

Write your answers to section A questions (a) and (b) here.

a) Francis is shown to regard Larry LaSalle as not a threat, but a burden. The thought of LaSalle is ever present in Francis's mind, as shown as he describes the walk to LaSalle's tenement: "The gun is like a tumour on my thigh as I walk through the morning streets against the wind that never dies down." Here, Francis clearly shows an unwillingness to his task, as he uses the simile to describe carrying the gun, likening it to a tumour. Of course, nobody wants a tumour, showing how Francis feels he's been forced into this situation by LaSalle. Furthermore, the way Francis details the wind that: "never dies down," the reader is given a sense not of an everlasting gust, but the everlasting strain inside Francis, the pain Francis endures whenever he thinks of LaSalle.

Francis feels that LaSalle is the reason for many things that have happened to him. As he's walking, he "he sees: "The innocent faces of the two young German boys... But Larry LaSalle is not innocent." LaSalle's memory brings back all the worst moments in Francis's life, as Francis wouldn't have gone to war had not it been for LaSalle.

The ~~the~~ adjectives 'innocent' and 'young' ~~these~~ relate the Germans to Nicole ~~and~~ and her saintly, angelic descriptions showing how Francis regards LaSalle as a corrupting force, taking away the innocence of the people.

Francis is shown to hate the manipulating side of LaSalle. He is desperate to feel as though he is overcoming the strength and force of LaSalle, as he hesitates to think: "Is there a glimmer of fear in his eyes? My heart quickens at the possibility." Here, Francis's excitement is shown at the 'glimmer of fear'; the noun 'glimmer' shows the meticulous attention Francis is paying for any sign of emotion from LaSalle, and even when Francis cannot be sure if there was, indeed, even that slightest ~~to~~ sense of fear in LaSalle, Francis becomes childishly excited: his heart racing. Moreover, the way Francis comments on his heart quickening, the

heart 'cracked' by LaSalle's actions, ~~the~~ the audience can see the firm belief within Francis that killing LaSalle will go some way to rectifying his betrayal of Nicole.

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b) Francis is left in a shocked and desperate state of complete despair by LaSalle's actions, even though he blames himself. As he goes to apologise to Nicole, he ends up worse: "I could only stand there mute, as if all my sins had been revealed and there was no forgiveness for them." The way Francis cannot

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even speak shows his uncontrollable sadness and regret. He feels that there is nothing he can do or say that could make things better, blaming himself. In addition, he uses the simile of sin to show his despair. The religious theme shows that he doesn't even believe he's betrayed only Nicoh, but betrayed God also, and that even with God the forgiver, he cannot be forgiven. Moreover, when a person dies with sins unforgiven they go to hell, detailing the hell Francis feels inside of him.

Francis, after feeling like he couldn't talk and was already in hell, is shown to feel even further away from himself. "I looked out at the shadowed streets, the stars closer than I'd ever seen them as if I could reach out and pluck one of them from the sky." Cormier illustrates Francis's mood through the use of simile. The repetition of the sleepy,

peaceful 's' shows Francis feeling quiet, as though whispering to himself. Moreover, the way Cormier describes Francis as being close enough to touch the stars makes it clear that Francis wants to detach himself from the world and the way in which Cormier shows Francis's closeness to the stars shows how he is almost among the stars, as his heart 'cracked' earlier and now he not only feels separate from the world but from his problems as he is not sad, or angry, but at peace. As though already gone.

Francis, even though seemingly calm, is here shown to want to commit suicide thanks to LaSalle. "I rested there, bathing in the sudden coolness... Then peered out again... How long would it take to plunge towards the sidewalk." Cormier's juxtaposition of these two sentences is magnified by the similarity of tone. Francis's feeling of calm shown by the verbs 'rested' and 'bathing'. Cormier's use of these verbs almost goes beyond a feeling of peace and into actual enjoyment, as though Francis has found solace, and even when the word is 'sudden' it is only more relaxing. However, Cormier's ~~and~~ just as sudden reflection on suicide shows Francis's true motives. LaSalle has put Francis in a position where the prospect of suicide is not only a method of escape, but in itself a joyous and relaxing process. Francis feels the only thing that can bring him joy is an end.

Francis's situation is shown as even more hopeless when even after he seems to not want death, he then immediately

forms another method of an end: "Soldiers were dying with honour all over the world. Noble deaths. The deaths of Heroes. How could I die by leaping from a staple?" The short, direct simple sentences show the certainty of Francis's judgement. He feels killing himself on a battlefield would not only be easy but a noble thing. The adjective 'noble' shows the pride within Francis as it connotes strong, courageous men, brave heroes, as Francis had always wanted to be. Francis's despair because of LaSalle's actions sent him to attempted

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survive.