

You need to refer to source 2A and source 2B for this question: The experiences of children in the two prisons are very different. Use details from both sources to write a summary of the differences.

In source A, the writer portrays the restrictions placed on the children as more of a necessity, and generally quite fair. The writer employs dialogue, igniting the light-hearted and comedic exchanges that seem to subvert the preconceived miserable and dim prison stigma. The question, "Can I go on the X-box" injects some humour, which seems to be reciprocated by the "manager" who "jokes" that "Everybody puts on weight here" - seemingly glorifying the prison conditions, further perpetuated by the "behaviour based" rules which seem fair and just.

On the contrary, within Source B, the writer exacerbates the dire infringements shackled on the almost innocent youth. The declarative, "In the eyes of humanity it should be a horrible thing" uses moral laws to highlight the negligence towards children in the Victorian prisons.

In Source B, the writer portrays the ill-fitted and spine-tingling prison wear that "tiny" children wear conveying the idea that they do not belong just as their clothes physically send that message. The fact that they were "unable to find something that fit" suggests that children shouldn't fit in prisons likewise. Whereas in Source A, the writer refrains from explicitly suggesting that the children should not be locked up. By classifying the children as "so violent" the writer expresses a plausible reason for them being in the institution as opposed to Oscar Wilde's challenging of this societal issue.

You now need to refer only to source 2B, Oscar Wilde's description of the treatment of children in Reading Prison. How does Wilde use language to create sympathy for the child prisoners? (12 marker)

Firstly, the writer draws the reader's sympathy via the portrayal of the child as small, timid and ultimately defenceless. The writer employs a semantic field of small and inadequate language visible in "little child", "quite small", "tinier" and the repetitive use of "little" - which is not only used to portray the children as poor, defenceless and needy, but furthermore used to convey the petulant nature of the crime, and the very mismatching enormous punishment that is paired with it. This contrast heightens this necessity for children to be released from this terrible institution.

The writer employs a simile to translate the extent of fear and "terror" that the child is struck with. Through the simile, "The child's face was like a white wedge of sheer terror" the writer evokes the image of a helpless, anxious child that needs the reader's sympathy and through painting the child as a victim, it thus suggests the horrendous prison system is a villain that needs to be overcome. Alliteration is further utilised in "white wedge" to extend the fear felt by the child. The later metaphor, "the terror of a hunted animal" combines the children with this animalistic imagery, thus infantilising them and drawing parallels to how they are silenced and abused by the prison system. The vulnerable and defenceless position evokes the reader's empathy.

Wilde's continual use of amplifiers surrounding the prison conditions lengthen the horrors experienced by the young children. For instance, the writer exacerbates the miniscule size of the children, through the amplifiers "quite", "very" and "utterly". This deepens the severity at which these injustices occur, and convey how the "Brutality" of prison life should not be shared with the extreme youth.