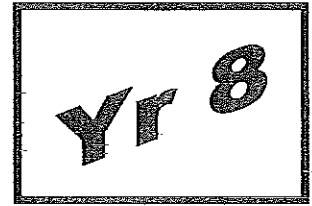


KEY STAGE 3 ASSESSMENT SHEET



Name: *Brandon Mok*.....

Unit Title:	NOVEL		
Date:			
Core Targets :			
1. To use personality adjectives to describe character.	✓		
2. To use PEA (Point, Evidence, Analysis) to structure paragraphs.	✓		

Student's Comment:

1. *The best thing about my essay is my conclusion because I feel I have managed to end my essay clearly.*

2. *One thing I still need to work on is my introduction's topic sentence, because I did not really grasp how to write it.*

I have checked my spelling, punctuation and expression. Signed.....

Teacher's Comment: *Another excellent essay. Good analysis + fluent writing.*

TARGET : *You need to... challenge yourself by writing about a range of characters.*

The Wave Essay

The Wave is generally about power, how it helps someone, how it corrupts, and eventually ruins. In The Wave by Morton Rhue, Laurie is constructed as self-reliant and resolute, and the reader is positioned to respond to her in a positive way. Mr. Ross is represented as a charismatic and self-assured teacher, showing the reader that he is the ideal person to lead the Wave. Robert is depicted as friendless and lonely, and the reader knows that he yearns to be welcomed into something special. The Wave demonstrates how drastic an effect an absolutist regime could impose on a school, forcing the reader to decide whether the experiment created an idyllic utopia, or a dreadful contingent of mindless students without individual will.

In the beginning of the novel, Laurie is depicted as a popular, diligent, straight-A student, but by the end the reader can see that she is more independent, strong-willed and caring of others; she no longer blindly follows the bandwagon. Laurie considers The Wave as a dangerous, unpredictable experiment that could yield disastrous results and virtually destroy the school. Laurie also seems to have ominous premonitions about the Wave, as "She still couldn't put into words exactly what bothered her about the Wave, but she could feel it growing inside her". This shows that Laurie treads warily around the Wave, being daunted about the possible implications that could arise as a result. When presented with the experiment in Mr. Ross' class, Laurie initially goes along with it and cooperates, actually believing it was a change for the better. But as the experiment progresses and escalates in degree, Laurie gradually begins to resist it. Using the *Gordon Grapevine* as her means to oppose the Wave, Laurie, together with the *Grapevine* staff compose an edition condemning "The Wave as a dangerous and mindless movement that suppressed freedom of speech and thought and ran against everything the country was founded on." The use of the word "suppressed" indicates how the Wave members try to prevent people from resisting the Wave or attacking it. Carl also notes how "he doubted that there would be anymore incidents of threats against non-Wave members- or anymore beatings". When Amy reads it, she treats Laurie hostilely and accuses her that her only reason of rebelling against the Wave is that she's "not a princess anymore", the most popular girl in the whole school. Laurie believes that the Wave turned her friend against her, so she is even more determined to publish the edition. As soon as she returns to her locker after the party of the success of the issue, she finds it vandalized with the word 'enemy' painted in red on it and she realizes that the Wave has gone too far.

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In contrast, Robert is represented as a bullied underachiever overlooked by his peers, and the reader understands that he longs to be part of something and be accepted. He is an isolated, lonely boy who wallows in his older brother's shadow, and believes that he can never live up to the expectations of others. But during the Wave you can see how he has transformed from a recluse to a committed person with a goal, and is finally accepted into

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something special. Robert demonstrates his zeal for the Wave when he bluntly asserts that "Laurie Saunders is a threat" and that "She must be stopped". It is natural, then, for him to be devastated when Ben Ross decides to end the Wave. Robert thinks that he "wouldn't do good anyway" at anything, instead choosing to live in self-pity and misery. He is described by David as "Gordon High's very own Untouchable", stating the fact that everyone avoids him. The usage of the term "Untouchable" refers to the lowest caste of society, implying that out of the school, no one dares to be seen with Robert. Robert feels that he will never succeed and will always be a failure; never be accepted or seen as 'normal'.

On the other hand, Mr. Ross is shown as a creative and energetic teacher and he is an important character because he is the one who sets in motion the Wave. Originally believing that it was only going to be an innocent, educational experiment, Mr. Ross thinks that he is teaching "these kids the most important lesson of their lives!" Ben Ross truly thinks that the experiment won't extend far out of the classroom, as is demonstrated when he gushes out to his wife about the success of the Wave. But eventually, he is forced to conclude that the Wave is turning into something more sinister when a Jewish boy is beaten up at the Wave rally. "I realize now that I made a mistake. A history class is not a science lab. You can't experiment with human beings. Especially high school students who aren't aware that they're part of an experiment." This is what Ben Ross says to justify himself when he is confronted by an irate Principal Owens. The use of the words "science lab" implies that Ben Ross is likening the students who participated in the Wave to guinea pigs in a laboratory, oblivious to the fact that they are being experimented on.

In the Wave, Morton Rhue demonstrates how people should follow their instincts and not blindly follow instructions. If this experiment were re-enacted at any school, the results would probably be the same as Gordon High; the experiment would produce a domino effect among the students, as if one joins, another ten will. The reader is introduced to the main characters' different angles and perspectives on which they perceive the Wave. In the Wave, individualism seems to be frowned upon, instead holding the belief that everyone is equal. So as a moral, Mr. Ross instills into the students, "...that you must always question what you do rather than blindly follow a leader, and that for the rest of your lives, you will never, ever allow a group's will to usurp your own individual rights."

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