

Colour-Coded Paragraph with Reference to Quotations

Topic sentence

Quotations:

1 "Carl played the statue. Statues don't smile." (p.53)

2 Carl "hesitated...and pushed outwards, forcing himself into the world. 'You shouldn't have chained him up like that, Beryl...It was cruel. You wouldn't do it to a dog...You're not putting him on that chain any more...He deserves better...And so do I.' " (pp. 121-2)

3 "I don't suppose he's told you how important you are to us." (Joy, p. 141)

4 "I've never felt part of anything before. It caught me by surprise. Like it was too much at once." (p. 147)

Closing sentence

Sample Paragraph:

Although Carl initially finds his isolated life distressing and lonely, he is almost overwhelmed by the emotional intensity that a sense of belonging ultimately brings. At the beginning of the novel, he tends to be passive and vulnerable, often playing the role of a "statue" who avoids confrontation and involvement in others' lives. He watches what others do, often with longing, yet without participating. Later, as he realizes that he must take action for his own and Harley's sake, he shows the courage to stand up to Beryl and he works with such determination that he begins to overcome the prejudice that many harbour against the Matt family. This leads to Joy emphasizing how important he is to Skip and the family. Carl is caught "by surprise", as though almost shocked by this new experience of belonging; he admits to Justine that "it was too much at once". Nevertheless, Carl gradually learns to take an active part in the world of Wattle Beach, becoming a kind of "guardian" for Harley and creating a more functional type of family for himself.