

QUESTION 28 – SCORING RUBRIC – CRITICAL LENS

QUALITY	6	5	4	3	2	1
	Responses at this level:	Responses at this level:	Responses at this level:	Responses at this level:	Responses at this level:	Responses at this level:
Meaning: the extent to which the response exhibits sound understanding, interpretation, and analysis of the task and text(s)	-provide an interpretation of the "critical lens" that is faithful to the complexity of the statement and clearly establishes the criteria for analysis -use the criteria to make insightful analysis of the chosen texts	-provide a thoughtful interpretation of the "critical lens" that clearly establishes the criteria for analysis -use the criteria to make a clear and reasoned analysis of the chosen texts	-provide a reasonable interpretation of the "critical lens" that establishes the criteria for analysis -make implicit connections between criteria and the chosen texts	-provide a simple interpretation of the "critical lens" that suggests some criteria for analysis -make superficial connections between the criteria and the chosen texts	-provide a confused or incomplete interpretation of the "critical lens" -may allude to the "critical lens" but do not use it to analyze the chosen texts	-do not refer to the "critical lens" -reflect minimal or no analysis of the chosen texts
Development: the extent to which ideas are elaborated using specific and relevant evidence from the text(s)	-develop ideas clearly and fully, making effective use of a wide range of relevant and specific evidence and appropriate literary elements from both texts	-develop ideas clearly and consistently, with reference to relevant and specific evidence and appropriate literary elements from both texts	-develop some ideas more fully than others, with reference to specific and relevant evidence and appropriate literary elements from both texts	-develop ideas briefly, using some evidence from the text -may rely primarily on plot summary	-are incomplete or largely undeveloped, hinting at ideas, but references to the text are vague, irrelevant, repetitive, or unjustified	-are minimal, with no evidence of development
Organization: the extent to which the response exhibits direction, shape, and coherence	-maintain the focus established by the critical lens -exhibit a logical and coherent structure through skillful use of appropriate devices and transitions	-maintain the focus established by the critical lens -exhibit a logical sequence of ideas through use of appropriate devices and transitions	-maintain a clear and appropriate focus -exhibit a logical sequence of ideas but may lack internal consistency	-establish, but fail to maintain, an appropriate focus -exhibit a rudimentary structure but may include some inconsistencies or irrelevancies	-lack an appropriate focus but suggest some organization, or suggest a focus but lack organization	-show no focus or organization
Language Use: the extent to which the response reveals an awareness of audience and purpose through effective use of words, sentence structure, and sentence variety	-are stylistically sophisticated, using language that is precise and engaging, with a notable sense of voice and awareness of audience and purpose -vary structure and length of sentences to enhance meaning	-use language that is fluent and original, with evident awareness of audience and purpose -vary structure and length of sentences to control rhythm and pacing	-use appropriate language, with some awareness of audience and purpose -occasionally make effective use of sentence structure or length	-rely on basic vocabulary, with little awareness of audience or purpose -exhibit some attempt to vary sentence structure or length for effect, but with uneven success	-use language that is imprecise or unsuitable for the audience or purpose -reveal little awareness of how to use sentences to achieve an effect	-are minimal -use language that is incoherent or inappropriate
Conventions: the extent to which the response exhibits conventional spelling, punctuation, paragraphing, capitalization, grammar, and usage	-demonstrate control of the conventions with essentially no errors, even with sophisticated language	-demonstrate control of the conventions, exhibiting occasional errors only when using sophisticated language	-demonstrate partial control, exhibiting occasional errors that do not hinder comprehension	-demonstrate emerging control, exhibiting occasional errors that hinder comprehension	-demonstrate a lack of control, exhibiting frequent errors that make comprehension difficult	-are minimal, making assessment of conventions unreliable -may be illegible or not recognizable as English

- If the student addresses only one text, the response can be scored no higher than a 3.
- If the student writes only a personal response and makes no reference to the text(s), the response can be scored no higher than a 1.
- Responses totally unrelated to the topic, illegible, incoherent, or blank should be given a 0.
- A response totally copied from the text(s) with no original student writing should be scored a 0.

Laura Fermi once proclaimed that ignorance is never better than knowledge," no doubt meaning that ignorance is not bliss. Indeed, this implies that learning the truth about the world and its inhabitants is superior to remaining ignorant and sheltered from the real world. Two works that demonstrate the supremacy of knowledge over ignorance would be The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain and Candide by Voltaire. Truly, they illustrate knowledge's power over ignorance.

In Twain's Huck Finn, the protagonist, Huck, runs away from his abusive father. He is joined shortly by an escaped slave named Jim. Huck is but a boy, ignorant of the world and free of the racist prejudices that plague both Southern and Northern society. Throughout Jim and Huck's journey on the Mississippi River, Huck's eyes are pried open to the racist South and its pretensions. At one point, Jim must dress as an Arab to avoid getting caught by slave catchers, constantly lying low to avoid the peculiar institution of slavery. Huck, observing Jim's constant struggle and the dominance of whites in the South, gains knowledge of the true nature of his 19th Century world. Upon realizing the dangers and prejudices that face Jim, Huck

decided not to leave Jim, to avoid getting in a world of trouble, but instead decided to befriend Jim. Nuck's knowledge triumphed over his previous ignorance when he decided to do anything for his friend and accept any fate that befell him. He even resigned himself to eternal damnation if that's what the price of Jim's friendship would be. Therefore, we may understand the true and real superiority of knowledge over ignorance, as knowledge is what sets people free from prejudice in all forms, as it did for Nuck. Nuck was purged, not only of his innocence, but likewise of the values society began to embed in him. This knowledge truly changed his character and his life.

The second book that evidences knowledge's supremacy is Candide by Voltaire. Candide is a young boy, unaware of the troubles and hardships occurring outside the Baron's castle. Upon getting kicked out of the castle for courting the Baron's daughter Cunegonde, Candide is exposed to the real world. Armed only with the ignorant and resigning philosophy, "All for the best in the best of all possible worlds," Candide gets out to discover the world. Candide endures hardship after hardship, each

one leading to his loss of faith in his optimistic philosophy. Adversities, such as the Lisbon Earthquake and the Inquisition, finally give him knowledge of the world in its natural and quintessential form. This knowledge leads to his ~~to~~ new philosophy of self-sustainment and self-fulfillment. Candide discovers happiness because of the knowledge he gained in his tumultuous journey. Deciding simply to "cultiver le jardin," (cultivate the garden), Candide employs his newfound knowledge. Had Candide remained ignorant, he would have never found happiness. Therefore, it may be deduced that knowledge is superior to ignorance, as it often begets happiness and new philosophy.

Unfortunately, ignorance surrounds us. Truly, Laura Fermi asserts the superiority of knowledge to ignorance, as knowledge begets happiness and discovery of the true world. Candide and Huck Finn undoubtedly demonstrate the truth of this quote, as each protagonist discovered the nature of their worlds, and subsequently how to cope. Thus, we may see the benefits of knowledge.

Anchor Level 6 – A

Quality	Commentary
Meaning	<p>The response: Provides an interpretation of the critical lens that is faithful to the complexity of the statement and clearly establishes the criteria for analysis (<i>learning the truth about the world and its inhabitants is superior to remaining ignorant and sheltered from the real world</i>). The response uses the criteria to make insightful analysis of <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> (<i>we may understand the true and real superiority of knowledge over ignorance, as knowledge is what sets people free from prejudice ... as it did for Huck</i>) and <i>Candide</i> (<i>Candide discovers happiness because of the knowledge he gained in his tumultuous journey</i>).</p>
Development	<p>Develops ideas clearly and fully, making effective use of a wide range of relevant and specific evidence in both <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> (<i>Throughout Jim and Huck’s journey on the Mississippi River, Huck’s eyes are pried open to the racist South and its pretensions</i>) and <i>Candide</i> (<i>Adversities, such as the Lisbon Earthquake and the Inquisition, finally give him knowledge of the world in its natural and quintessential form</i>) to support the value of truth. The response uses the appropriate literary elements of setting (<i>the South ... 19th Century world</i>) in <i>Huckleberry Finn</i> and of characterization and internal conflict in both texts (<i>he decided to do anything for his friend and accept any fate that befell him</i> and <i>Candide endures hardship after hardship, each one leading to his loss of faith in his optimistic philosophy</i>).</p>
Organization	<p>Maintains the focus established by the critical lens on the <i>superiority of knowledge to ignorance, as knowledge begets happiness and discovery of the true world</i>. The response exhibits a logical and coherent structure, first interpreting and agreeing with the lens, then presenting information demonstrating how both Huck and Candide were changed for the better after experiencing the adverse realities of the world, and concluding with a paragraph that reinforces agreement with the lens. Coherence is strengthened through the skillful use of transitions (<i>At one point, Upon realizing the dangers, Had Candide remained</i>).</p>
Language Use	<p>Is stylistically sophisticated, using language that is precise and engaging (<i>He even resigns himself to eternal damnation</i>), with a notable sense of voice and awareness of audience and purpose (<i>Huck was purged not only of his innocence, but likewise of the values society began to embed in him</i>). The response varies structure and length of sentences to enhance meaning (<i>Huck is but a boy, ignorant of the world and free of the racist prejudices that plague both Southern and Northern society</i>).</p>
Conventions	<p>Demonstrates control of the conventions with essentially no errors, even with sophisticated language.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Overall, the response best fits the criteria for Level 6 in all qualities.</p>	

It has been said by Laura Fermi that "ignorance is never better than knowledge." There are many, however, who would argue that ignorance is bliss, feeling that the less one knows about the world, the more likely that person is to remain content. This argument further poses the question that while greater exposure to the world and its ways does lead to greater knowledge, is this knowledge truly for the better? Sadly, oftentimes, such knowledge may only lead to pain and disillusionment. This theme is evident in both The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald and in The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway.

For example, one of the major themes of Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby focuses on the dissatisfaction and profound unhappiness that the narrator Nick Carraway feels as he becomes aware of the corruption inherent in the 1920's society of East Egg. The knowledge and experiences that Nick Carraway encounters did not enrich his life, but instead left him disgusted and disillusioned. This is evidenced by Nick's move back to the Mid-West at the end of the novel after Gatsby's death. Gatsby's death, which results from the selfishness and self-preservational instincts of the rich and elite, serves as a symbol of Nick's loss of innocence. Tom's adultery with Myrtle precipitates the murder of Gatsby at the end, and Daisy's inherent selfishness is what dooms Gatsby. ~~to the end~~ As a result of "knowledge", Nick is left feeling bereft in a materialistic and uncaring world, as well as ultimately disillusioned about the power of human kindness and love, exemplified by Gatsby's death,

and even the failure of his own relationship with Jordan Baker.

Similarly, Jake Barnes, the narrator of The Sun Also Rises, is left worse after his experiences (a form of "Knowledge"). This is clearly demonstrated by the tone that permeates throughout the novel. The short, clipped and detached dialogue lend to the tone of disillusionment, as well as the numerous impassive references to drinking, which ultimately is shown as alcoholism on the parts of all the characters who are trying to forget their various experiences during the war. For example, Jake drinks to dull the pain that he feels after serving and being wounded in the war, and his love interest Brett is consistently in a drunken stupor over how his ^{situation} has affected their relationship. The relationships that exist throughout the novel are all shallow and ultimately unsatisfying as towards the end, all the characters are shown to be incapable of forming meaningful relationships. This idea is encapsulated in the ending scene, as the narrator and Brett are shown in a futile and repeating cycle of failed attempts to forge a true connection with each other and as Brett acknowledges the futility of their feelings for one another.

Both The Great Gatsby and The Sun Also Rises illustrate the devastating effect that the loss of innocence has on the characters. The "Knowledge" that both narrators, Nick and Jake, gain only serves to burden them both with the toll of emotional and spiritual emptiness, diminishing their inner lives rather than enriching them.

Anchor Level 6 – B

Quality	Commentary
Meaning	<p>The response:</p> <p>Provides an interpretation of the critical lens that is faithful to the complexity of the statement and clearly establishes the criteria for analysis by disagreeing with it (<i>Sadly, oftentimes, such knowledge may only lead to pain and disillusionment</i>). The response uses the criteria to make an insightful analysis of <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (<i>one of the major themes ... focuses on the dissatisfaction and profound unhappiness that the narrator Nick Carraway feels as he becomes aware of the corruption inherent in the 1920's society of East Egg</i>) and <i>The Sun Also Rises</i> (<i>Similarly, Jake Barnes ... is left worse after his experiences</i>).</p>
Development	<p>Develops ideas clearly and fully, making effective use of a wide range of relevant and specific evidence from both texts to support a discussion of knowledge leading to pain in <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (<i>Nick is left feeling bereft in a materialistic and uncaring world ... exemplified by Gatsby's death, and even the failure of his own relationship with Jordan Baker</i>) and in <i>The Sun Also Rises</i> (<i>Jake drinks to dull the pain that he feels after serving and being wounded in the war</i>). The response uses appropriate literary elements, discussing theme, setting, and symbolism in <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (<i>1920's ... East Egg and Gatsby's death ... serves as a symbol</i>) and tone and dialogue in <i>The Sun Also Rises</i> (<i>The short, clipped and detached dialogue lend to the tone of disillusionment</i>).</p>
Organization	<p>Maintains the focus established by the critical lens (<i>The "knowledge" that both narrators, Nick and Jake, gain only serves to burden them ... diminishing their inner lives rather than enriching them</i>). The response exhibits a logical and coherent structure, first interpreting and disagreeing with the lens, then presenting situations faced by both Nick and Jake that make them aware of the harsher realities of the world and how this left them disillusioned, and concluding with a paraphrase of the original refutation of the lens. Transitions are skillfully used (<i>This is evidenced</i> and <i>This idea is encapsulated</i>).</p>
Language Use	<p>Is stylistically sophisticated, using language that is precise and engaging (<i>the selfishness and self-preservation instincts of the rich and elite</i>), with a notable sense of voice (<i>a futile and repeating cycle of failed attempts to forge a true connection</i>) and awareness of audience and purpose (<i>Both ... illustrate the devastating effect that the loss of innocence has on the characters</i>). The response varies structure and length of sentences to enhance meaning (<i>Tom's adultery with Myrtle precipitates the murder of Gatsby at the end, and Daisy's inherent selfishness is what dooms Gatsby</i>).</p>
Conventions	<p>Demonstrates control of the conventions, exhibiting occasional errors in spelling (<i>arguement, truly, adultery</i>) only when using sophisticated language.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Overall, the response best fits the criteria for Level 6, although it is somewhat weaker in conventions.</p>	

Laura Fermi once said, "... ignorance is never better than knowledge." This quote means that it is better for someone to know the facts than to go on without knowing the truth. This is true because people can not live believing in lies when everyone else knows the truth. It is better for people to have knowledge because this permits them to understand and to eventually move on.

Knowledge allows people to know the truth, while ignorance has people avoiding it, which most likely will produce a negative outcome. Two pieces of literature that illustrate the quote are Mitch Albom's The Five People You Meet in Heaven and Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven clearly demonstrates the quote. The author's use of characterization shows how the main character, Eddie, comes to understand why his life is important and why he has to realize that fact. First, Eddie meets the Blue Man, who teaches him that everyone is connected. The other characters Eddie meets – Captain, Reebop, Tala and Marguerite – all help Eddie to realize that his life did matter. Eddie, an 80 year old with a bad leg and arthritis, thought his life was meaningless because he did nothing

important. He went through life feeling bitter and angry, but once he learned the truth about the little parts in his life, he realized that he indeed was important. This proves that ignorance is ^{not} better than knowledge because now Eddie can rest in peace, knowing his life was not futile. Conflict was important in this book as well, because Eddie was angry with himself for never leaving Ruby Pier. As the book progressed, he realized that he was needed there. He saved children, but did not realize it until Tara had him cleanse her, thus cleansing and forgiving himself. This book clearly proves the quote's truth because Eddie was always bitter since he never knew the real truth. He went through life upset and depressed when all along he did not know what he did not see. This example demonstrates that knowledge allows people to understand the full picture and to realize their mistakes.

To Kill a Mockingbird also clearly demonstrates the quote. The character, Boo Radley, was misunderstood and thought to be bad. People avoided his house and spread rumors about him. After saving Tom ^{from} harm, Boo is seen for who he really is. In reality, Boo is a good person whose image had been tarnished by lies. Boo is seen as the hero by the book's end and is shown to be friendly and misunderstood.

The book's characters shape the idea that "ignorance is never better than knowledge." Knowledge is truth and is needed, even though it can hurt. The theme that people should never "judge a book by its cover" illustrates the quote because ignorance conceals knowledge, and does not allow one to access the truth. The theme is developed by the plot and the characters, ^{being} ~~the~~ the character who tells his children that one can not judge another based on appearance and stories. This realization proves the quote true because everyone thought Bow was bad, but saw him as a better person after the truth emerged.

Laura Fermis' statement that "... ignorance is never better than knowledge" is true because knowing the truth is always better than believing in a lie. The Five People You Meet in Heaven and To Kill a Mockingbird both demonstrate that learning the truth benefits everyone. People can not go on believing lies and can not remain ignorant either. Truth and knowledge have to be learned so that people can move on in their lives.

Anchor Level 5 – A

Quality	Commentary
Meaning	<p>The response:</p> <p>Provides a thoughtful interpretation of the critical lens that clearly establishes the criteria for analysis (<i>This quote means that it is better for someone to know the facts than to go on without knowing the truth</i>). The response uses the criteria to make a clear and reasoned analysis of <i>The Five People You Meet in Heaven</i> by Mitch Albom (<i>He went through life feeling bitter and angry, but once he learned the truth ... he realized that he indeed was important</i>) and of <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee (<i>This realization proves the quote true because everyone thought Boo was bad, but saw him as a better person after the truth emerged</i>).</p>
Development	<p>Develops ideas clearly and consistently, with reference to relevant and specific evidence from <i>The Five People You Meet in Heaven</i> (<i>He saved children, but did not realize it until Tara had him cleanse her</i>) and <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> (<i>People avoided his house and spread rumors about him. After saving Jem from harm, Boo is seen for who he really is</i>) to show how it is better for people to have knowledge. The use of characterization and conflict is integrated into the discussion of both texts, explaining how Eddie comes to understand why his life is important and how he was angry with himself and describing how Boo is a good person whose image had been tarnished by lies, but who is shown to be friendly and misunderstood.</p>
Organization	<p>Maintains the focus established by the critical lens on the importance of <i>knowing the truth is always better than believing in a lie</i>. The response exhibits a logical sequence of ideas, opening with the interpretation of the lens, then presenting information from each work to document the movement from ignorance to knowledge as Eddie overcame his bitterness and came to understand the full picture and <i>Boo is seen as the hero by the book's end</i>, and concluding with a refocus on the lens (<i>learning the truth benefits everyone</i>). The response uses appropriate devices and transitions (<i>First, Conflict was important in this book as well. As the book progressed</i>).</p>
Language Use	<p>Uses language that is fluent and original (<i>The book's characters shape the idea and ignorance conceals knowledge, and does not allow one to access the truth</i>), with evident awareness of audience and purpose (<i>This is true because people can not live believing in lies</i>). The response varies structure and length of sentences to control rhythm and pacing (<i>Knowledge allows people to know the truth, while ignorance has people avoiding it, which most likely will produce a negative outcome</i>).</p>
Conventions	<p>Demonstrates control of the conventions with essentially no errors, even with sophisticated language.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Overall, the response best fits the criteria for Level 5, although it is somewhat stronger in conventions.</p>	

"Ignorance is never better than knowledge," according to Laura Fermi. When individuals lack essential knowledge in this world, they cannot live to their fullest potential. Such people may make poor judgments about themselves or others. In The Color Purple, by Alice Walker, Celie's limited knowledge of the world makes her unable to achieve her fullest potential, while in Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter, Hester Prynne is limited by the scrutiny of her ignorant community. Characterization is effectively used in each novel to illustrate Fermi's idea.

In The Color Purple, we see an example of a character whose own ignorance limits her potential. The protagonist, Celie, is characterized as a woman raised in a stereotypical southern setting in the first half of the 1900's. She has been abused by both her stepfather, Pa, and her husband Mr. _____ Although her sister Nettie had the opportunity to escape, Celie has been trapped. Throughout Celie's life, she never questioned the way she was treated. Eventually, she makes a friend of Shug, a strong, independent woman, who acts as a mentor for Celie. ^{women} Septie another aggressive and outspoken ^{women} who knows exactly how to control men, also becomes a mentor for Celie. Both women exemplify self respect but at first Celie does not believe that she deserves a better husband or better treatment. However, these mentors break through Celie's ignorance and lack of feminist beliefs. Celie is able to change her negative environment and move to Memphis. There she finds her true talents

and opens up a sewing shop. She starts to make her own money and buys her own house. Eventually, after obtaining proper beliefs about her own existence, Celie gains more respect from men and is able to live to her fullest potential.

The main character in The Scarlet Letter, Hester Prynne, is ostracized by the townspeople because she committed the sin of adultery. During this Puritan time period, people believed this was one of the worst sins. In response to her conviction, she is forced to wear a red "A" on her chest. She does not want to leave this town when given a choice, and decides to stay. At first, when she and her daughter, Pearl, walk around town, people stare and point her out for ridicule. She lives in a small house away from the town, but decides to work toward a better life by helping other people. She creates a life for herself by sewing, but she also takes care of the sick and practices humility. Eventually, Hester starts to gain respect from the townspeople for her charity and character. Once the townspeople start to understand her true character they can appreciate having such a generous, kind woman in their town. This new knowledge helped them overcome their prejudice.

In conclusion, The Color Purple and The Scarlet Letter exemplify why ignorance is never better than knowledge. While Celie's eventual self-knowledge helps her to escape an unhappy life, the townspeople's new knowledge helps Hester Prynne gain acceptance.

Anchor Level 5 – B

Quality	Commentary
Meaning	<p>The response:</p> <p>Provides a thoughtful interpretation of the critical lens that clearly establishes the criteria for analysis (<i>When individuals lack essential knowledge in this world, they cannot live to their fullest potential</i>). The response uses the criteria to make a clear and reasoned analysis of <i>The Color Purple</i> (<i>Eventually, after obtaining proper beliefs about her own existence, Celie ... is able to live to her fullest potential</i>) and <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> (<i>This new knowledge helped them overcome their prejudice</i>).</p>
Development	<p>Develops ideas clearly and consistently, with reference to relevant and specific evidence in both <i>The Color Purple</i> (<i>However, these mentors break through Celie’s ignorance and ... Celie is able to change ... and move to Memphis ... and opens up a sewing shop</i>) and <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> (<i>Eventually, Hester starts to gain respect from the townspeople for her charity and character</i>). The response incorporates the literary elements of setting (<i>a stereotypical southern setting in the first half of the 1900’s and this Puritan time period</i>) and character (<i>She never questioned and she ... practices humility</i>) into the discussion of both texts.</p>
Organization	<p>Maintains the focus established by the critical lens on <i>why ignorance is never better than knowledge</i>. The response exhibits a logical sequence of ideas, moving from an interpretation of the critical lens to explanations of how both Celie and Hester Prynne worked to overcome ignorance to achieve their goals, and concluding with a summation. Appropriate transitions are used (<i>However, In response to her conviction, This new knowledge</i>).</p>
Language Use	<p>Uses language that is fluent and original (<i>limited by the scrutiny of her ignorant community</i>), with evident awareness of audience and purpose (<i>we see an example of a character</i>). The response varies structure and length of sentences to control rhythm and pacing (<i>Although her sister Nettie had the opportunity to escape, Celie has been trapped</i>).</p>
Conventions	<p>Demonstrates control of the conventions, exhibiting occasional errors in spelling (<i>aggressive</i> and <i>enviroment</i>) and punctuation (<i>Sophie another</i> and <i>self respect but</i>) only when using sophisticated language.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Overall, the response best fits the criteria for Level 5 in all qualities.</p>	

"Ignorance is never better than knowledge" is true in many different cases. I think this quote means that even though it is easier to ignore the truth, having a full understanding is often critical. Two literary examples that support my interpretation of the lens are found in The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald and The Tragedy of Othello by William Shakespeare. The characterization of Tom Buchanan in The Great Gatsby and the theme of Othello both provide evidence that this assertion is valid.

Tom is a direct example of the statement's veracity. His ignorance throughout the novel led to a strain on his marriage and later to tragedy. He was unaware of the affair between Daisy and Gatsby, and was initially unable to discern the relationship between the two. This caused him to become overconfident about Daisy's fidelity and allow Daisy and Gatsby to ride in a car alone together. This move only strengthened the love shared by Daisy and Gatsby. When Daisy accidentally caused the death of Myrtle, Tom's lover Tom blamed Gatsby for it without attempting to find out the truth. He then told Myrtle's distraught husband that Gatsby was responsible for her death, who then, in another display of ignorance, killed Gatsby.

Clearly, ignorance can sometimes be dangerous. Another example of ignorance leading to the downfall of many characters can be found in Othello. The theme of this play is that trusting someone without attempting to find the real facts behind a situation can be tragic. This lack of knowledge led to the downfall of the

protagonist and his wife. Firstly, Iago was easily able to convince Cassio, who was second in command under Othello, that Cassio could ask Desdemona to intercede with Othello. Desdemona's ignorance of Iago's jealousy of Othello on his behalf led to her acceptance of this plan. Othello displayed an equal amount of ignorance when he, under the suggestion of Iago, started to doubt his dotting wife and suspected that she was cheating on him with Cassio. Her inability to recognize his anger with her was tied directly to her inability to stop Othello from murdering her. After this tragedy, another one followed when Othello also took his own life out of guilt.

The ignorance present in Fitzgerald's novel and Shakespeare's play clearly indicated that these disasters could have easily been prevented if the characters were more knowledgeable about their current situations. Instead, they chose to ignorantly believe what apparently seemed true to them without prying further. Therefore, even though ignorance can be blissful, it is always safer to have a full understanding of the world around you.

Anchor Level 5 – C

Quality	Commentary
Meaning	<p>The response: Provides a thoughtful interpretation of the critical lens that clearly establishes the criteria for analysis (<i>this quote means that even though it is easier to ignore the truth, having a full understanding is often critical</i>). The response uses the criteria to make a clear and reasoned analysis of Fitzgerald’s <i>The Great Gatsby</i> (<i>His ignorance throughout the novel led to a strain on his marriage and later to tragedy</i>) and <i>Othello</i> (<i>This lack of knowledge led to the downfall of the protagonist and his wife</i>).</p>
Development	<p>Develops some ideas more fully than others. The response uses specific and relevant evidence from <i>Othello</i> (<i>Desdemona’s ignorance of Iago’s jealousy ... led to her acceptance of this plan</i>) and includes references to theme in the discussion (<i>trusting someone without attempting to find the real facts ... can be tragic</i>). The discussion of <i>The Great Gatsby</i> is less accurately developed (<i>He was unaware of the affair between Daisy and Gatsby causing Tom to become overconfident about Daisy’s fidelity</i>) and <i>the characterization of Tom Buchanan</i> is mainly inferred.</p>
Organization	<p>Maintains the focus established by the critical lens (<i>it is always safer to have a full understanding of the world around you</i>). The response exhibits a logical sequence of ideas, first interpreting the lens, then presenting information from each work to show the consequences of ignoring the truth, and ending with a conclusion that refocuses on the interpretation of the lens (<i>disasters could have easily been prevented if the characters were more knowledgeable</i>). The response uses appropriate transitions (<i>Another example, Instead, Therefore</i>).</p>
Language Use	<p>Uses language that is fluent and original (<i>provide evidence that this assertion is valid and started to doubt his doting wife</i>), with evident awareness of audience and purpose. The response varies structure and length of sentences to control rhythm and pacing (<i>Clearly, ignorance can sometimes be dangerous</i>).</p>
Conventions	<p>Demonstrates control of the conventions, exhibiting occasional errors in spelling (<i>veracity, discern, distraugt</i>) only when using sophisticated language.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Overall, the response best fits the criteria for Level 5, although it is somewhat weaker in development.</p>	

Laura Fermi once said "ignorance is better than knowledge." This quote means it is better to know ^{and accept} the complete truth of a situation ~~rather~~ rather than acting on ignorant understandings alone. I agree with this quote. Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller and Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck both prove this quote true because the characters act on ignorance and end up getting hurt.

In John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men, Curly is characterized as stubborn and short tempered. He only acts with his own interest at heart. Because Curly is self centered and only wants to make himself look good, he ends up ~~forcing~~ forcing a woman, who has no interest in him, to marry him. She is stuck on a farm with no friends and no one to talk to. Curly's ignorance of his wife's loneliness leads him to believe that what he has done is perfectly acceptable. Curly's wife finds herself so desperate for company she makes friends with migrant workers. When Lennie accidentally kills Curly's wife, Curly acts enraged. Although Curly is upset he never truly considers the reasons behind why the event occurs. He never wonders why his wife was with Lennie. The reality of this situation is that Curly's ~~wife~~ wife ^{was} lonely and desperate for any form of company. If Curly had bothered to learn this information he would've spent more time with his wife. He would've at least considered moving somewhere she would be happy. Instead, he lets his anger and ignorance control his actions. Laura Fermi's quote is proved true because

Curly's ignorant ~~behavior~~ ^{behavior} cause his wife to take on improper behavior which ends up getting her killed.

In Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller, Willy Loman is characterized as being completely ignorant about life and everything that goes on around him. This endless ignorance and inability to accept the truth prove to be Willy's downfall when he ends up committing suicide to get money for his family. Willy's ignorance toward his ^{unmatchable} skills as a craftsman lead him to become a failure of a salesman. Rather than accepting that he cannot make a sale to anyone Willy deludes himself into believing he is the best salesman around. Willy ~~continues~~ continuously acts ~~and~~ based on ignorant beliefs, driving himself further into debt. When Willy's son, Biff, realizes and accepts reality he is able to improve himself, Willy, on the other hand, kills himself rather than tries to start over.

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller and Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck clearly exemplify Laura Fermi's idea that "ignorance is better than knowledge." One should always know and understand the whole truth before acting recklessly.

Anchor Level 4 – A

Quality	Commentary
Meaning	<p>The response: Provides a thoughtful interpretation of the critical lens that clearly establishes the criteria for analysis (<i>it is better to know and accept the complete truth of a situation rather than acting on ignorant understandings alone ... because the characters who act on ignorance ... end up getting hurt</i>). The response uses the criteria to make clear and reasoned connections between the interpretation and <i>Of Mice and Men</i> (<i>If Curly had bothered to learn this information he would've spent more time with his wife</i>) and <i>Death of a Salesman</i> (<i>This endless ignorance and inability to accept the truth prove to be Willy's downfall</i>).</p>
Development	<p>Develops some ideas more fully than others. The response uses specific and relevant evidence from <i>Of Mice and Men</i> to discuss Curly's characterization (<i>stubborn and short tempered, Curly's ignorance of his wife's loneliness, Curly acts enraged</i>). The discussion of Willy's character in <i>Death of a Salesman</i> is more general (<i>Willy's ignorance toward his unmatched skills as a craftsman lead him to become a failure of a salesman</i>).</p>
Organization	<p>Maintains a clear and appropriate focus on the idea that <i>one should always know and understand the whole truth before acting recklessly</i>. The response exhibits a logical sequence of ideas, first interpreting the lens, then presenting information from each work to prove the validity of the interpretation, and ending with a brief summary conclusion. The response lacks internal consistency by switching discussion from <i>Willy</i> to <i>Biff</i> near the end of paragraph 3.</p>
Language Use	<p>Uses appropriate language, with some awareness of audience and purpose (<i>Laura Fermi's quote is proved true</i>). The response occasionally makes effective use of sentence structure or length (<i>Curly's ignorance of his wife's loneliness leads him to believe that what he has done is perfectly acceptable</i>).</p>
Conventions	<p>Demonstrates partial control, exhibiting occasional errors in spelling (<i>self centered</i> and <i>desparate</i>), punctuation (<i>a woman, who ... him, to marry; although Curly is upset he; considered, moving</i>), and grammar (<i>behavior cause</i> and <i>Willy ... kills himself rather than tries</i>) that do not hinder comprehension.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Overall, the response best fits the criteria for Level 4, although it is somewhat stronger in meaning.</p>	

Laura Fermi once said, "... ignorance is never better than knowledge." This means that it is important for people to know information about things rather than to be unaware of them. I believe this quote is true as people who are ignorant fail at many things they attempt to accomplish. In Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury and A Separate Peace by John Knowles, knowledge beat ignorance every time.

In A Separate Peace by John Knowles, Phineas falls as a victim of ignorance. He chooses to be unaware of the war that is going on outside of school, and he refuses to recognize that his best friend, Gene, caused his leg injury. Phineas's characterization shows that he is a weak individual, which is heavily influenced by his lack of knowledge and his acceptance of ignorance. Eventually, Phineas's ignorance leads to his untimely death. During a meeting, he refuses to hear the truth to grasp the knowledge that is basically being handed to him, and storms out of the room falling down the stairs to his death. The theme of A Separate Peace helps to support the critical lens in the belief that ignorance will lead to the demise of an individual where knowledge will set one free.

In Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, Guy Montag's world has fallen to ~~the~~ ignorance through the censorship of books, as they are completely outlawed. ~~Montag's~~ Montag's wife Mildred is a huge victim of ignorance as upon discovering

her husband's passion for knowledge and literature, she betrays him, turning him in. Mildred's refusal ~~of~~ of knowledge only lead to the slow destruction of herself, her love, and family through her betrayal. As Montag runs from authorities, and the ignorant city, he stumbles upon "The Book People" full of knowledge. As he is welcomed into their arms, the city goes up in flames when a bomb is dropped on it. This scene symbolizes that although ignorance is bliss, without knowledge, civilizations will crumble.

"... Ignorance is never better than knowledge" is a quote that applies to many works of literature. This quotation is true in every ~~an~~ aspect of the meaning. In both Fahrenheit 451 and A Separate Peace, death was a primary result of ignorance. In contrast, knowledge was most often a cure for one's problems, even acting as a panacea. Knowledge ~~is~~ has and always will triumph over ignorance.

Anchor Level 4 – B

Quality	Commentary
Meaning	<p>The response: Provides a reasonable interpretation of the critical lens that establishes the criteria for analysis (<i>it is important for people to know information about things rather than to be unaware of them ... as people who are ignorant fail at many things they attempt to accomplish</i>). The response makes implicit connections between the criteria and <i>A Separate Peace</i> (<i>Phineas falls as a victim of ignorance</i>) and <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> (<i>Guy Montag’s world has fallen to ignorance through the censorship of books.</i>)</p>
Development	<p>Develops some ideas more fully than others. The response uses specific and relevant evidence from <i>A Separate Peace</i> to discuss <i>Phineas’s</i> characterization as a weak individual who is heavily influenced by his lack of knowledge and his acceptance of ignorance (<i>the war; his best friend, Gene; his leg injury; his untimely death</i>). The discussion of <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> is more general and relies primarily on plot summary. While appropriate literary elements of theme and symbol are mentioned, discussion is restricted to a single unintegrated statement at the end of each separate argument.</p>
Organization	<p>Maintains a clear and appropriate focus (<i>Knowledge has and always will triumph over ignorance</i>). The response exhibits a logical sequence of ideas, beginning with an interpretation of the lens, moving to textual support, and ending with a summary conclusion. The response lacks internal consistency in the discussion of <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by shifting focus from <i>Guy Montag</i>, to his wife <i>Mildred</i>, and then back to <i>Montag</i>.</p>
Language Use	<p>Uses appropriate language, with some awareness of audience and purpose (<i>“... ignorance is never better than knowledge,” is a quote that applies to many works of literature</i>). The response occasionally makes effective use of sentence structure or length (<i>Eventually, Phineas’s ignorance leads to his untimely death</i>).</p>
Conventions	<p>Demonstrates partial control, exhibiting occasional errors in punctuation (<i>true as; ignorance as; knowledge, is</i>) and grammar (<i>knowledge beat; individual, which; refusal ... lead</i>) that do not hinder comprehension.</p>
<p>Conclusion: Overall, the response best fits the criteria for Level 4 in all qualities.</p>	

Ignorance and knowledge can affect how a person views his or her life. Laura Fermi's statement, "ignorance is never better than knowledge is agreeable because a person with knowledge can fix a situation while an ignorant person can only ignore it." The Finch Family in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Tennessee Williams' ~~play~~, *The Glass Menagerie*, reveal the same idea as Laura Fermi's.

In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Atticus Finch always explains to his kids, Scout and Jem, the realities of prejudice. Scout and Jem's knowledge indirectly save them from an attack by Mr. Ewell. The kids accept Boo Radley, showing what their father has taught them so Boo decides to save them from Mr Ewell's attack.

Tom Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie*, reveals a very similar idea as Laura Fermi due to his ignorance. Wingfield is so dependant on movies that they lead him to believe movies are reality. The shows he watches protect him from the outside

world. When he finally decides to leave his family for the outside world, he learns the pain he caused them.

The Finch Family and Tom Wingfeild reveal the same idea as Laura Fermi. Knowledge positively affected the Finch Family, but ignorance negatively affected the Wingfeilds.

Anchor Level 4 – C

Quality	Commentary
	The response:
Meaning	Provides a reasonable interpretation of the critical lens that establishes the criteria for analysis (<i>a person with Knowledge can fix a situation while an ignorant person can only ignore it</i>). The response makes implicit connections between criteria and <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> (<i>The kids accept Boo Radley, showing what their father has taught them so Boo decides to save them</i>) and <i>The Glass Menagerie</i> (<i>When he finally decides to leave his family for the outside world, he learns the pain he caused them</i>).
Development	Develops ideas briefly, using some evidence from the text. Both responses rely primarily on plot summary. There is no discussion of literary elements.
Organization	Maintains a clear and appropriate focus on how <i>knowledge positively affected the Finch Family, but how ignorance negatively affected The Wingfeilds</i> . The response exhibits a logical sequence of ideas, first presenting the lens and interpreting it, then moving to a discussion of how each work supports the interpretation, and ending with a summary conclusion. Internal consistency is weakened by a lack of external transitions.
Language Use	Uses appropriate language, with some awareness of audience and purpose (<i>The Finch Family and Tom Wingfeild reveal the same idea as Laura Fermi</i>). The response occasionally makes effective use of sentence structure or length (<i>The shows he watches protect him from the outside world</i>).
Conventions	Demonstrates partial control, exhibiting occasional errors in spelling (<i>Ignorence</i> and <i>finaly</i>) and punctuation (<i>situation while, them so, Fermi due</i>) that do not hinder comprehension.
Conclusion: Overall, the response best fits the criteria for Level 4, although it is somewhat weaker in development.	