MATURA WRITING TASKS
LITERARY ESSAY

Level B1 · set texts: About a Boy (Hornby) & Foster (Keegan)

Your goal at B1: Write a clear, simple essay about a set text. Make a point, support it with a detail or short quotation, and explain it. Write about the book in the present tense.

B1 · PHASE 1 – THEME OR CHARACTER? (MATCH)

Literary essays discuss themes and characters. Match each item to the right text. **Careful – they are not in the same order!** Write the pairs, e.g. 1–d.

Item	Belongs to (mixed up)
1 Marcus	a a lonely, watchful child narrator (Foster)
2 the girl	b a rich woman who takes in a child (Foster)
3 Will	c a boy who is bullied at school (About a Boy)
4 Mrs Kinsella	d a man who pretends to be a single father (About a Boy)
5 loneliness	e a theme shared by both books

TASK: Name one more theme that appears in either book.

B1 · PHASE 2 – ESSAY VERBS (MATCH)

Literary essays use special verbs. Match each verb to its meaning. **The order is mixed up.**

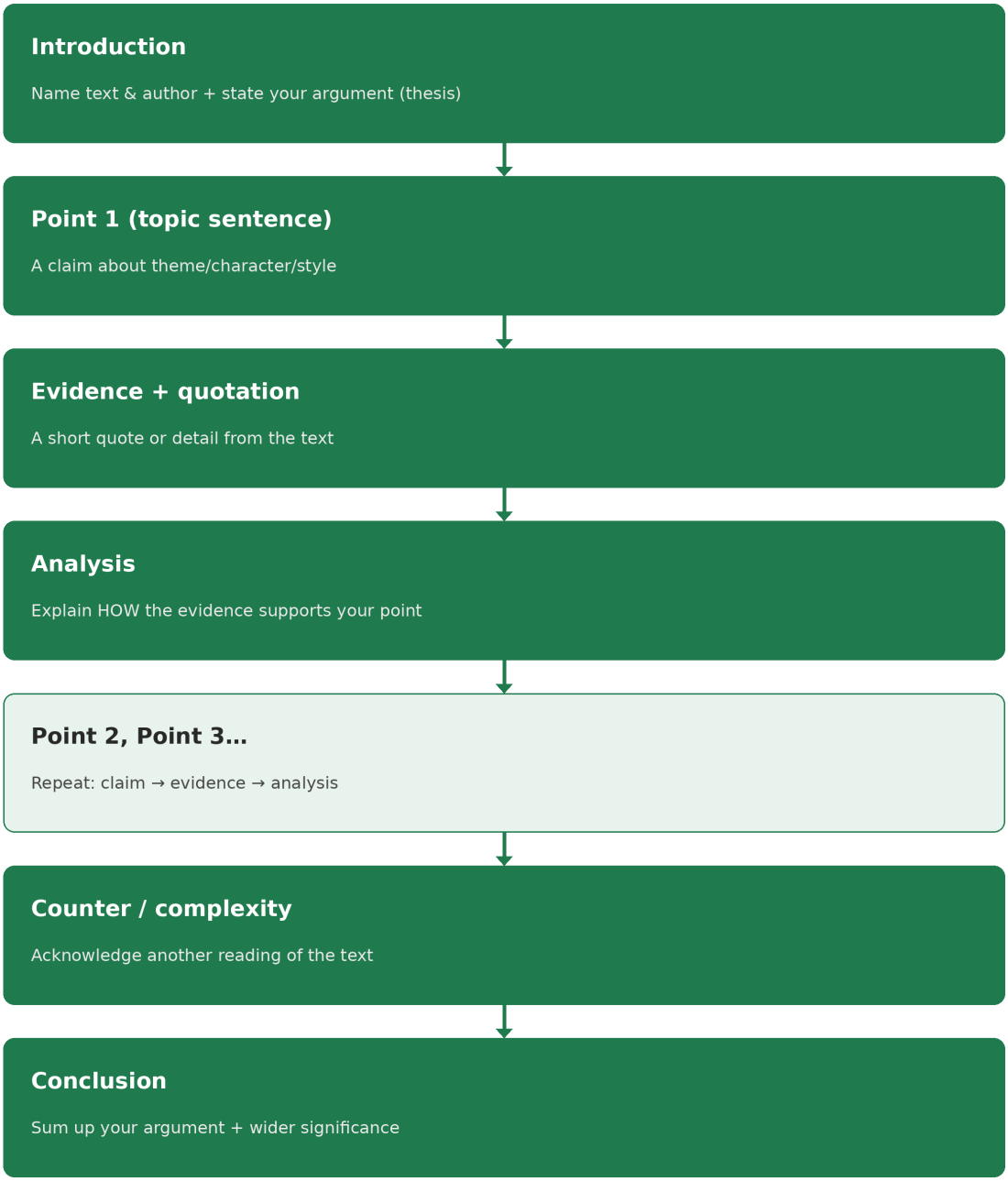
Essay verb	Meaning (mixed up)
1 shows	a makes the reader feel something
2 suggests	b presents clearly
3 creates	c hints at something without saying it
4 describes	d tells us what someone or something is like

TASK: Write one sentence about a character using each verb.

B1 · THE STRUCTURE YOU ARE BUILDING TOWARDS

Study this plan before you start. A literary essay makes an **argument** about a text and proves it with **evidence** from the book. The heart of it is the **P–E–A** method: make a **Point**, give **Evidence** (a short quotation or detail), then **Analyse** how it works. Write about literature in the **present tense**.

A LITERARY ESSAY — STRUCTURE



B1 · PHASE 3 – PUT THE PARAGRAPH IN ORDER (P–E–A)

A good paragraph follows Point – Evidence – Analysis. These sentences about *About a Boy* are in the **wrong order**. Number them 1–4.

a This shows that Marcus slowly learns how to fit in.
b At the start of the novel, Marcus is an outsider at school.
c As the story continues, he starts to make friends and change.
d For example, the other children laugh at his clothes and his singing.

*Remember: **Point** first, then **Evidence**, then **Analysis**.*

B1 · PHASE 4 – WRITING IN THE PRESENT TENSE

We write about literature in the present tense. Rewrite each sentence in the present.

1 Marcus felt lonely at his new school.
2 Will pretended to have a son.
3 The girl was happy on the farm in Foster.
4 Mrs Kinsella looked after the child kindly.
5 The two stories showed different kinds of family.

B1 · PHASE 5 – MAKING A POINT

Complete each point (a claim about the text) with your own idea.

1. In *About a Boy*, Marcus is _____.
2. Will changes during the story because _____.
3. In *Foster*, the girl feels _____ at the Kinsellas' house.
4. One important theme in both books is _____.
5. The ending of *Foster* is _____.

B1 · PHASE 6 – USING EVIDENCE

A point needs evidence from the text. For each point, note a detail or example you could use (you do not need the exact words).

1. Point: Marcus is different from other children. Evidence: _____
2. Point: Will is selfish at the start. Evidence: _____
3. Point: the girl is cared for in Foster. Evidence: _____
4. Point: silence is important in Foster. Evidence: _____

B1 · PHASE 7 – LINKING EVIDENCE & ANALYSIS (MATCH)

These phrases introduce evidence or analysis. Match each to its job. **The order is mixed up.**

Phrase	Its job (mixed up)
1 For example,…	a starts your explanation
2 This shows that…	b introduces evidence
3 This suggests…	c gives a deeper meaning

B1 · PHASE 8 – SPOT & FIX THE MISTAKES

Each sentence has one mistake (tense, style or content). Find it and rewrite it.

1 In About a Boy, Marcus was a lonely boy.
2 The author show us that Will is selfish.
3 This quote shows that the girl is happy because she is happy.
4 Foster is written by Nick Hornby.
5 I think Marcus is nice and I like him a lot and he is my favourite.
6 Will change a lot in the story.

B1 · PHASE 9 – PLAN YOUR ESSAY

Write short notes for each part.

Part	My notes
Introduction (text + your point)	_____
Point 1 + evidence	_____
Point 2 + evidence	_____
Analysis (what it shows)	_____
Conclusion	_____

B1 · FINAL WRITING TASK

Choose ONE of the set texts and answer the question.

Either: In *About a Boy*, how does Marcus change during the story?
Or: In *Foster*, how is the girl treated by the Kinsellas?

Write a **literary essay of 120–150 words** in which you:

- name the text and author, and state your main point
- make two or three points about the character
- support each point with a detail or example from the book
- write a short conclusion. Use the present tense throughout.