

A1.

We learn that Christy Slane's home was in Belsha Road Number 12. It had an overgrown hedge and ~~behind~~ behind the hedge there were overflowing garbage bins and there was a bicycle chained to the window bars. ✓

Selects a couple of details
from lines 2 + 3. Band 1.

2

A1.

explain? } Christy Slane lives in a rough area where his neighbours are very
inconsiderate towards other people. The house is "run down" as
the narrator says. Christy Slane doesn't have a lot of money so he } more?
doesn't have many things. Luckily he is a plumber so he has a nice
outside } toilet.
lines } - - -

Just enough for Band 2?

Some detail / a little inference.

3/4

A1.

We learn that the flat is in a street of run down houses ✓ called Belisha Road.

We learn that he has people living in the downstairs part of his flat.

His daughter no longer lives with him.

He recently painted inside the flat.

He doesn't have any curtains and instead uses a blanket. ✓

We learn that the flat isn't good looking and is run down like the rest of the street.

} needs
some
comment
to push on.

He uses a dented paper lampshade which hangs ✓ from the ceiling.

His bedroom is empty apart from the double bed and bedside table. ✓

The sitting room ✓ had a gas fire and two cheap-looking wicker armchairs.

Selects surface details but
doesn't move into inference.

4/5

A1.

Christy Slane lives in a quite rough area ✓ and it seems a poor one too that has been neglected by the council "overflowing garbage bins". ✓ This quote shows us that Christy Slane's bins haven't been emptied for ages. The place was poor because it says, "The flat was in a street of run-down little houses". ✓ This shows that the street is run down and little houses near flats. This description of 'run down' doesn't make it sound appealing. ✓ The clothes that

Christy Slane wears are "grubby white T-shirt, faded jeans too loose for his narrow frame". This quote shows us that Christy Slane doesn't take pride in what he wears and he doesn't wash his clothes. "grubby white T-shirt means that the shirt could be dirty and "jeans too loose for his narrow frame". This quote shows us that Christy Slane is wearing jeans that are too big for his frame structure.

Christy Slane isn't a very productive man therefore he doesn't care "double bed, unmade and bedside table cluttered with paperback books and letters". This is showing that Christy doesn't make his bed and his bedside table is really messy. ✓

ok
Drifts
from
qu.
focus

Band 2 - some app. selection and relevant comment.

6

A1.

In lines 1-27 you learn that where Christy Slane lives is a rough, run-down place, where people don't take care of it and just don't care. When you get to Christy's house, by the build up you can already tell that it's horrible, "a high overgrown privet hedge made the entrance dark".

When you get into Christy's house it's described the same as the outside, dark and horrible. It's not well kept either. It says "several pairs of trainers lay in a sprawling heap", showing that he just throws his shoes there, making a mess. When they get upstairs into Christy's bedroom, it's the same as downstairs, not taken care of, untidy and still horrible. "A blanket had been hung up as a curtain" shows he can't afford blankets so he goes DIY style. In the other room there were two wicker armchairs that looked very cheap. I think Christy is a very poor man living in a poor area with no other choice but to go cheap.

Valid comments / some range / sensible
selection of textual support. Band 3

7

A1.

Throughout the first few lines we learn that Christy Slane lives in a flat nearby a street of run-down little houses. We also find out that the entrance to his flat is dark because of the high, overgrown hedges. The story also tells us Christy Slane lives in London.

Overflowing garbage bins and a bicycle chained to the window bars tells us that Christy Slane must not trust where he lives to leave his bike unchained. Window bars tells the reader that in London it must be a lot safer to have chained windows to prevent break-ins and burglars. Overflowing garbage bins tells us it must be a very

popular area. The quote "leave them outside for me to trip over" shows the reader that Christy Slane's neighbours are not friendly. "A blanket had been hung up for a curtain". This quote tells us that Christy Slane does not have much money to spend on his flat, although "two cheap-looking wicker armchairs" and a "dented paper lampshade" tells us that Christy Slane is trying to make his flat feel more like a home. He wants to make Lev feel comfortable and safe.

Some decent tracking and inference.
Securely Band 3.

A1.

In lines 1-27 I learn that Christy Slane lives in a street of "run-down little houses". There is a "high overgrown privet hedge" which makes the entrance dark and behind the hedge "stood overflowing garbage bins". From this I get the impression the area is not very looked after. The passage states that "he could hear a dog barking and see a child kicking and shrieking in a pram", suggesting that the environment is loud and maybe rough.

The "dark hallway" comes across as very cluttered. However I learn that the "junk" is not Christy Slane's. I also learn that it belongs to the inconsiderate neighbours downstairs who decided "they don't want the stink of the shoes inside the flat". I feel as if Christy does not get along with his neighbours.

more? Inside of Christy's flat, which is described as smelling of "fresh paint", seems to be empty. Although it seems to be empty there is a clutter of "paperback books and letters". I learn that the flat is dingy and Christie may not have a lot of money as "a blanket had been hung up for a curtain".

Detailed response that links comment and evidence well. More to say about the inside of the flat? However, it's a very good response overall. 9/10

9

A1.

From the first line in the passage we can tell that where Christy Slane lives is a dismal place. "Run-down little houses" sets the atmosphere for the description of his house. The dark entrance and overflowing garbage bins gives the reader a sense that it's not the ideal place to live. The passage shows that the area where Christy Slane lives is an uncontrollably loud place. We can tell this from the "dog barking" and "child shrieking in a pram" and it's also an area that might be high in crime as there were bars on the windows. We learn that this might be an overwhelming and untidy place for Lev to live because when he goes into the flat, "trainers lay in a sprawling heap" showing the clutter in the hall. They belong to the inconsiderate neighbours, according to Christy, so he doesn't get on well with them.

When Lev enters the house we learn that a lot of the house is painted white and there is a smell of fresh paint. This portrays to the reader that Christy Slane is trying to make a fresh start with his life and his house. By painting the house white it would hide the cheap looking parts of the house. From the passage there is a sense that Christy's house is incomplete and that nothing is perfect, "dented lampshade" also represents how unstable his home and life is. Christy Slane's house portrays the type of person he is, his house is cluttered with "unmade beds". Overall we learn that where Christy Slane lives is an empty place with many problems.

Excellent tracking and links inferences to the textual details. Always trying to probe and offer comments. 9/10
Could be enough for 10? 10

A1.

We learn that Christy Slane lives in a flat in a rough area, in a "street of run-down little houses". The neighbourhood is very uncared for with "a high overgrown privet hedge", making a dark entrance to the flat. The street is unclean and dirty with "overflowing garbage bins hidden behind the hedge". There was also "a bicycle, chained to the window bars". This indicates that there's a lot of trouble round the area as they have "window bars" and they lock their bicycles up. The overflowing garbage bins makes the street look messy and it's also noisy and not a very pleasant place to live. We know this from "hear a dog barking and see a child kicking and shrieking in a pram".

The apartments are dark and unorganised, "in the dark hallway, several pairs of trainers lay in a sprawling heap". Christy tells Lev the neighbours have "no consideration" for others, calling all the trainers and clothes in the hall "junk" that he trips over.

Christy lives in a room upstairs and he has recently painted the flat as "it smelled of fresh paint" suggesting he had made an effort to make it look better. The flat was still messy, "double bed unmade and a bedside table cluttered with paperback books and letters".

outside }
the lines } The flat had very little stuff because his wife took it all. We know this from "Bare minimum furniture now". He doesn't have any curtains in one room and in another "a blanket had been hung up for a curtain", suggesting that not much money had been spent on the flat or that he can't afford to buy curtains or even to change the "dented paper lampshade" hanging from the ceiling.

Thorough. Excellent response. Tracks the text really well and inferences are sensible.

A2.

wrong
lines
needs
detail

In these lines I feel sorry for Christy because he has had most of his stuff taken from him and admits he has a drinking problem. Christy treats Lev very nicely and starts to treat him like a friend which shows he can be a nice person.

Offers a response to the character but this needs some textual detail to support the comments.

2/3

3 ?

A2

The way that Christy Slane treats Lev is really kind and he trusts him because he starts giving Lev nice things. For example, he gave one of his towels and he was saying I will do the washing and he can change his covers and put different curtains up for him. When Christy reveals that he is Irish and says his first name he starts to ask Lev lots of questions about himself to try and get to know him better and to get closer to Lev.

3/4

Gives a few details in support of Christy being 'really kind'. Just into Band 2.

3/4

4

A2.

In these lines I feel like Christy is quite lonely because his wife left him and also took his daughter away from him so he must be very lonely living in his house all on his own with nobody to talk to. You can tell that Christy is feeling lonely now they have left because he is mentioning it to Lev all the time so obviously he missed them a lot. You can also tell from these lines that he seems very talkative and very easy to get along with. You can tell this because he doesn't stop talking and is always trying to make conversation with Lev. You can also tell he is a very nice and quite a happy man. We can tell this by the way he is treating Lev and also trying to make him feel welcome and he also tells Lev he looks like "a decent sort, a fella I can trust".

Makes some sensible comments, though
lacking specific textual detail in places.
Band 2. 5/6

6

A2.

I first think that Christy is a good father and he cares about his daughter as when his wife left she didn't take anything he'd given his daughter. I then think that Christy was a nice child because he had "animals on me pillow". Next I think Christy is a very nice man as he wants Lev to be happy. When Lev tells him his room is good, Christy replies with "Good". I also think that Christy is quite clever when he says he has a trade, a plumber. When Christy says he is "freelance now" I feel sorry for him as his wife has left him with nothing. I think Christy is also friendly as he will now "make a pot of tea". Finally, I think he is kind as he just says "that's OK" about the money.

?
explain
this

Tries to comment on Christy and
select supporting details. Band 2.

6

A2.

Christy reveals a lot about himself in these lines, such as his wife took her share and then took half of his share. This suggests they've split up and I feel sorry for him all on his own without his daughter. He gives a lot of consideration to Lev because he says if they bother you, he can get some other covers.

When Lev compliments him on the toilet, Christy acts modest about it all saying he'd "put it all in" himself. He tells Lev his trade is a plumber. This shows how he did the bathroom. Then he says he's unemployed since his wife left, so I think he's had a hard time. ^{OK}

Christy then properly introduces himself to Lev. He also says he's Irish. He gives a lot of information out to Lev, which shows he trusts him enough to tell him about his personal life. He tells Lev he wants a month's rent in advance but he'll settle for two weeks instead. Christy treats Lev really good by telling him a lot about himself and also by letting him off two weeks' payment.

Some range of comment and supporting detail to push into Band 3.

7

A2.

In these lines I feel a sense of sympathy towards Christy, simply because his wife had taken "her share" and then "half of his share", leaving him with close to nothing.

Christy seems like a caring and considerate man, despite all the selfish people in his life, for example Angela and the neighbours. He makes Lev feel welcome and at home by making sure Lev is happy with the accommodation he would be providing him with. He will even change the bed covers if Lev doesn't like them. It seems like Christy will look after Lev. "I'll chuck your laundry in the washer once a week". He even gives him the "quiet side" of the house and will let Lev pay just two weeks in advance rather than a month, so he is trusting.

I am given the impression that Christy is lonely on his own since Angela left and that he was really hurt over it. I think this as he states, "couldn't keep to me job after Angela left". He was a plumber and was proud of the bathroom he had put in by himself.

Shows a good understanding of the character and uses the text effectively. Very securely
Band 3.

9

A2.

I think that Christy is a genuine hard done by person who has been through a tough time. "She took half of my share" shows that he has had to fight for what he has got. Christy's actions towards Lev show he is a caring man. When he shows Lev the bedroom he asks, "Is it all right for you?". I think Christy is displaying a selfless act by giving Lev somewhere to stay and understanding Lev's needs, "I'll chuck your laundry in the washer". I also feel sorry for Christy because it's clear he is a lonely man after he reveals the hard time he has been through with his wife. As he starts to know Lev, I think that he appreciates his company. He treats him very well in the passage and this shows he is a nice man. He offers to get new bed covers "if they bother you". This shows he treats Lev with respect and cares about his opinions. I think Christy is a very proud man, when he tells Lev about his plumbing, "put it all in myself". He shows that he is thrilled with Lev's reaction to his work.

maybe | I think that Christy not only wants Lev to like him but to view him as a worthy man. He uses the word 'freelance' instead of unemployed because he doesn't want Lev to look down on him. He's chatty and kind to Lev, offering to make a pot of tea and he also shows he's a fair person when he gets on to the rent for the room. He tells Lev he doesn't have to pay a month in advance, "I'll settle for two weeks". This shows he can fit around others' needs even if affects himself. ✓

Thorough and detailed response - uses the text well and probes with insight.

10

A3.

In the lines 59-89 I know that Christy and Lev get on very well. The writer shows this very clearly. In these lines the writer has made Christy open up to Lev about things that have happened to his daughter. This shows that they are becoming a lot closer as friends. The writer has set this out wonderfully and the writer has thought a lot.

Limited response. 1/2
Only the third sentence really warrants
any reward. 2

A3.

The writer shows how Christy and Lev are getting closer because Christy starts to say, "We will have a nice cuppa and a smoke" and Lev says, "I will like that also". Christy wants to get closer to Lev because he starts making kidney pie for the both of them and sit in front of the TV together and when Christy and Lev finished their dinner, Lev fell asleep on the sofa and Christy had already gone to bed without any hassle towards Lev and Christy asks Lev to pour away a bottle of beer if he tries to drink it. (✓)

explain {
Selects a few details to show
'they get on well'.

3

A3.

The writer shows that Christy and Lev get on well because Christy opens up to Lev and tells him about his family and Lev listened and tried to show that he understood by nodding and using simple answers like "yes". Also, they both like the idea of in the future, "drinking tea like old friends". They seem to get on well as Lev agrees to help Christy with his drinking problems.

Selects relevant details / a little comment.
Band 2. 4/5

5?

A3.

The writer shows Lev and Christy's relationship in a positive way. Straight away Christy goes on to tell Lev about his near past, showing that he feels comfortable with him already, "He was started on the story of his recent life".

Lev wanted to make a good impression on Christy because "He felt lucky to have found Christy Slane". He didn't really understand some of what Christy was telling him, but he kept nodding to show he agreed with him. He found Christy quite interesting and he wanted to listen, "he didn't seem to want to stop. And Lev didn't mind".

Christy saw himself becoming good friends with Lev, "drinking tea like old friends". The writer also shows trust between the two men,

more? } "You can help me, Lev". This shows that Christy trusts Lev and that Lev will help him with his problems. Also the writer has made Lev and Christy similar, "The Irishman was as lonely as he was".

Some range of relevant points, though some would benefit by greater explanation or context. Band 2/3 6/7.

A3.

The writer first shows that Christy and Lev get on well by saying that Lev had "felt lucky to have found Christy Slane". This shows he appreciates what Christy is doing for him. Also Lev didn't understand Christy but agreed with what he was saying to show "he liked Christy". When Christy swears to God he hadn't touched Frankie, Lev "nodded". This shows he believes Christy. Christy found it "easier" to talk to Lev even though Lev didn't always understand what he was talking about. This shows Christy can also trust Lev. Also, Christy "didn't seem to want to stop". This shows he is confident around Lev and can tell him anything. Lev was gradually being able to "understand that the Irishman was as lonely as he was" and although he hasn't known him for long, he has a close friendship with him already. Christy says how Lev "can help [him]". This again shows Christy can trust Lev with anything. He asks Lev to help him with his alcohol problem and Lev agrees to. This again shows Lev cares about Christy. When Christy talks about how he likes tea, smoking and quietness, Lev replies with, "I like also". This shows that they like the same things.

Works at the text, linking comments
to specific textual details.

7

A3.

In these lines Christy and Lev get on well. The writer shows this by them drinking tea together, which suggests companionship. ✓ Lev doesn't understand some of what Christy tells him but still nods "to show he liked Christy". ✓ This indicates that even though Lev doesn't understand, he is interested. By Christy telling Lev about his "recent life" it suggests that even though he has just met the man the writer wanted to indicate how easy it was for him to trust ✓ someone and tell them personal stories. This also suggests that they act "like old friends". ✓ Lev understands that Christy is "lonely" ✓ as he suggests that even though they are different people, one is on his own "in a foreign land" and Christy is on his own because of his drinking problem which led to a divorce, "I have to go back to court to get my rights back". By Christy telling Lev all this and asking him to help him stop drinking, it suggests a good friendship is forming between ✓ them. Christy didn't wake Lev but turned off the TV and left the room ✓ "almost dark" which suggests he is caring towards Lev.

Uses the text well in support of comments
Decent range and showing good understanding
of the text.

8

A3.

The writer makes the text very heartfelt, showing the beginning of a close friendship. The writer portrays Lev to be a very grateful and understanding man. This is clear as he says, "he felt lucky to have found Christy Slane". Lev is just grateful for everything Christy is doing for him, "He wasn't too embarrassed or proud to lay his head on a pillowcase printed with giraffes".

The writer portrays Lev and Christy's friendship as very deep. The writer in a way shows that Lev is trying to repay Christy for his kindness by being there for him, ^{ok} listening to him even though "not really understanding but wanting to show he liked Christy".

The writer bases their friendship basically on two men who are lonely; they had no-one but now they have each other. It's clear that Lev did not mind listening to Christy's troubles as "he was lonely too".

Christy and Lev get on so well in these few lines because the writer is showing that Lev has a lot of compassion towards Christy. They are both alone and they see it. The writer begins to bring Lev and Christy together to rely on each other. This is highlighted when Christy tells him that "he can help him" to stop him drinking, "Don't let me go to the pub". He asks him to help him as if they had been friends for a long time, "drinking tea like old friends".

The writer portrays Lev as someone who is willing to help. Lev does not mind helping Christy get through his drink problem because he is in need of help too, "on his own in a foreign land".

The writer points out Christy and Lev's weaknesses and uses them to unite together to help get them through these tough times, just like friends should do. The writer is clear that these two lonely souls will no longer be alone, but together.

Securely Bond 3 - a detailed and sensitive exploration of the text.

A3.

In the lines 58-89 we see Christy and Lev getting on well together. The writer shows us this in different ways.

Firstly the writer tells us that Lev is happy because, "he felt lucky to have found Christy Slane" because he needed somewhere to stay and he doesn't mind that it's in a child's room and bed; it's better than nothing.

The writer tells us that Lev doesn't really understand what Christy is on about half the time but nods his head because he "wanted to show he liked Christy".

The way that Christy talks to Lev about his life tells us that he is comfortable talking to Lev. This is the impression I feel the writer was trying to create. The writer also tells us what Lev is thinking which helps us create an impression of Lev's feelings about Christy and it shows that he is sympathetic towards him, even if he doesn't understand everything Christy is telling him. The writer shows us that Lev "didn't mind" Christy talking about his life and I think this is because Lev feels it helps Christy to talk about his wife and his daughter rather than hide it away.

yes

The writer also tells us through what Lev is thinking that both characters are "lonely" but in different ways. Lev is on his own in a "foreign land" and Christy had been left by his wife and daughter which left him lonely.

The writer shows they get on well together when Christy heated up a pie "for them", which shows it's for both of them to share, which is nice. Also, the writer tells us that Lev "fell asleep" and he's only just met this Christy, which tells us he feels comfortable in Christy's company and they like each other and are very happy sharing a flat as they get on and can help each other.

Tracks well - good insight shown. Thorough.