

Candidate 11

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
B	<p>In this extract Winifred Holtby uses a variety of literary techniques to effectively portray the characters of Midge and her father, and the setting, which is symbolic of ^{both} their broken present and their glorious past. We see how the nostalgic nostalgia has consumed the father and how this has disturbed their vulnerable daughter along with the destructive nature of his former relationship with his wife. Central to our understanding of the characters is Holtby's use of an omniscient narrator that writes from the perspective of Midge.</p>
	<p>Within the first paragraph the distinctly child like narrative voice reveals the vulnerable nature of the protagonist's child's character. Referring to the father as "daddy" instantly conveys the growth and vulnerability of Midge. It is clear</p>

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
	<p>The narrative voice also reveals to us both the perceptive nature of the child and through the mistreatment she has received at the hands of her father. The long list of defects defects that the child perceives in herself: "and Midge was ugly and thin and delicate..." shows us how the father is incapable of loving his daughter for who she is and instead seeks a replica of the wife whom he dearly loved.</p>
	<p>We also learn of the severe cutthroats the girl has as a result of her harsh upbringing. The narrative voice is writes from Midge's perspective and by doing this it shows how Midge perceives her moments of uncontrollable rage - or possibly seizure - as the work of a "fiend." It is evident, therefore, that the absence of a parental figure to help her deal with her anger has resulted in childlike explanations: "It was no fun hunting or evil spirit"</p>

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
<p data-bbox="437 353 533 394">Further</p> <p data-bbox="437 412 1086 1339"> As a result of the author Holtby's choice to write from Midge's perspective, the characterisation of Robert Corne becomes indirect, resulting in ^{allowing} to allow the reader to gain a unique perspective of the daughter's perception of her father. ^{Holtby} She describes how the father ^{Corne} sits alone drinking: "accompanied only by the dark oil paintings of ancestors in the dining-room and mother's lovely terrifying portrait." This shows us, firstly, that Corne neglects his daughter as a result of his grief. It is also the first use of setting to time in the extract that Holtby uses setting to demonstrate the father's unnatural obsession with what his past. The act of him sitting surrounded by his ancestors is symbolic of his desire to reach back into the halcyon days. </p>	

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN

before the "agricultural crisis." Moreover the oxymoronic description of the Mother's portrait shows how Midge both greatly admires her mother and fears her as a result of the devastating influence she has had on her father.

The blunt short sentence "Midge knew all about the agricultural crisis." demonstrates the great burden that Currie's concerns put on his daughter's shoulders. ~~The phrase is used as~~ ~~an~~ ~~example~~ the personification of the house: "the whole house lay in waiting." is used by Holby to further demonstrate the crushing effect that the mother's illness has had on the entirety of Midge and her father's world. This state of waiting exacerbates the worries of the father, and he allows them to consume him leaving little time for his daughter.

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
	<p>the ancestors of Robert Curie. The spare room here "no men had slept here for years," the "pink wallpaper that had faded to a dingy cream and the "bare" "black iron bedstead "bea bed stades" all indicate a grand house that is past is not has past its prime. The traditions of the farming gentlemen are "crumbling" and so is Robert Curie.</p>
	<p>Holby's word choice in the opening of of reveals to us Midge's fervent belief in some supernatural power. Her use of the pron capitalised pronoun "They" indicates Midge's belief that only through the supernatural can she gain some control over her life. She feels completely lost and her only hope of avoiding tragedy is her prayer. She hopes her prayers will be "enough to propitiate Them and bring her father home." This belief in the supernatural stems</p>

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
	from her complete lack of control.
	It is through indirect characterisation that Milby also reveals the lack of control to Carne now. and when the milkman describes her father as "failing" Midge feels is in complete denial: "It didn't mean anything." The authorial voice used in describing the milkman as a "rusty old man" shows how Midge is struggling to come to terms with the fact that it's not just her without control - her father is losing has also been reduced to a shadow of his former self.
	She still clings to her superstition. Preferring to tell herself that she "had not prayed enough" rather than admitting her lack of control over the situation.

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN

It is in the description of the mother's room that we learn the

The mother's room is used as a symbol for the sickness of her mother and the sickness that she has left behind in the house. It becomes apparent that a mental illness plagued the mother, filled her with "rebellion." In her absence the "mail polish" is "crumbled to powder" the curtains are "faded" and "rotting" and her dresses are "lame" been left "deserted." She has left behind an emptiness in the house and a fear of "curses" in her daughter. The descent of the house into disrepair represents the descent of Midge's mother Midge's desperation to restore is a mental illness.

The full extent of Midge's desperation to restore is revealed to the reader in the climax at the end of the extract. We learn of her last resort,

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
	<p>Midge's last effort to regain control. the the extensive description of She believes firmly that enacting her dream will "restore bring back Mayhome to its legendary happiness." the Holtby's use of climax reveals the way the father is left trapped in past as he handles his hysterical daughter but sees only "his wife prezied with, in 1918, prezied."</p> <p>This shows</p>
	<p>Throughout the extract Holtby makes continual use of the broken hose to symbolise the broken lives that the characters now live. She uses omniscient narration to demonstrate Midge's desperation for control over the situation and the she uses indirect characterisation, symbol the symbol of the portraits and the climax of the extract to reveal the the desperation with which she turns turns to</p>
	<p>revert the past.</p>