

Lieutenant Mamiya in *The Wind-up Bird Chronicle*

The candidate clearly wants to address the way a minor character is used by Murakami in the novel in response to a prompt for supervised writing asking for the function of a minor character in a novel.

Embracing plot and characterization, the candidate straddles narrative and analysis, with good intentions but seemingly without a very clear line of discussion. There is some perceptive knowledge of the text here and the ideas about Lieutenant Mamiya are often on target, such as his minor role but sustained influence in the novel that helps Toru see his path and for the Lieutenant to serve as a bridge between Toru and Mr. Honda. The notion that he may be the inspiration for Toru's retreat to the well is also valuable. In some ways "characterization" and "plot" possibly hamper the candidate as much as they are meant to help the writer consider authorial choices. There is some valid judgment to reward in Descriptor C, but on the whole, the positive features of the essay are undermined by a poor design and the attempt by a non-native speaker to find the right terms for what she wants to convey about the novel. (It would be a useful exercise for teachers to discuss how this student could have been guided to a more successful performance).

- A: X
- B. Knowledge and understanding 4
- C. Appreciation of the writer's choices 4
- D. Organization and development 3
- E. Language 3