

Sample N Q7

Through out this novel Anita Rutter affects Meena in a lot of different ways, she takes Meena to Mr. Ormerod's shop and gets her to steal sweets, which she would of never thought of doing if it wasn't for Anita persuading her, also she gets Meena into using slang and swear words, she Anita tells Meena its gross that her family eat with their hands. Meena also sneaks out of the house to go and see Anita.

It even affects Meena when

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there becomes a relationship between Sam Lowbridge and Anita, when their relationship occurs, Anita stops needing Meena and turns against her, she starts to send ~~notes to Meena~~ abusive, nasty notes to Meena where as Sam sends her notes saying stuff like 'nice tits'. \*

The reason Meena was drawn to Anita in the first place is because Anita is so, very different from her. Meena comes from a large Asian family, who like to invite their other Asian friends and family for dinner and to have Asian-style parties. Both of Meena's parents have good jobs, They're still married and they still show they love each other and they care about Meena and her future by pushing her to study for her 11+ so she can pass and get in to a better

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school. Where as on the other hand, Anita's family is quite the opposite, Anita comes from a small family in Tellington. They never have anyone over to their house, her parents don't really socialise, not much is said about Anita's father but we know her mother doesn't have a job, even though Anita's parents are still married and living together, it is known that they don't get along and eventually near the end of the novel we are told that Deirdre Rutter, Anita's mother has been having an affair and has run off with the butcher leaving her husband and two children, Anita and Tracy, behind, which shows us that she doesn't really care about her children, or anyone else.

\* Meena tries to confront Sam about being racist and wants to know why he says nasty stuff

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she ask him stuff like 'Those things you said at the Spring fête, what were you trying to do?' with which Sam replies 'I wanted to make people listen' Meena then answers saying 'You wanted to hurt people, you mean'. How could you say it, in front of me? my dad? to anyone? How can you believe that shit?' Sam then quotes 'When I said them, I never meant you Meena'. It was all the others not you'. which Meena then replies to with a great come-back of 'I am the others, Sam, You did mean me' After this incident Sam tries to apologise to Meena and ends up kissing her, which Anita is not to pleased about and it starts a fight, ending with Tracey in the water.

Near the middle of the novel Meena realises that she can relate to fat Sally. Syal writes, 'I saw papa chatting to a

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woman, who I presumed was Fat Sally's mother, as Fat Sally herself hovered nearby finishing off the crust of a large bakewell slice'... 'she ate like she wanted to choke herself, without pleasure or pride, not even seeming to taste the food, but cramming it into her mouth, willing it to disappear.'... 'Fat Sally who cleaned around her mouth with furtive swipes. I had not liked Fat Sally up until this point, but I knew what it was like to live inside a body you did not feel was yours'.

1 At the start of the novel Meena looks up to Anita and inspires to be like her in every way but at the end of the novel she realises that actually Anita isn't that nice and in fact she doesn't want to be like her and doesn't want to be her friend.

**TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 40 MARKS**  
**TOTAL FOR PAPER = 80 MARKS**