
Paper 2: Question 3

Whole sample response

Isabella Bird describes the surfers as powerful figures as they 'rode in majestically, always just ahead of the breaker'. This implies a sense of control that the surfers have over the waves and portrays them as like a king, as 'majestically' connotes with authority. This creates a grand impression of the surfers and creates for the reader the same admiration for the surfers.

Bird also describes the sea as a similar powerful force. She personifies 'its mighty impulse' that the surfers were 'always apparently on the verge of engulfment by the fierce breaker'. The adjectives 'mighty' and 'fierce' imply the aggressive qualities of the sea and thus present the sea as a forceful object. This depicts the sea as an even more powerful force than the surfers, suggesting nature has ultimate control. This creates a sense of unease for the reader as Bird creates anticipation of the destruction of the surfers by the waves.

In addition, Bird depicts the surfers to have a sense of freedom and projects their liveliness. They rode their surfboards 'waving their arms' and 'uttering exultant cries'. The words 'waving' and 'exultant' suggest the feelings of exhilaration and freedom created through surfing.