

Heroes  
Higher Tier

The purpose of this pack is to provide centres with the question paper, mark scheme and a set of exemplar materials with commentaries.

The individual documents can be found on our website at [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com)

Included in this pack:

- Question and extract from Summer 2012 Paper
- Marked scripts with the mark and band
- Examiner commentary and mark scheme

## ***Heroes***

### **Extract taken from Chapter 11.**

A moment later, Larry LaSalle stood on the platform, resplendent in the green uniform with the lieutenant's bars on his shoulders and the ribbons and medals on his chest. He smiled, the old movie-star smile, skin tanned and glowing, small wrinkles around his eyes as he squinted down at us.

We cheered as he stepped down from the platform and walked towards our group, that touch of Fred Astaire still in his walk but something different about him. His slenderness was knife-like now, lethal, his features sharper, nose and cheek-bones. I remembered how hard it had been to think of him as a fighting marine when he announced his enlistment, but seeing his lean hard body now I could picture him storming a hillside on Guadalcanal, rifle in hand, bayonet fixed, grenades dangling from his belt, pumping bullets into the enemy.

Then he was among us and we surrounded him, crowding him, embracing him, getting as close to him as possible.

'My hero from the war,' Joey LeBlanc called out, clowning, of course, but saying what we all thought. Larry was our war hero, yes, but he had been a hero to us long before he went to war.

He drew away, holding us off at arm's length, stepping back. 'The better to see you,' he said, looking at each of us in turn. When his eyes fell on me, I made a gesture, as if serving the small white ball over the net and he swivelled his arm, as if returning the ball. His eyes moved to Nicole and I saw the rush of affection on his face. Nicole bowed, tilting her head like a ballet dancer, and he dipped his head in return, his eyes full of her. A blush turned her cheeks crimson and only added to her beauty.

Mayor Harold Burnham arrived in a big black car, followed by city officials, most of whom walked the short distance from City Hall. Car horns blew and more cheers rose in the afternoon heat as the mayor vigorously shook Larry LaSalle's hand, embraced him fiercely and presented him with a silver key to the city.

'You are our celebration,' the mayor declared, referring to the fact that holidays were observed quietly during the war years. No bonfires or fireworks and no parades. 'Your presence in this great city of ours, Lieutenant Lawrence LaSalle, is cause enough for jubilation.' Other officials made speeches and the words sailed over our heads meaninglessly, while Larry LaSalle stood modestly before the crowd, eyes lowered. Finally, a stillness fell and he turned to the gathering. 'Thank you,' he said.

He spoke of the men and women serving in all parts of the globe who were defending freedom and how some of them gave their lives, willingly and courageously. He paused and looked down at us, his kids from the Wreck Centre.

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## Heroes –Higher Tier – part (a)

4 Answer all parts of the following question.

(a) Explore how the language in the extract influences your view of Larry LaSalle.

You **must** include examples of language features in your answer.

(16)

### Script 1 response to part (a)

#### Band 4 – 13 marks

a) In this extract, language is used to portray Larry LaSalle as a courageous hero. 'but seeing his lean hard body now I could picture him storming a hillside on Guadacanal, rifle in hand, bayonet fixed, grenades dangling from his belt, pumping bullets into the enemy.' This depicts Larry as altruistic and passionate about defending his country, as he is determined to defeat the enemy, and has faced so much danger to do so. He is also shown to be loved and admired, almost as a paternal figure, 'we surrounded him, crowding him, embracing him, getting as close to him as possible.' This use of a list of three, as well as the repetition of the word him, emphasizes the significance of his return to these children, and how much they love and admire him. Cormier also uses onomatopoeia

language to describe Lasalle's interaction with Nicole, which acts as a foresight as to what Larry will later do. 'His eyes moved to Nicole and I saw the rush of affection on his face... he dipped his head in return, his eyes full of her.' This use of emotive language such as 'a rush of affection,' shows ~~that~~ ~~the~~ a glimpse of Larry's feelings towards Nicole, and influences the reader to believe that Larry is not as heroic as the rest of the extract ~~shows~~ portrays him to be. This is then followed by a ~~comment~~ ~~by~~ ~~Francis~~ somewhat naive comment by Francis, 'A blush ~~on~~ turned her cheeks crimson and only added to her beauty.' This reminds the reader of Francis' love for Nicole, and distracts the reader from the sadder truth, which was referred to only briefly ~~in~~ ~~the~~ 'I remembered how hard it had been to think of him as a fighting marine when he announced his enlistment, but seeing his lean hard body now I could picture him...' This influences the reader ~~to~~ to believe that

Lasalle has changed, and symbolises his ~~transformation~~ transformation into somebody capable of killing. This is ~~initiated~~ <sup>in the novel, it is revealed as</sup> initiated by the fact that he is now capable of committing rape.

#### Examiner summary:

The candidate's comments on the portrayal of Larry La Salle are assured and the language examples are pertinent. The candidate makes a wide range of points and shows an assured understanding of the text and the writer's ideas.

#### Band this response achieves in the mark scheme:

4	10-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assured understanding of the text</li> <li>Assured understanding of the writer's ideas</li> <li>Assured understanding of how the writer uses language</li> <li>Pertinent reference to the extract to support response.</li> </ul>
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**To move up to the next band:** This response needs to use more detailed and perceptive points about Larry La Salle and support these with discriminating references to the extract.

## Heroes – Higher Tier – part (b)

(b) In this extract Larry LaSalle is described as a hero.

Explore **one other** part of the novel in which a character is seen as a hero.

You **must** use examples of the language the writer uses to support your ideas.

(24)

### Script 1 response to part (b)

#### Band 5– 21 marks

b) Another <sup>extract</sup> ~~part~~ in which a character is seen as a hero is in the scene ~~in~~ in which Francis and the Veterans are in St Jude's club. In this ~~part~~ extract, Connie explores the different views of ~~the~~ ~~text~~ ~~the~~ heroism. Larry is again seen as a hero, by most of the men in the bar. "To Larry LaSalle," he calls out, "the patron saint of the Wreck Centre." This toast from Arthur Rivier shows the respect that the men have for LaSalle, not only for his deeds in the war, but his commitment to the children of the Wreck Centre. It shows that Larry was seen as a hero by those who knew him, even before the war. Connie uses an emotive metaphor, 'patron saint', to describe how important LaSalle ~~was~~ was to them.



Another example of language used to show the views <sup>towards</sup> Lasalle is the emotive adjectives used to describe the Strangler's voice when talking about Lasalle. 'His old voice was suddenly formal and dignified.' This shows the effect that Lasalle's 'heroism' has had on The Strangler, in that he feels passionate about his pride of Lasalle. This is also shown when The Strangler, who rarely drinks, joins in with the toast to celebrate Lasalle's heroism. This profound pride felt by the Strangler represents the close-knit town's feelings towards War and its heroes. In this extract, Cormier also uses ~~emotive~~ ~~adjectives~~ a stark contrast in language to describe Francis' feelings towards Heroism. He uses gentle and subtle imperatives such as 'Don't make a fuss, Arthur' to show that he ~~is~~ determined to keep his identity a secret, but still has respect for Arthur. ~~Francis~~ Francis also says 'I look away from the admiration in his eyes.' This is highly emotive, and shows that

Francis does not believe that he is a hero. This is significant because it shows he is deeply ~~ashamed~~ ashamed and cannot stand to be seen as something he is not.

**Examiner summary:**

*The choice of the meeting in the St Jude's Club enables the candidate to explore different perspectives on heroism and show perceptive understanding of the text. The discriminating examples are well used, and there is perceptive word level analysis.*

**Band this response achieves in the mark scheme:**

5	20-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perceptive understanding of the text</li><li>• Perceptive understanding of the writer's ideas</li><li>• Perceptive understanding of how the writer uses language</li><li>• Discriminating reference to the extract to support response.</li></ul>
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**To move up the band:** This response is close to maximum marks; it would benefit from a closer focus on how the writer uses language in the chosen extract.