

Question 2

Candidate E

Childhood Book

One of my favourite childhood books is the 'Six Bullerby Children' written by Astrid Lindergren, a famous Swedish author. The story is set in a three-farm remote village of Bullerby in Sweden.

The narrator is a seven-year-old girl, Lisa who, with her parents and two older brothers - Lasse and Bosse, lives in one of the houses. Lisa describes the daily life of the children in Bullerby which – contrary to what one might think when imagining life in a small, remote village – is far from boring. The children have plenty of funny ideas, which often lead to amusing adventures.

Although the book was included in the compulsory school literature when I was a child (which often meant long, boring reads), I have truly enjoyed the adventures of Lisa and her friends. Despite very limited resources (the story is set in 1930s when children did not have many toys, not to mention a TV or video games!) the children always come up with exciting games or things to play with. This is something I admired and wished I could do when reading the book.

Another thing which appealed to me as a child was the natural childlike way in which Lisa (or Astrid Lindgren, the author) could tell the story connecting effortlessly with the young readers.

Despite the environment in which the children live nowadays has changed considerably since 1930s, children will always be children and if the book has appealed to so many young generations since it was published, I believe it will retain its impact. It can be more, even more relevant today, when children are presented with things to play, instead of inventing games themselves. Reading the book could definitely wake up their innate creativity.

'Six Bullerby Children' could, however, also be more relevant to adults who would like to either 'return' to their childhood for a little while, or be able to connect with their own children a bit better.

Examiner comments

Subscale	Mark	Commentary
Content	5	All content is relevant to the task. The target reader is fully informed.
Communicative Achievement	4	The conventions of the review are used with sufficient flexibility to communicate complex ideas in an effective and convincing way, holding the reader's attention with ease, fulfilling all communicative purposes.
Organisation	3	The text is a well-organised, coherent whole which uses a variety of cohesive devices and organisational patterns with flexibility (<i>contrary to what one might think, Although, however, This is something, Another thing</i>) although there are instances when they are not used accurately (<i>Despite, not to mention</i>).
Language	3	A range of vocabulary, including less common lexis, is used effectively and precisely (<i>limited resources, effortlessly, remote village, come up with</i>). A wide range of simple and complex grammatical forms are used with full control, flexibility and some sophistication (<i>I wished I could, far from boring, contrary to what one might think when imagining life in ...</i>). There are a few slips (<i>since 1930s, I have truly enjoyed</i>).