

Candidate 2 evidence

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5.	<p>Smeddum is a short story by Lewis Grassie Gibbon featuring Meg Menzies; an unconventional woman who challenges the norms of an early 20th century the Aberdeenshire farming community but does so in the face of difficulties - a feckless 'husband' who seems to be more of a burden to her, and nine children, most of whom need to be brought into line. *</p>	
	<p>Secondly Secondly, Grassie Gibbon aims to make the reader share his sympathy towards Meg by describing the harsh working conditions that she faces. The The writer describes the ^{weather} as "like a hail of knives"</p>	
	<p>A simile is used to demonstrate how cold and windy the weather is, and 'knives' shows that it was extreme to the point that it was actually painful. Furthermore, the land is poorly situated on top of a hill, so is exposed to prevailing winds and is colder due to higher altitudes.</p>	

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	<p>Most female characters of the time were portrayed as weaker and more sensitive than men, however the author clearly shows that Meg goes completely against this. Her inner strength and determination to keep working despite the challenging weather conditions is a sign of her Smeddum - the strength & spirit of an individual.</p>	
	<p>* Through her character and actions we come to all recognize the meaning and significance of the title.</p>	
	<p>The writer makes it clear that Meg's attitude is very unusual of the time. When her children are leaving for school, she says to them "Tell the Dominie I'll be down tonight to ask him what the mischief he meant leathering Jeannie and her - not well". Teachers were held in very high regard, because unlike most people, they were educated. To question their</p>	

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	<p>methods would have been scandalous, and arguing against those of higher social standing would have been unheard of. Meg demonstrates a vast amount of Smeddum in her ability to not be bound by social constraints, and to live life her own way without fear of judgement from others in the community. Meg goes against a pillar of society to defend her daughter from injustice, and believes that her children belong to her, so only she should have the right to punish them.</p>	
	<p>Meg however, does conform to some of society's conventions by forcing her children to marry. When she hears that her son, Jack, got a woman pregnant, Grassie Gibbon narrates "she held to the lug til it near came off, and Jack swore he'd put things right with Ag Grant." Meg enforces her values, but has a brutal method of doing so. On the exterior, it appears</p>	

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	<p>that she wants Jock to marry because she simply has good morals and couldn't bear the thought of leaving Ag Grant as an unmarried mother, as this would have been scandalous. We can infer that Meg wants wants them to marry because this would give Jock stability, and would prevent him from repeating the same mistake.</p>	
	<p>Although Meg Meg previously forced her other children into marriage, she allows Kath to act in a way that is similar to herself. She explains to Jock and Jeannie "You'd to marry or burn, so I married you quick - But Kath and me could afford to find out."</p>	
	<p>The The writer highlights that Meg doesn't deem marriage as essential for those who can get by without the stability that it brings. Unlike Jock and Jeannie, Kath is had the courage to take responsibility for her actions.</p>	

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	extent was how others perceive her.	
	Overall, Smeddum - by Lewis Grassie Gibbon - demonstrates the meaning and significance of the title by giving an insight into the way of life of the main character, Meg Menzies, who goes against the accepted practices of her community, by having children out of wedlock and putting anyone in their place, even if they are of a higher social class.	
	<p>* * * Firstly, Meg's 'husband' Will is extremely lazy, and cruelly leaves her to do the majority of the farm work by herself, as well as bring up the children. The narrator states "She did half his work on the Toddy Parks"</p> <p>This communicates Will's lack of consideration towards Meg. Both characters are shown to have Smeddum, as both go against society's rules of which gender can do which</p>	

