

Ma mammy disnae love me. Ah kin see it in her eyes, no the way she looks at me, but the way she looks through me, the way you look at sumpn that's been in the hoose fur years; you know it's there but you don't see it. It's hard no tae be seen, it makes you wee and crumpled up inside. When ah kiss her on the cheek, her skin creases, soft and
5 squashy lik a marshmallow, and close up ah see the lines runnin doon the sidey her mooth and smell the powder on her face. She doesnae kiss me back.

You kin read fur ten minutes but then that light's tae be aff.

Gonnae come and tuck me in, Mammy?

You're too big tae be tucked in.

10 She keeps watchin the television.

You tuck Katie in.

Katie's only five. You're a big girl.

Ah'm eight year auld. Ah'm a big girl.

Ah don't know if ma mammy loved me afore Katie wis born, ah cannae mind
15 that far back but ah must of been jealous when she was wee. Ah remember wan day she wis lyin sleepin in her pram outside and ah got plastercine and made it intae wee balls and stuck them all ower her face; she looked as if she had some horrible disease. Ah mind staunin there lookin doon at that soft skin covered in sticky horrible purple lumps and felt good inside, warm and full.

20 Katie's asleep in the other bed, fair curly hair spread oot across the pillow, smilin in her sleep the way she does when she's awake. Ma sister is perfect, ah kin see that, she's wee and pretty and aye happy, bubblin ower wi life. When the sun shines, she's runnin about the gairden efter sunbeams and when it rains she pits on her wellies and splashes in the puddles. She never cries. Ma daddy says she's a princess, her
25 teacher says she's an angel, ma mammy says,

Why can't you be more like your sister?

In the school nativity play Katie gets picked as the angel that tells Mary she's gonnae huv the baby Jesus so ma mammy sits up all night sewin her a white robe and a perra golden wings. Ah'm a shepherd, wi a stripy tea towel roon ma heid. In the photy she's
30 at the front, in between Mary and Joseph, glitterin as if she really wis an angel, and ah'm this big lurkin thing at the endy the back row, daurk and blurred. The photy gets framed and put on the unit in the livin room.

Thon's a lovely photy.

Katie's pure beautiful in that frock. She looks just lik an angel.

35 *And Alison's gettin awful big fur her age.*

Questions

<p>1</p>	<p>“Ma mammy disnae love me.” (line 1)</p> <p>Give two reasons why this is an effective way to begin this short story?</p> <p>Short/blunt/to the point (1)</p> <p>Surprises the reader/the opposite of what we might expect/intrigues us as to why (1)</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>“It’s hard no tae be seen” (line 3)</p> <p>Using your own words, explain how this makes the narrator feel.</p> <p>Gloss of “wee and crumpled up inside” e.g. (emotionally) small and crushed</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>“her skin creases, soft and squashy lik a marshmallow” (lines 4-5)</p> <p>Identify any two techniques the writer uses in this description and say why you think they are effective.</p> <p>Any two (1) + (1) of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alliteration/sibilance (“s sounds”) + appropriate comment • onomatopoeia (“squashy”) + appropriate comment • simile “lik a marshmallow” + appropriate comment 	<p>2</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>What evidence is there in this extract to support Alison’s feeling that her mother does not love her? Give three examples.</p> <p>Any three from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • looks through her • doesn’t kiss her back • doesn’t tuck her in • keeps watching TV • other suitable evidence 	<p>3</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Comment on the effect of the sentence structure in lines 24-26 (“Ma daddy... <i>your sister</i>”).</p> <p>Repetition/parallel/triad (1) helps to emphasise Alison’s sense of inferiority when compared to her sister (1)</p>	<p>2</p>

<p>6</p>	<p>How does the writer’s word choice further suggest the contrast between Alison and Katie in lines 27-32?</p> <p>Candidates should quote two contrasting examples from the lists below (1) and make an appropriate comment on the connotations of their chosen examples (1)</p> <p>Katie: “white robe”/ “golden wings”/ “glitterin”/ “angel”/ “front”</p> <p>Alison: “stripey”/ “turkin”/ “endy”/ “back”/ “daurk”/ “blurred”</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>With close textual reference, show how the ideas and/or language of this story are similar OR different to another story or stories by Anne Donovan which you have read.</p> <p>8-7 marks Candidates should identify at least three features/ideas in the story and be able to comment on these in at least two other stories. The discussion should be supported by detailed evidence from the stories being discussed. <i>Skilled</i> discussion of other Donovan stories in relation to <i>Dear Santa</i> (8) Still skilled, but lacking some assurance (7)</p> <p>6-5 marks Candidates should identify at least two features of ideas and/or language in the story and be able to comment on these in at least two other stories. The discussion should be supported by several pieces of evidence from the stories being discussed. <i>Confident</i> discussion of other Donovan stories in relation to <i>Dear Santa</i> (6) Slightly less confident discussion (5)</p> <p>4-3 marks Candidates should identify two features of ideas and/or language common to other stories. There should be at least two pieces of evidence from the stories to support the candidate’s discussion. <i>Some</i> discussion attempted of other Donovan stories in relation to <i>Dear Santa</i> (4) Weaker discussion (3)</p> <p>2-1 marks Candidates should identify at least one feature of ideas and/or language of other Donovan stories in relation to <i>Dear Santa</i> with at least one supporting piece of evidence(2) Acknowledgement of common feature(s) with general reference (1)</p> <p>0 marks No reference to any similarity/common feature with any other story (0)</p>	<p>8</p>

