

科目：批判寫作 系所組：英國語文學系碩士班【試題隨彌封答案卷繳回】

文憑組  
Critical Writing

Title: Literary Writer and Life

Read the following excerpt from *New York Times* and consider the questions attached to it. In response, write a well-structured essay (with a thesis statement, topic sentences, and at least three supporting literary examples) on “Literary Writer and Life.” 100%

*New York Times* February 4, 2013

Never Mind the Parallels, Don't Read It as My Life

By FELICIA R. LEE

¶LOS ANGELES — Jamaica Kincaid, whose novel “See Now Then” is her first in 10 years and widely presumed to be autobiographical, wanted to set a few things straight. First, unlike the fictional Mr. Sweet of the novel, her former husband, Allen Shawn (also short and also a composer), never used an expression like “off the banana boat” to describe Ms. Kincaid, who is from Antigua. Nor did he compare her to Charles Laughton or create a nocturne called “This Marriage Is Dead.”

¶“It would be very wrong to think that the person I was married to would say that or things like that,” Ms. Kincaid said sternly.

¶Still, the book, which comes out on Tuesday, uses the quotidian details of domestic life — a life in some respects like hers once was — to meditate on big issues like parenthood, loss and time.

¶“The thing I was trying to do in the novel,” she said, “was to get at the unknowability of another person, the person you have the deepest intertwining with.”

¶Now 63, Ms. Kincaid moved to California from Vermont in 2009 to teach creative writing and literature at Claremont McKenna College. That was seven years after her 1979 marriage to Mr. Shawn officially ended in early 2002. In “See Now Then” Mr. Sweet tells Mrs. Sweet that he's in love with someone else, but Ms. Kincaid insists that the book sprang from her imagination and a desire to chew on ideas rather than to recount her breakup.

¶Indeed, while talking at length about her life, her two children with Mr. Shawn and “See Now Then” (her fifth novel and one of 13 books she has written or edited), she never mentioned Mr. Shawn by name. (Since remarried, he declined to be interviewed for this article.)

Questions to consider: (Do NOT answer them separately; write a well-structure essay)

- Is a literary work (a novel, a play or a poem) definitely “autobiographical”? In what ways does it or does it not reflect its writer's life?
- If a literary work does not (merely) reflect its writer's life, what (else) does it do (to its society, its author or to contemporary and future readers)?
  - ★ Illustrate each of your main points by discussing at least one literary example; altogether you should **use and discuss** at least 3 literary examples.
  - ★ Using literary theories is not a must, but theories can help define and convey your ideas.

※ 注意：1.考生須在「彌封答案卷」上作答。

2.本試題紙空白部份可當稿紙使用。

3.考生於作答時可否使用計算機、法典、字典或其他資料或工具，以簡章之規定為準。