and how that deception contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. The analysis may be partial, unsupported, or irrelevant, and the essays may reflect an incomplete or oversimplified understanding of the significance of what motivates the character's deception. They may not develop and analysis of the contribution of the character's deception to the meaning of the work as a whole, or they may rely on plot summary alone. These essays may be characterized by an unfocused or repetitive presentation of ideas, an absence of textual support, or an accumulation of errors; they may lack control over the elements of college-level composition. Essays scored a three (3) may contain significant misreading and/or demonstrate inept writing.

Sample I Score 4

Locked in the top room a manic woman presides. She is the nightmare. She is the danger. She is the secret. She is the wife. In Charlotte Bronte's novel *Jane Eyre* she is the hidden past of Rochester. The reason for deception for Jane's protection, for his own protection and for the protection of the future with the woman he so dearly loves.

She is the danger. Rochester's wife is manical, violent and disturbed. She has shown her character by attacking and wounding various people—including her own brother. So Rochester attempts to shield Jane from this danger by deceiving her and attempting to justify events such as the torn veil and cries in the night by other means. Done out of love, Rochester does not wish to expose her or any others to the violence of the horrible fiend locked in the attic nor the emotional shock to Jane that would accompany the knowledge.

She is the secret. It is true that Rochester deceives Jane in order to protect her, but it is also true that he deceives to protect himself. As an upperclass man, Rochester has certain social roles to fill. He must be proper, and keep an untarnished reputation. The public knowledge of his wife destroying what he has worked to uphold. For this reason he goes to great lengths to remove all evidence of his estranged wife by maintaining Thornfield merely as a place to store her while he lives his extravagant life elsewhere.

She is the wife. This is the most prominent reason for Rochester's deception. He searches for years to find a woman with whom he can relate and love. Once he finds this in Jane it is clear to see Bertha is a problem. Not only does his living wife pose a conflict to having a legitimate and legal marriage but to a strong-willed independent woman such as Jane, the mere knowledge that she would be a mistress not a wife is enough to dash all hopes of a continued engagement. It is for this reason Bertha remains the most guarded of secrets—lies and deception covering all tracks.

Rochester has many reasons for his cruel treatment of his wife—her violent nature that is a danger to his beloved; her reminder of his past which is a threat to his present reputation; and her very existence which jeopardizes any possibility of a future with the woman he loves. She is the wife. She is the secret. She is the danger. She is Bertha.

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Sample H Score 5

In the play *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare, the title character deceives the other characters to discover if his uncle had indeed murdered his father. Hamlet is plagued by internal conflict that centers around action versus inaction, a major theme in the play. It is better to take action than to dwell on what may be. This is a universal theme

In this tragedy, Hamlet is unsure what actions, if any, he should take against Denmark's new king, Claudius. Hamlet decides to pretend he is insane. There are implications that Hamlet becomes insane. The brutality of Ophelia's father's murder by Hamlet's hand indicates how unhinged he becomes. Even though Hamlet had murdered Polonius, he still could not decide what to do with Claudius. This in turn creates a snowball effect and Hamlet's internal struggle comes to an end after months of procrastination. Hamlet cannot enjoy the fruits of killing Claudius because at this point he is suffering from a deadly poison. This shows that procrastination is unhealthy and it is best to take action at times.

Hamlet pretends to be insane to almost everyone except his best friend. It is notable how far Hamlet goes to prove to Ophelia, an old lover, that he is crazy. He accosts her in a state of undress one night and during the play makes lewd lewd comments to her. This is important because it shows how Hamlet desires to carry out his insanity plan without a real goal in mind because he is so indecisive. In the line "to be or not to be" Hamlet discusses his indecision. He is unsure of whether he himself should live or die, showing how extremely he feels over his father's murder. In this soliloquy he contemplates if dying would be like dreaming only without waking up—a dramatic contrast from how determined he previously had been to avenge his father. This constant back and forth of desires from Hamlet serves to humanize him and make the universal theme of the play more universal. Many people dwell on what they probably should not and procrastinate when it would be best not to. Hamlet's internal struggle clouds his judgement and his determination to avenge his father becomes an obsession. Through his façade of insanity, Hamlet hides his true motive and intentions.

Hamlet, the main character in Shakespeare's tragedy "Hamlet" struggles with overcoming internal difficulties. In lieu of his father's murder, Hamlet desires to avenge him. However, Hamlet's internal struggle with indecision gets in the way of his ultimate goal. He uses insanity as a mask to hide his intentions from others, often going to extremes to prove how unhinged he is. The theme of inaction versus action is essential to the play as well as an universal theme.

5 These essays respond to the assigned task with a plausible reading, but they tend to be superficial or thinly developed in analysis. They often rely upon plot summary that contains some analysis, implicit or explicit. Although the writers attempt to discuss what motivates the character's deception, they may demonstrate a rather simplistic understanding of its significance, and support from the text may be too general. While these writers demonstrate adequate control of language, their essays may be marred by surface errors. These essays are not as well conceived, organized, or developed as 7-6 essays.

Sample D Score 6

Throughout Oscar Wilde's "The Picture of Dorian Gray," the consequences of selfishness and lack of humbleness is shown in the tragic death of Dorian Gray in attempt to deceive and take advantage of others. Dorian Gray is initially portrayed as an innocent and pure teenager that has not yet experienced the course of life and its challenges. When he is given the gift of eternal beauty and youth, Dorian is consumed with himself and feels he has the right to act superior and selfish. The ultimately causes him to rot on the inside and become bitter.

From the very beginning of the novel, Dorian highly values his beauty and fears losing it. He wishes to stay as beautiful and young as the picture painted of him because he believes it is all one needs to succeed in life. Dorian allows himself to be influenced by a close friend and the society around him that seems to worship aesthetics. Dorian uses his secret to become wealthy and bitter towards people such as a young girl he once had a love affair with. He becomes associated with a class of people that are anything but humble and drowns himself in the temporary pleasures of life. He even loses the one true friend he ever had, the man who made his secret a possibility, in the process of his tragic change. Basil, the painter of Dorian's picture, constantly serves as the villain's Id and conscience. The picture of Dorian progressively rots, representing the rotting soul behind his perfect exterior. The character becomes the ultimate victim of his bitter deception. In the final scene Dorian Gray is found dead and old with a bitter expression on his face next to the now original picture of his perfect picture that was once pure and innocent.

The metamorphosis of Dorian Gray throughout the novel is used to suggest a lesson about life and the consequence of selfishness. Dorian's consumption with himself caused all of his loved ones to fear him and fear for him.

Dorian, like all of us at times, allowed his feeling of superiority to hurt many around him and deceive them. The fact that Dorian also ends up killing his only friend, Basil, shows that he is ultimately haunted by his secret and has realized, only when it was too late, what it had turned him into. The reader can see the difference in character in Dorian's lack of guilt when beheading his only friend and conscience left. In the end, Dorian was the literal victim of his own deception, much like one is the victim of his own selfishness.

Oscar Wilde proves to us the tragic and painful result in self consumption and the deception of others through the rotting image of Dorian Gray. Readers can learn from "The Picture of Dorian Gray" to be wary of self love and feelings of superiority for they rot our souls and kill our pure and innocent youth.

7-6 These essays offer a reasonable analysis of the motives for the character's deception and how the deception contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. The essays analyze what motivates the character's deception and how the work as a whole is shaped by it. While the papers have insight and understanding, their analysis is less thorough, less perceptive, and/or less specific in supporting detail than that of the 9-8 essays.

Sample G Score 7

In Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* Dimmesdale's dishonesty towards his religious followers and his town is primarily utilized to develop the themes of the work. Dimmesdale's deception of his religious following is used by Hawthorne in order to reinforce his attitude towards religion and its contradictions as well as his motif of sin and redemption.

Dimmesdale's role as a prominent religious leader in his Puritan society is significant when analyzing the aftermath of his affair with Hester Prynne. Although Hester is punished for her crime in the form of social humiliation and alienation, Dimmesdale never reveals himself to be her accomplice in their sin of adultery. Dimmesdale's motive for his dishonesty stems from his unrealistic expectations as a religious role model. He becomes worried that no one will trust him to purify their soul since he isn't perfect. In addition Dimmesdale's hubris clouds his judgement as his honesty will ruin his spotless reputation. Therefore, instead of revealing his ignominy to his town, Dimmesdale seems to redeem himself by performing good works for others. However, Dimmesdale finds his mind and body deteriorating as he becomes guilt ridden. In other words, the longer Dimmesdale keeps a secret from society, the worse his internal torment gets. This notion is persistently developed as Dimmesdale continues to disappoint Pearl, his daughter that he won't claim, and allow Hester to socially bear both his and her punishment for their sins. Additionally his extreme feelings of guilt and dishonor do not fade even when he plans to escape his town with Hester and Pearl. Dimmesdale's failure to redeem himself is evident when he eventually dies on account of his overwhelming spiritual and physical destruction.

Dimmesdale's motives for deceiving his religious followers is expanded upon by Hawthorne in order to criticize the contradictory nature of religion while utilizing the theme of sin and redemption. Hawthorne exposes the absurdity of religious expectations that Puritans held as Dimmesdale refuses to unburden himself of his sin by sharing it with his followers in a pursuit for redemption.. This is truly ironic as Dimmesdale is characterized as a Puritan leader that can purify sinners in order for them to redeem themselves to God. Therefore, it is ridiculous and unfair for Dimmesdale to be held to the standard of moral perfection as religious beliefs state that everyone is a sinner. Rather than expecting Dimmesdale to be unflawed, his followers should welcome his imperfections just as he holds no judgements against them. Hawthorne truly commits to this idea as he kills Dimmesdale in the end to show his fatal consequences of not earning redemption.

Hawthorne characterizes Dimmesdale's deception as one fueled by his desire to satisfy his unrealistic expectations as a religious leader that works to develop the motif of religious contradictions as well as the theme of sin and redemption.

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Sample F Score 8

In William Shakespeare's play *Othello*, the character Iago deceives Othello into believing that his wife has betrayed him by having sex with another man. Through this deception Shakespeare is able to reveal that mankind is driven with a powerful desire for revenge and that man has a dangerous tendency to believe the worst about those closest to him.

Iago decides to plot and deceive his general after believing he was slighted by Othello for having not received a promotion. Iago's motivation is revenge, a powerful emotion that he understands fully. He appreciates the influence of revenge which is why his deception revolves around Othello feeling that his wife has wronged him and thus that he must extract some punishment from her. Othello plays directly into this trick, and thus with the same motive of revenge as Iago, kills his wife. In having both characters act cruelly out of a desire for revenge, Shakespeare is able to expose the oppressive power of revenge as it can come to dominate an individual's life and lead him to commit horrible crimes against those people they love most. Additionally, by having Iago's reason for causing the death of Desdemona, suicide of Othello, and murder of Iago's own wife be something as petty as a promotion, Shakespeare reveals that revenge can spring from seemingly insignificant events yet have devastating results on others. Othello falling for this revenge laden deception also demonstrates the blinding impact of revenge, as the desire to revenge oneself often becomes so overwhelming that they can become blind to the truth, reason, or love. Just as Othello was.

The success of Iago's deception and lies illustrates another flaw of human nature, which is man's own tendency to believe the worst about someone they love with little or no evidence. The ultimate damning piece of evidence that convinces Othello to murder his wife is not a confession nor eyewitness testimony, but a simple handkerchief. Despite Desdemona denying ever being unfaithful to him, Cassio remaining loyal to him, and Emilia always professing Desdemona's good nature, with the simple piece of cloth Iago is able to completely deceive Othello and convince him to murder the woman he loves most. The success of this deception with such little evidence supporting its assertion yet so much evidence contradicting it illustrate man's own vulnerability to fear and paranoia which expose him to only being able to think about the worst possible trait of someone they love most. Iago capitalized on this trait and thus without having to do anything more than plant a handkerchief and speak some words was able to convince Othello to betray everything he knew about Desdemona's character and love for him.

Iago's motivation for deception and success in his deception brings to light the darker aspects of humanity. It reveals man's own intent desire for revenge, even at the cost of rationality and love, and man's own tendency to pessimistically assume the worst about others, even with virtually no proof. This deception and its costs create a warning to try and control the hatred of revenge and surity in the faults of others with a sense of forgiveness and skeptical mind before giving in to rash and often fatal impulses.

9-8 These essays offer a well-focused and persuasive analysis of the motives for the character's deception and how the deception contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. Using apt and specific textual support, these essays analyze what motivates the character's deception and how the work as a whole is shaped by it. Although these essays may not be error-free, they make a strong case for their interpretation and discuss the literary work with significant insight and understanding. Essays scored a nine (9) reveal more sophisticated analysis and more effective control of language than do essays scored an eight (8).

Sample B Score 9

Deception is a major focal theme of Ralph Ellison's novel The Invisible Man. The novel traces the journey of a nameless narrator as he overcomes a blindness to the deceptive reality of his world and is able to finally clearly see the true motives of those who are around him. The theme of deception in the novel serves as obstacles the narrator faces before he is able to complete his journey of seeking clarity and self-discovery.

Throughout the novel the narrator is betrayed by many of the characters whom he looked up to and trusted. The first betrayal was that of his college professor Dr. Bledsoe. A firm believer of education and peaceful social reform, the narrator admired Dr. Bledsoe and his contributions to colored college education in the south. When he discovers that Dr. Bledsoe's sub motive as president of the university is to gain power and the lengths that he would go to retain it the narrator is disgusted. Not only does he realize that he had wrongly been led to believe that Dr. Bledsoe truly cared about colored education, he also realized his own vulnerability to deception. It is here that he also acknowledges that he would need to find a new community and new effort for him to continue fighting for his beliefs, thus starting the narrator's journey to find his self (sic) and the place where he belonged.

When Brother Jack approaches the narrator after a riot in Harlem a short couple of days after he had traveled to the North, the narrator was reasonably dubious. But driven by a need for financial independence (sic) and an outlet to serve a purpose to the community, the narrator becomes convinced that the Brotherhood was where he belonged. He admires and aspires to be like his mentors and earnestly looks forward to the day where he can create change in the African American community with his own speeches. This notion, however, is quickly realized to be too good to be true. Whereas Brother Jack originally brought the narrator in under the pretense of a speaking, the reality was that his sole purpose was to relay the brotherhood's prescribed ideas to manipulate the community for their personal motives. The narrator was prohibited from creating speeches that could have a potentially dangerous effect. Instead he would only communicate with the audiences under the brotherhood's close watch and scrutiny. He realizes that he was only one chess piece played by the Brotherhood who was absorbed in a game of their own, one that he didn't wish to be a part of. The game had major consequences and with regret he realizes them as a result of mistakes of his own.

Towards the end of the novel, the narrator, hoping to find an escape from the chaos of reality, puts on a pair of sunglasses as a disguise. Curiously, the people of Harlem mistake the narrator as Rinehart, a legal pimp. Through the sunglasses he learns about the complex character of Reinhart and is also able to make the realization that he was used as a tool in the Brotherhood Revolution. Through this he realizes what he really wants is the common societal growth to be equal between and irrelevant to the black-and-white of skin. He is a firm in his belief that he does not want to be in the control of others any longer but rather to make progress for racial equality by means of his own. Though he is deceiving others of his identity under the sunglasses he is finally able to clearly see himself.

Though there are blank more of betrayals and deceptions in the novel, like that of Dr. Norton or Young Emerson, that of Bledsoe and the brotherhood, as well that of his own serve as the marking points for the three stages of the narrator's journey to self-discovery.

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