

- 1 My four texts all share the common idea of being able to find love in unexpected places. Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind directed by Michel Gondry, 'Sonnet 130' by William Shakespeare, and 'Scar Tissue' by Lauris Edmond. This idea is reinforced through the characterisation of the heroines of both Pride and Prejudice and Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.
- 2 In Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice Elizabeth Bennet is characterised as an independent young woman who has very strong opinions about most aspects of life. After their first meeting, she says to Mr Darcy that from the first moment she met him, "your arrogance and conceit, your selfish disdain for the feelings of others made me realize that you were the last man in the world I could ever be prevailed upon to marry". This quote shows the loathing from Elizabeth's point of view and it proves that she thoroughly dislikes Mr Darcy. It also shows her willingness to say what she thinks, even though Mr Darcy is her social superior and in those days young women in her situation were expected to be nice and polite to people like him. Elizabeth is determined that she will marry the love of her life and not the person her mother wants her to (Mr Collins). It is because of Elizabeth's characteristics of being true to what she thinks, and saying it, that Mr Darcy falls in love with her, realising that these qualities are more important to him than money. Unexpectedly, Elizabeth too changes her mind as she gets to know him better. Austen is perhaps warning readers to take time before they marry.
- 3 Clementine from Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind is also independent and says what she thinks. She is an alternative type of woman who frequently dyes her hair different colours depending on her mood and feelings. However, despite having a flamboyant personality she, like Elizabeth, cares about others. She tries to help Joel and aims to cheer him up and enlighten him about the aspects of life he may be missing in his depressed state. She tells Joel "Look man, I'm telling you right off the bat, I'm high-maintenance, so... I'm not gonna tip-toe around your marriage, or whatever it is you've got goin' there. If you wanna be with me, you're with me". This abrupt statement indicates Clementine's brusque nature and lets us know that she is not afraid to tell people how she feels. It's because of this unwillingness to compromise she would rather erase her brain of any memory of Joel rather than see things from another point of view. Joel and Clementine agree to rekindle their love and to try their relationship again after having their minds erased after their first relationship. Joel says to himself of their relationship "It was so intimate, like we were already lovers." This clearly demonstrates that even from their first meeting, Joel and Clementine were deeply in love with each other: it was because of Clementine's characteristics that this could happen. The film shows us that in today's busy society it is important for us to take time to find true love, and it may happen between people who initially would be considered unlikely to become a couple.
- 4 Shakespeare in 'Sonnet 130' is demonstrating the real meaning of true love, where people must learn to love the bad things about their partner and love them for who they are, not who you want them to be. Or what society thinks they should be. He uses negative connotations of his lover in order to demonstrate his love for her. She depicted as unattractive when compared to the popular imagery of romantic love. "Coral is far more red than her lips red... if hairs be wires black wires grow on her

head...I have seen no such roses in her cheeks." This description of this man's mistress is far from complimentary and highlights all of the physical flaws which his mistresses possesses, rather than focusing on the lovely parts of her. But by stating things as they are, like we see with Elizabeth's and Clementine's outbursts, he is being more honest about love. It is more than just about physical appearance or being polite. Despite these initial negative comparisons, Shakespeare says "And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare as any she belied with false compare." For him, true love is something that comes when you know and accept someone for who they are.

5 The poem 'Scar Tissue' describes an old building in Wellington where the author used to walk past "on windy nights...stinking of beer and early closing". This is also a trigger for the poet's memories about a relationship that she had at that time. Yet now, as the building is about to be demolished, the author discovers the things which she thought were disgusting in this building are actually the things that she loves about it. The "periwinkle sprawling on the stones and fennel, ripe and strong, grasping the bank will be missed once the building is gone." But also with time, after a relationship that has gone sour is long over, she can look back and remember the good aspects of it – why she fell in love in the first place. For the poet the unexpected sight of the open building brings back unexpected feelings of love. Even though they are only memories, they help her to remember some truths about the one she loved then.

6 In the genre of love, the key connection between my four chosen texts is that of finding real love in unexpected places. These texts urge us to accept people for who they are and to learn to love their faults. Society makes initial judgements on first impressions without reserving judgement and getting to know them better. We must learn from these messages and aim to be more accepting of others in order to find true love.

	Grade Boundary: High Achieved
4.	<p>To achieve this standard the student needs to analyse significant connections across texts, supported by evidence.</p> <p>The student refers to four texts and analyses a significant thematic connection across these texts: 'being able to find love in unexpected places.' Within this, the student also analyses the characterisation of women connection across the texts <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> and <i>Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i>.</p> <p>The student recognises and interprets the connection 'being able to find love in unexpected places', using supporting evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "...you were the last man in the world I could ever be prevailed upon to marry"... Unexpectedly, Elizabeth too changes her mind as she gets to know him better.(Paragraph 2) • Despite these initial negative comparisons, Shakespeare says "And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare as any she belied with false compare." For him, true love is something that comes when you know and accept someone for who they are. (Paragraph 4) • For the poet the unexpected sight of the open building brings back unexpected feelings of love.(Paragraph 5) <p>The student begins to give a clear and reasoned interpretation of the connection of the characterisation of women who find love, supported by evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is because of Elizabeth's characteristics of being true to what she thinks, and saying it, that Mr Darcy falls in love with her, realising that these qualities are more important to him than money.(Paragraph 2) • even from their first meeting, Joel and Clementine were deeply in love with each other: it was because of Clementine's characteristics that this could happen.(Paragraph 3) <p>To meet Merit the student could develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear support between evidence from the text and the connection for <i>Scar Tissue</i> • reasoned interpretation of the idea of finding love in unexpected places in <i>The Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind</i>.