

Task for *Vertigo*

Analysing characters: The Boy

An individual study

Quotes from Chapters 1 have been extracted for analysis.

What quotes on characterisation can be extracted from Chapter 2 and 3 to assist in our final understanding of the character's journey and position?

The Boy		
Pages	Quotes from text	Significance of quotes – What does it reveal about character and how does the language reflect this?
	Once they make a plan to research the places and then go out away from the city, the boy suddenly appears.	The boy, representative of loss, cannot exist in the city because it is a place of business and distraction where people suppress their emotions. The implication is that the country/coast in its vast open spaces and quiet moments will demand transparency of emotions and we see that build up over the course of the novella.
10	<i>And to their great delight, on each of these journeys the boy chose to accompany them. In the claustrophobic spaces of their dark little apartment his appearances were erratic and unpredictable, but once out on the freeway they would glance behind them and there he would be...that dreamy, expectant expression that children get when they are travelling to an unknown destination.</i>	
11	<i>The turn-off led straight to a wild beach and as they caught their first glimpse of breaking surf the boy suddenly sat upright. Roused from his torpor on the back seat he craned his neck to see out, and wriggling free of his seatbelt scrambled up onto the seat to press his face against the window.</i>	
13–14	<i>For a long time the three of them stood at the edge of the headland, gazing out to sea...As each wave came crashing into the blowhole the boy hunched his</i>	

	<p>shoulders in anticipation and as the cloud of salty spume sprayed above them he shrieked with delight...And they laughed and wondered how on earth a place of such grandeur had escaped development. Why wasn't it a resort?</p>	
17	<p>While they unpacked, the boy prowled through the house on his own so that they could hear the squeak of doors along the hallway and the creak of floorboards as he peered into the corner of the empty rooms. He was way ahead of them, and he was restless.</p>	
22	<p>...Luke has strung up a rainbow-striped hammock and sometimes they look out on a still day and see the hammock swinging wildly and they know that the boy is enveloped in its folds.</p>	
30–31	<p>Sometimes the boy looks like an angel, polished by the sun, but today he is a bush urchin; on his left shin is a large purple bruise and his hair is matted with dirt. Seeing Luke approach, he whoops loudly and bangs his stick on the wood block...disappeared behind the far corner of the house...</p>	
36	<p>On some evenings the boy comes with them, sitting deep in the canoe on the floor between their knees. He seems to like being on the water, except when the swans are near. Then his little body becomes stiff and hyper-alert, and he looks up anxiously to scan the sky.</p>	
Chapter 2		

Chapter 3		
