Death is an aspect of life that cannot be halted. It is an inevitable realization that all humans must contemplate at some point in their life times. "Hamlet" says, "To be or not to be, that is the question." This quote analyzes the two types of realizations of death, the choice of acceptance and the choice of resistance. The side or point of view taken will reveal truth and direction of the chooser. In Margaret Atwood's novel, "Draek and Craie", Atwood employs both realizations in two of her main characters, Crake and Snowman. Crake takes the role of accepting death while Snowman fears it. In Yasher Kemal's novel "Menes, My Hawk", Menes and Abii Agina are the two main characters Kemal chooses to focus on for the two realizations of death. Menes, like Crake, embraces death while Abii, like Snowman, "strong away. This aspect of the natural world, death shapes these four characters and how they react to certain situations based on which emotional side they take.

The acceptance of death does not only mean not being scared of it, but also in some cases means being arrogant towards it. Crake
From Oryx and Crake undoubtedly is arrogant towards death. On page 223 of Atwood's novel, Crake says: "All it takes is the elimination of one generation. One generation of anything... Break the link in time between one generation and the next, and its gone and forever." This powerful quote exemplifies Crake's callousness and maturity about the subject of death. Crake is not scared of death and it's symbol as a significant motif is important because it shapes Crake as a person and outlines his actions later in the novel. Near the end of the book, the audience discovers from a flashback Snowman experiences that Crake allows Jimmy (Snowman's past name) to shoot and kill him. This also shows Crake's acceptance of death because he planned on Jimmy shooting him. In fact, Crake wanted Jimmy to be the only human left alive with the Crakers, genetically created humanoids of Crakes.

The motif of death, of the "elimination of one generation" forebodes Crake's death as his acceptance of it.

In Oryx and Crake, Mened is also arrogant towards death, similar to Crake. Mened's use of death as a natural world happening is somewhat contradictory however because even though he fully embraces death as not scared of it, he refuses to allow it to happen to himself until he completes his goal of killing Abbi Agha. Mened shows his arrogance towards death when he is in battle with Mad Dog and Sergeant Asim. Mened rarely ever got hit by bullets because of his determination to stay alive, so he could kill Abbi Agha. This determination...
doubles as a way of acceptance of death because Noam is willing to confront the risk of death with no fear or hesitation. The other side of death, the resistance of the realization, is just as apparent in both novels as the acceptance of the realization. Within the character of Snowman, from "Dying and Dying," the reader sees that the emotion of fear is present; the fear of death, the fear of not existing. The situation that Snowman is placed in is one that makes him feel as if he already is dead. He feels lonely among the Crakers who are not like him, but this does not make him ready for true death. There are many times where the aspect of death has been present for Snowman, but he runs from it out of fear. In the subchapter "Fish Within," Chapter 75 of "Dying and Dying," the audience sees that Snowman is starving majority of his time because he only gets food once a week, and he does not favor plants and berries eat. Instead of embracing death, however, he fears it, searching high and low for sustenance even taking a trip to where he thinks land would be at the Rejuvenature compound. Other parts of the novel where he runs from death are when he tries to survive attacks by the sowdogs and pigeons on his journey.
The significance of his fear is that Snowman sees the world differently than say Crook or Mend, and that even the most patriotic life is worth living.

Another example of the emotional resistance and fear of death is exhibited by Abdi Agha (known as Abdi) from Memed, My Hawk. Abdi is the protagonist of the story who fears death because he savors the power and wealth he has. He shows the most amount of cowardice within the main characters of both Oryx and Crake and Memed, My Hawk. An example of this fear is when Memed and his commander Tuktar and Sergeant said Abdi's home looking to kill him, but were unsuccessful because Abdi departed weeks before in order to protect himself. Abdi knew he was being hunted, and ran. This is important because Abdi's fear of death sets up the ironic ending of the novel where he thinks he is finally safe, but is then killed by Memed.

Writers using death as a motif is not a new idea. Many authors use this natural world aspect, and Atwood and Kendal exploit on it. In both novels, death surrounds the main characters, Crook and Jimmy (Snowman) experience it after Crook's Byxplus pill begins to kill all of the human civilization, and Memed and Abdi experience it as Memed kills Veli and all others in the mountains that stand in his way to reach Abdi. The two different realizations of death acceptance and resistance, allow for the entire storyline of a character to unfold.
ENGLISH A1

HL PAPER TWO

10 May 2011 (afternoon)

Ronald Reagan High School

Candidate session number: C-2843-119

Invigilator only: Candidate absent (insert X if applicable)

Instructions to candidates:
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3. Write down your candidate session number on the front of each answer sheet (and on any graph paper) used.
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