**AO2 Advanced Therapy**

Mastery Therapy and Testing developed the following skills:

* Identify a range of methods with supporting examples
* Avoid redundant words and long quotes, embed quotations and keep concise
* ‘Zoom in’ on individual details, say what their specific impact is, then move on to another point
* Accurately use of subject terminology where appropriate
* Time yourself to respond in 20 minutes

Question: How does the writer convey the suffering in this scene?

***In the passage, a young man is putting his brother Peter, who suffers from nightmares, to bed.***

Curling up into a ball, Peter rolls onto his side, pulling the blankets up to cover his chin and rest beneath his nose. I sit down beside him and stroke his hair. My hand is large enough to cover the whole top of his head. I move my thumb up and down on his brow to help him fall asleep. I wait for the tell-tale twitching that precedes Peter falling into deep sleep. Little jerks flick in his torso and in his legs as I wonder what images he is seeing. Since the day our father died, Peter has always struggled to sleep, waking up for hours in the night or screaming himself upright.

When his nightmares started and my mother couldn’t soothe him, we started our nighttime routine. I would read to him and stroke his brow until he fell asleep and each time he called out in the night, I would read to him again. In the early days, we could get through half a book in a night. Now, mostly, he sleeps through but I read to him anyway.I sit and wait for his heavy breathing to turn into little snores. Peter’s nose is so tiny that when he is in deep sleep, he struggles to breathe, almost as if there is not enough room for the air to travel up and into his lungs. His nostrils flare out of the end but the passage way is tiny and so he has snored since he was a baby. I love his nose. I run my pointer finger down over it, raise my finger to my lips, kiss it and bring it to the flat tip. Just touching it, I cannot help but smile. It’s funny for the most beautiful thing about a person to be their nose but with Peter, that’s just how it is. Eventually, the first ruffle of a snore begins and I know that he is asleep. In the early days, the sound of his snores would fill me with relief as finally, he would be asleep. Now, they simply fill me with peace so I let myself listen for a while, watching him, trying to tell him through my thoughts to dream of something worth fighting for.

Here is the opening of a model answer: the question is ‘how does the writer use language to describe Peter’s suffering?’

Below is a model opening response:

Overall, Peter’s suffering is conveyed through his vulnerability, and his brother’s inability to support him and make him feel safe.

Initially, his brother moves to ‘stroke his hair;’ the use of the verb ‘stroke’ connotes tenderness and love. This is further accentuated when his hand is able to ‘cover the whole top of his head’ which underscores how delicate and fragile his brother is. Tellingly, the inevitability of his suffering is shown with the ‘tell-tale twitching’ and the ‘little jerks’ that ‘flick in his torso.’ The premodifier ‘tell-tale’ emphasises how the suffering is something that has happened many times before, and noun ‘jerks’ conveys a sudden and uncomfortable – perhaps even unpleasant- movement.

*Overall, the suffering is conveyed through the combination of Peter’s vulnerability and his brother’s powerlessness to help him*

Annotate this model answer- highlight and explain the following features of the answers:

1. the use of short, well chosen, embedded quotations
2. the precise and concise style
3. the more detailed and perceptive comments

Move to the Advanced Testing to continue this style and complete the answer.

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