**Heroes speaking test**

***Foundation***

1. Who is the novel written by and when is it set?

Robert Cormier; set just before and just after World War Two in America.

1. How is the novel structured?

The novel starts in the present tense (after the war) but we learn the lives of Francis, Larry and Nicole through a series of flashbacks.

1. Where are Francis’ family?

His Uncle, who looked after him as a child, migrated to Canada during World War Two. Francis is alone in his home of Frenchtown, Monument.

1. Why does Francis try to hide?

He hides because he is embarrassed about his physical disfigurement and wants to kill Larry LaSalle.

1. When you have to analyse a GCSE question, what should you include?

The key concept/word from the question in every paragraph.

The Point-Evidence-Explain device -Effect-Link back to question should be the structure of your paragraph.

1. When you have to analyse a character, what should you refer to?

The scene the character is in and why it is relevant to the character/theme.

What they are saying/Who they are speaking to/Its meaning.

How they are behaving/Why they are behaving in this manner.

What the reader feels/What the writer wanted the reader to think about.

***Intermediate***

1. What is symbolic in the novel?

**THE WRECK CENTRE** –  “a bad luck place”; “A place of doom.”

1. How is war presented in the novel?

Through drunken ex-soldier Arthur Rivier – ‘Nobody talks about the war … I want to talk about it, my war … The scared war…We weren’t heroes. We were only there…’

“We didn’t think of ourselves as soldiers but only two Frenchtown boys in uniform. And I had not yet killed anybody.”

“…not like the war movies at the Plymouth, nobody displaying heroics or bravado.”

“…my bursts of gunfire killed the soldiers quickly…I saw how young they were, boys with apple cheeks, too young to shave. Like me.”

1. What quotes could you use in relation to the (flawed) idea of being heroic (as is the title)?

“I am not the hero he thinks I am, not like the other veterans here in the St Jude Club.”

“only the Silver Star is for heroism.”

‘I don’t know what a hero is any more, Nicole…’ ‘Write about it, Francis. Maybe you can find the answer that way.’

“I think of my old platoon…of Enrico…of Arthur Rivier…Scared kids, not born to fight and kill. Who were not only there but who stayed, did not run away, fought the good war. And never talk about it. And didn’t receive a Silver Star. But heroes, anyway. The real heroes.”

‘Does that one sin of mine wipe away all the good things?’

10.) What quotes could you use in relation to the theme of APPEARANCE v REALITY (Identity / Disguise)

… the scarf and the bandage were working in two ways: not only to hide the ugliness of what used to be my face, but to hide my identity.

I feel like a spy in disguise as I walk the streets of Frenchtown.

I had always wanted to be a hero, like Larry LaSalle and all the others, but had been a fake all along. And now I am tired of the deception and have to rid myself of the fakery…’I am not a hero,’ I tell him… ‘I went to war because I wanted to die.’

What matters is hiding my face from others, not only to save them the shock of seeing a face in disrepair but so that they won’t identify little Francis Cassavant later on, after I have carried out my mission.

I am like the Hunchback of Notre Dame, my face like a gargoyle and the duffel bag like a lump on my back.

1. What quotes could you use in relation to **NICOLE (LOVE, BETRAYAL AND FORGIVENESS)?**

I knelt there like a knight at her feet, her sword having touched my shoulder. I silently pledged her my love and loyalty for ever.

‘I’ve got to go,’ I told her. ‘You and Larry stay. One last dance…’ The words sounded false as I said them and I realized they were Larry’s words, not mine.

I recognised in her eyes what I could not deny: betrayal. My betrayal of her in her eyes.

‘You didn’t do anything.’ The accusation in her voice was worse than the harshness … ‘Why didn’t you do something?…’

‘…You weren’t to blame for what happened. I realised that later…I know what he was. For a while there he made me feel special…Made me think I was a ballerina. Now I’m starting to find out what I am, who I really am…’

1. **How is the character of LARRY presented?**

And, finally, I pray for Larry LaSalle … Then I am filled with guilt and shame, knowing that I have just prayed for the man I am going to kill.

“a touch of Fred Astaire in his walk”; “broad shoulders of an athlete and the narrow hips of a dancer”; “But he was most of all a teacher.”

‘You are all stars,’ Larry LaSalle always told us.

Dazzled by his talent and his energy, none of us dwelt on the rumours. In fact, the air of mystery that surrounded him added to his glamour.

He tamed the notorious schoolyard bully … ‘But he still beats up kids in the schoolyard,’ Joey LeBlanc observed.

Larry was our war hero, yes, but he had been a hero to us long before he went to war.

‘I’m not supposed to play favourites, Francis, but you and Nicole are special to me.’

We always did what Larry LaSalle told us to do. Always carried out his slightest wish.

1. **How is the idea of religion/sin presented in the novel?**

The gun is like a tumour on my thigh.

He is pale, eyes sunken into the sockets …and he seems fragile now, as if caught in an old photograph that has faded and yellowed with age.

‘Oh, Francis…You couldn’t have stopped me…You were just a child.’

‘The sweet young things…Even their heat is sweet…’

‘Everybody sins, Francis. The terrible thing is that we love our sins. We love the thing that makes us evil. I love the sweet young things.’

‘Does that one sin of mine wipe away all the good things?’

1. How is foreshadowing used in the novel?

…there were dark hints that he had ‘gotten into trouble’ in New York City.

‘Don’t go,’ Nicole whispered into my ear. But Larry LaSalle had told me to go.

1. How is the novel ended?

With a sense of hope. (The novel ends with:

Maybe …I should write about them

Maybe I should buy a typewriter

Maybe I should…

I should …

I think …  And then Francis heads off to catch a train.

***Advanced***

1. Answer a GCSE past question on Heroes