**Sailmaker by Alan Spence**

**Textual Analysis – Scottish Text**

**Exercise 1:**

**Examine the opening section of the play (Pages 6-8)**

1. Opening to the play: Act 1, pages 6–8, ‘Alec: Sometimes I wake up… – Alec: After the funeral…on and on and on”. In your own words summarise what happens in the opening extract. Make **at least** four key points. 4
2. Alan Spence creates a contrast in the language used by father and son. Explain how this is revealed. 4
3. With close reference to the text explain how Alan Spence uses staging to develop the mood and atmosphere of the opening to the text. 4
4. Grief is an important theme in this extract. With close reference to the rest of the play, explain how the theme of grief is explored. 8



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**Exercise 2:**

**Examine the opening scene *(‘Sometimes I remember’- rest ae ma days*’ (Pgs 6-8)**

1. In your own words, summarise the way in which Alec and Davie experience grief in this extract. Make at least four key points. 4

1. Examine page 6. Show how the writer’s language helps make this effective opening to the play. 4
2. Examine from ‘There’s just you and me son. We’ll have to make the best of it’ to the end of the extract. Show how the writer’s language clarifies the impact of grief on:
3. Alec 2
4. Davie 2
5. Alec is the central character in the play. With close reference to the rest of the play, explain how the character of Alec develops. 8



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**Exercise 3:**

**Read from page 31-32  
 *(‘Imagine really bein a fitba player – Fade lights. Two notes on mouth organ, fade)***

1. Look at Alec and Ian’s converatsion at the start of this extract. They are still young and optimistic. How does the language of these lines convey this? 2
2. Look at lines ‘*What’s the matter – Out the door’* Show how the writer’s language conveys the reactions of:
3. *Davie*
4. *Billy* 4

1. Look at *‘Bit of bad news son – Never died a winter yet’.* Explain clearly how Davie gives a different reaction when speaking to Alec. 4
2. At the beginning of this extract Alec and Ian are playing together. With close reference to the rest of the play, explain how the relationship between Alec and Ian develops.

8



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**Exercise 4:**

**Read from page 37-8 (*‘But ah…midden bin and ran’)***

1. In your own words, summarise the problem Alec faces in this extract and how he deals with it. 4

1. Alec is clearly uncomfortable in this extract. Show how the playwright’s word choice and sentence structure makes this clear. 4
2. Alec speaks mainly in English in this extract.
3. Explain fully what this tells us about his character.

b) Explain why the playwright uses the occasional Scots word in Alec’s speech in this extract.

4

1. The theme of social class is explored in this extract. Show how the theme of social class is developed here and elsewhere in the play. 8



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**Exercise 5**

**Examine pages 61-64 (end of the play)**

1. How do Davie’s words between lines 1-23 develop tone and mood in the scene? 2
2. With close reference to the text, show how the playwright reveals tension in relation to the possibility of Alec leaving home. 2
3. With reference to the passage selected, discuss the ways in which the burning of the following objects is significant:

a) Davie’s tools

b) The furniture 4

1. How does the playwright develop the dramatic impact of the burning of the yacht through structure and imagery? 4
2. Symbolism is an important technique employed throughout the play. With reference to the yacht (and any other symbolic feature) discuss the ways in which symbolism strengthens your understanding of the play as a whole. 8



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**Exercise 6:**

**Examine Pages 55-6 *(‘Look at the state ae us…God knows’)***

1. In your own words, summarise what happens in this part of the play. Make two key points. 2
2. Think about how Alec and Davie are feeling during their dialogue with one another (lines 1—19).

(a) Show how Alec’s language reflects his feelings.

(b) Although he does not say very much, Davie experiences a range of emotions during his dialogue with his son. With close reference to the text, explain what at least two of these are. 4

1. Alec is left alone at the end of this extract.

With reference to word-choice and sentence structure, explain clearly his state of mind at this stage in the play. 4

1. By referring to this extract, and to elsewhere in the play, explain how the character of Alec develops and changes as he grows older. 8



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**Exercise 7:**

**Read Page 55-56 *‘It’s no easy on your own…Ah was just passin it on’***

1. In your own words, summarise the conflict between Davie and Alec in this extract. 4
2. With close reference to the text, explain how the playwright conveys *(shows)* the character and emotions *(what they are like and how they feel)* of the two characters *(Davie and Alec)* in this extract. 4

* **Davie** is
  + A quote to support this is:
  + This shows that
* **Davie** feels
  + A quote to support this is:
  + This shows that
* Alec is
* A quote to support this is:
* This shows us that
* Alec feels
* A quote to support this is
* This shows us that

1. Comment on two examples of the playwright’s use of stage directions in this extract to convey mood and character.

4

* Ist use of stage directions is
  + This is effective as
* 2nd use of stage directions is
* This is effective as

1. This extract marks an important stage in the development of the relationship between Davie and Alec. With close reference to the text, explain how the relationships of fathers and sons is explored in the play. 8

*\*Look at the attached plan to help you answer this question*



**What is the Q asking?**

The question basically says that the extract given is very important in helping us to understand the relationship between Davie and Alec. It asks you to analyse how this is looked at throughout the play – the relationship between them.

**How to answer the Q**

1. **Show how the extract links to the Q and then find 1 other part of the play which links too. (2 marks)**

*In the extract, we can see that the relationship between Davie and Alec is*

*The relationship between Davie and Alec is also seen to be under strain in the part of the play when*

1. **Now look in detail at the extract given. How is the relationship shown to be under strain etc? Here you must complete a P**oint, **Q**uote, **E**valuation **from the pages given to you (55-56). (2 marks)**

*From the extract, it is clear that the relationship between father and son is under strain as*

*A quote to support this is:*

*This quote highlights*

1. **Now look in detail at another part of the play. How is the relationship shown to be under strain etc? Here you must complete 2 x P**oint, **Q**uote, **E**valuation **from any other part(s) of the play which highlights something about their relationship (4 marks)**

*Another part of the play which explore the relationship between Davie and Alec is when*

*A quote to support this is:*

*This quote highlights that*

*Furthermore, the relationship between Alec and Davie is also explored when*

*A quote to support this is*

*This quote highlights the*