**MATURITE ORAL EXAM**

**Murray SCHISGAL, The Pushcart Peddlers**  
(year 4, term 1)

Edition: *American One-Act Plays*, Klett-Verlag

1. The author
2. Plot & summary of the play
3. Characters: IDs and evolution in the story
   a. Cornelius J. Holingsworth III
   b. Shimmel Shitzman
   c. Maggie Cutwell
4. Themes:
   a. Elements of American history
      a. Individualism / Uncle Sam / Ellis Island / New Canaan
      b. The Pilgrim Fathers
      c. The Statue of Liberty and Emma Lazarus’ poem
   b. Emma Lazarus’s poem “The New Colossus”
      a. Who was Emma Lazarus
      b. Thematic analysis of the poem
   c. The American Dream(s)
   d. Love
   e. Reality & prejudice
   f. Reality and make-belief
   g. What makes the play fun
   h. The moral of the play
   i. Irony
Roald Dahl  *Short Stories from Kiss Kiss*  (year 4 term 2)

‘William and Mary’
1. Roald Dahl’s life and works
2. Summary of the short story
3. Characters
   a. Mary Pearl  
   b. William Pearl
   c. Dr Landy  
   d. The solicitor
4. Themes
   a. Relationships
      i. William – Mary
      ii. William – Dr Landy
      iii. Mary – Dr Landy
   b. The title of the short story
   c. The letter
   d. The experiment
   e. The eye(s)
   f. The TV set
   g. Mary’s progressive emancipation and revenge
   h. An open ending
   i. A well-written story: foreshadowing and irony
   j. Science and its criticism

‘Mrs Bixby and the Colonel’s Coat’
1. Roald Dahl’s life and works
2. Summary of the short story
3. Characters
   a. Mrs Bixby
   b. Mr Bixby
   c. The Colonel
   d. Miss Pulteney
   e. Wilkins
   f. The pawnbroker
4. Themes
   a. The opening of the short story: a mirror of the entire story
      i. A criticism of the American society of the 1950s – 1960s
      ii. Men and women
      iii. Marriage
      iv. Unfaithfulness
   b. The dentist versus the Colonel
   c. Relationships
      i. Mrs Bixby – Mr Bixby
      ii. Mrs Bixby – the Colonel
      iii. Mrs Bixby – the pawnbroker
      iv. Mrs Bixby – Miss Pulteney
      v. Mr Bixby – Mrs Bixby
      vi. Mr Bixby – Miss Pulteney
   d. Love and the triangular relationships
   e. The presents
      i. The Colonel’s coat throughout the story
      ii. The neckpiece
   f. Hypocrisy: pretense versus reality
   g. The visits to the pawnbroker
      i. Mrs Bixby’s
      ii. Mr Bixby
   h. An open ending
      i. Foreshadowing and irony