

Professional Writing Skills
SS 2007

Midterm Exam
Campbell/Wurschitz

Midterm Exam

Write either a film review or a book review based on the attached short story: *A Family Supper* by Kazuo Ishiguro. Length: 300-325 words

Book Review

Write a review of *A Family Supper* by Kazuo Ishiguro. You should pretend that the plot of the attached short story is the basis for a novel. You can invent any background information you wish about the author, his previous work, etc.

Film Review

Write a review of a film adaptation of *A Family Supper*. You can adapt the plot of the story as you wish but make sure the basic elements of the plot remain. Remember to add information about the director and actors.

G1**Film Review – *A Family Supper***

„A Family Supper“ – currently shown in Austrian cinemas – is a film based on the eponymous short story written by Kazuo Ishiguro. It was adopted from the famous American director Howard McFee, who had his breakthrough in 2003 with the film “Principles” for which he received an Oscar for best director. Since then his work has been highly acclaimed. Once more McFee shows with “A Family Supper” his incredible ability to fascinate the audience with serious true-to-life subjects. In his latest work a Japanese family with a tragical history stands in the centre of the story.

The actors seem to be born for their roles. The main actor Hazuo Hasimoli starring 26 year old Kaso Famosa does a very convincing job and it’s almost unbelievable that he is “just” an actor in a fictious story and not starring his own life. Unfortunately the two other important actors Haso Kimari as his disappointed, strict father and Ishiza Prahi as loving sister only play minor roles. They almost act as if they were a family in true life. One also has the impression that they look the same. A heart-rending, outstanding performance of all of the three!

The film opens with a short scene in a big kitchen where a chef tells his trainees how to prepare a certain fish called Fugu, which poisoning is hideously painful and almost always fatal when not prepared properly. In the next scene we see a Japanese family – father, daughter and son – talking about the dead of the mother. The family went through great struggles after this tragic experience. The son Kaso Fomosa, was living in America when his mother died and never really heard the whole story about her dead and therefore wasn’t able to overcome this heavy loss. On the evening when the family first meets they talk about all the things that happened. The father faces many problems because his company collapsed shortly before and his partner killed himself as well as his wife and children. When the family sits at the dinner table the story comes to a sudden turning point.

“ A Family Supper” is undoubtedly one of the most brilliant films I’ve seen in the last five years. Not only the performance of the actors is outstanding but also the marvellous soundtrack contributes to the mysterious atmosphere. The director has fantastic skills in portraying a family’s fate. He managed to produce another masterpiece on the one hand very sensitive but on the other hand realistic and true to life.

I can really recommend this new blockbuster. It can be seen as a sign that not only in Hollywood produced films and no American or European actors can achieve important international film awards.

Band 3**Justification**

All content points are addressed (i.e. plot summary, discussion of film (directors, actors), recommendation; length), but not always appropriately, particularly the 3rd paragraph, where the story line is confusing, sticking too closely to the chronology of the film rather than guiding the reader through the plot. Text type requirements are largely met; however, the language tends to be formulaic, e.g. *undoubtedly one of the most brilliant films I've seen in the last five years.*