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| **Self-Taught A Literature**  **Written Assignment - Reflection** |
| **Criterion:** To what extent does the student show how their understanding of cultural and contextual elements was developed through the interactive oral? |
| 0 |
| The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below |
| 1 |
| Reflection on the interactive oral shows **superficial development** of the student's understanding of cultural and contextual elements. |
| 2 |
| Reflection on the interactive oral shows **some development** of the student’s  understanding of cultural and contextual elements. |
| 3 |
| Reflection on the interactive oral shows **development** of the student’s understanding of cultural and contextual elements. |
| Note on Word Limit |
| The word limit for the reflective statement is 300–400 words. If the word limit is exceeded, 1 mark will be deducted. |

**Sample Reflective Statement:**

Question: How was your understanding of cultural and contextual considerations of the work developed through your journal writing?

**Work used:** *Fathers and Sons* by Ivan Turgenev

During my learning and journaling, the subjects brought to light were the Russian economy during the 1850s, serfdom, and the question of whether Turgenev was obsolete or not. The articles on the Russian economy explained the state of transition the Russian economy was in during the mid-1850s. Prior to this period, there were members of the society called serfs. These were essentially slaves who worked on the fields of rich peasants, or the upper class. However, at this time Russia began to move away from serfdom.

After my reflection, it would appear Turgenev places great importance on the time, place, and culture of his novel, as serfdom and the existence of social classes are a predominant feature in *Fathers and Sons*. I found my extra reading interesting, as it clarified some aspects of the novel. For example, in *Fathers and Sons*, Nikolai is a relatively well off land owner, and he ‘owns’ many serfs. However, as the system begins to evolve, the serfs and their owners have some trouble adjusting to the new system of land ownership. The serfs are misbehaved and irresponsible, and these aspects of the culture and context form the setting of the novel.

The article on the ‘Turgenev Question’ was interesting as well, because it highlighted some of Turgenev’s techniques, and what he’s famous for. According to the article, the art of Turgenev is in understatement: he manages to capture large philosophical, social, and historical movements as manifested in everyday life.

This can indeed be seen in *Fathers and Sons*. Turgenev paints a picture of commonplace Russian life with characters like Nikolai Arkady, Pavel, Bazarov and Fenichka, using barely any overly dramatic devices. Yet, through the characters’ thoughts and interactions with each other Turgenev explores ideas such as familial relationships. Furthermore, he portrays other aspects of Russian life, including the wide gap between social classes and the idea of young people rejecting all authorities.