**De Aston**

**English Department**



**Year 12 GCSE: Language Paper1**

**Challenge Tasks**

**Name:**

She wasn’t tender, she wasn’t soft, she wasn’t sweetly yielding or coquettish, and she was nobody’s little woman and never would be. That had been her mother’s role, and look at the sad sack of neuroses and alcoholic dysfunction she’d become. And her father. He’d been the pasha of the living room, the sultan of the kitchen, and the emperor of the bedroom, and what had it got him? A stab in the chest, a tender liver, and two feet that might as well have been stumps. Paula Turk wasn’t born for that sort of life, with its domestic melodrama and greedy sucking babies—no, she was destined for something richer and more complex, something that would define and elevate her, something great. She wanted to compete and she wanted to win—always shining before her like some numinous icon was the glittering image of triumph.

And whenever she flagged, whenever a sniffle or the flu ate at her reserves and she hit the wall in the numbing waters of the Pacific or the devilish winds at the top of San Marcos Pass, she pushed herself through it, drove herself with an internal whip that accepted no excuses and made no allowances for the limitations of the flesh. She was twenty-eight years old and she was going to conquer the world.

On the other hand, Jason Barre, the thirty-three-year-old surf-and-dive-shop proprietor she’d been seeing pretty steadily over the past nine months, didn’t really seem to have the fire of competition in him. Both his parents were doctors (and that, as much as anything, had swayed Paula in his favor when they first met), and they’d set him up in his own business, a business that had continuously lost money since its grand opening three years ago.

When the waves were breaking, Jason would be at the beach, and when the surf was flat he’d be stationed behind the counter on his tall swivel stool, selling wax remover to bleached-out adolescents who said things like “gnarly” and “killer” in their penetrating, adenoidal tones. Jason liked to surf and he liked to breathe the cigarette haze in sports bars, a permanent sleepy-eyed, widemouthed Californian grin on his face, flip-flops on his feet, and his waist encircled by a pair of faded baggy shorts barely held in place by the gentle sag of his belly and the twin anchors of his hipbones.

**Week One:**

Q1 - Read paragraph one of the story. List four things you learn about Paula. [4 marks].

Q2 – How does the writer use language to present the main character? [8 marks]

**Week Two:**

Q3 - You now need to think about the whole of the Source.

This text is from the opening of a novel.

How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader? You could write about:

• what the writer focuses your attention on at the beginning

• how and why the writer changes this focus as the Source develops

* any other structural features that interest you. [**8** **marks]**

**Week Three:**

After reading this opening, a student observed that "The writer creates a negative impression of Jason straight away. Jason seems to be the total opposite of Paula."

 To what extent do you agree? In your response, you could:

• write about your own impressions of the characters

• evaluate how the writer has created these impressions

• support your opinions with references to the text.

**20 marks**

**Week Four:**

Write the opening of a story where someone is trapped- either literally, or mentally.

Remember to use descriptive language devices, paragraphs and SPAG.

**Week Five:**

Write the opening of a story titled ‘Everything is Broken’

Remember to use descriptive language devices, paragraphs and SPAG.

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**Week Six:**

Write the ending of a story that has the last lines: ‘The calm returned, and silence fell once again.’

Remember to use descriptive language devices, paragraphs and SPAG.

**Final challenge:**

Read as much fiction as you can. Ask your teacher for some recommendations.

Educate and inform yourself.

For more resources, including literacy support, visit www.deastonenglish.com