

2.5a – Extracts only (the material contained here are examples of what evidence at each level of achievement might look like. They do not represent quantity but quality. Assessors need to be sure that the balance of evidence supports achievement at the specific level selected.

Playwright: Timberlake Wertenbaker

Concerns of playwright identified	Link to text	Detailed explanation and clarity	Insightful connections
<p><b>Portfolio</b> Wertenbaker sets lots of her plays in historical or magical settings (4)</p>	<p>Our Country's Good is set in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and Arden City is set in modern London but it is focussed around a 'Garden' that is kind of like a parallel to the Forest of Arden from Shakespeare.</p>	<p>This kind of adds a bit of excitement and interest to the stories. It lets them have a kind of fairy tale quality where Wertenbaker can say important stuff but not get it all preachy.</p>	
<p><b>Hotseating (speaking as Wertenbaker)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Change:</b> I believe that everyone can change for the better if given the chance. Everyone deserves a second chance. Just because someone has done something bad does not necessarily mean they are a bad person</li> <li>Ross and Phillips represent two different sides of an argument about human nature</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A great example of change is Liz. She started off as a scary, canting psychotic woman. You slowly see her begin to change as she is influenced by the play Ralph is directing that she is part of...she builds friendships and connections, caring for her new friends and doing what she can to protect them. I chose Liz to change because she came from the worst background but, with a little support and understanding it was shown that she wasn't as bad as everyone had thought</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Like when Ross is humiliating Mary, Liz and Sideways work together and begin rehearsing to distract him. Liz cannot carry on and broke down when the sound of her friend, Arscott, being tortured becomes too much.</li> <li>Ross thinks that convicts are like an underclass. He treats them like animals. ('Wag your tail, Bryant, bark').Phillips thinks that people are what they are made ('surely no one is born naturally cultured'). In the end, Phillips is right. (2)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I used Ross as a contrast to this. He is a strong, stubborn character who has authority throughout the colony. I didn't make him change because he had nothing to change for. He was in a 'good' position and wanted to hold on to his position and so he wasn't interested in helping the convicts become better people. (1)</li> <li>It kind of reflects what the split in thinking was at the time the play was set. You know there were all these arguments about human nature and 'the noble savage' and stuff. There was a growing belief that people could make more of themselves if given a chance. It's not hard to see what my belief about this is, is it. I think it is true for today as well.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Class discussion</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The discussion focuses on who can read and who cannot.</li> <li>The teacher suggests that one of the themes that Wertenbaker</li> </ol>			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>So- like, knowledge is power then. If you let the convicts learn to read and get educated then they won't want to do all the dirty work needed to build a colony. They might start</li> </ol>

<p>is interested in is Identity.</p>			<p>asking why it's them digging the ditch and someone else standing over them with the whip. They will want someone else to do it or they might want more of a share of what they make? Is that why Ross is so against the play? (3)</p> <p>2- Oh well that makes sense doesn't it. I mean, in Arden City everyone who goes to the allotments finds who they <u>really</u> are and in Our Country's Good they all go to Australia and most of them find that they are something different to what they thought they were. They had more choices and could change their lives. They sort of found out who they were as well, away from the rules of the outside world.</p>
<p><b>Scene</b> Act 2 Sc 10. This scene shows the important theme of <b>change</b> that Wertebaker shows through her plays.</p>	<p>1- Liz changes her voice and vocabulary.</p> <p>2- Ralph has also changed because of his contact with the convicts. He no longer thinks of them as low graded convicts but as actual reformed human beings</p>	<p>1- At the end of this scene, Liz says 'Your excellency, I will endeavour to speak Mr Farquhar's lines with the elegance and clarity their own worth commands'. This compares to her language earlier in the play ('Luck, don't know the word. Shifts its bob when I come near'.) And shows she has changed from outspoken, insane convict to a more educated, respectful and loyal human being. (3)</p> <p>2- He can now relate to and understand them, as shown in the quote 'She won't speak sir, because of the convict code of honour. She doesn't want to beg for her life</p>	<p>1- It's kind of like she finds her voice. She starts off silent and then begins to speak in short sentences but then her final line (3) It really shows is so proper. how she has changed because now she knows what she says matters.</p>

