**“Letter to the Absent Kid” Scoring Guide**

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| **Score** | **Rationale** |
| **2**  **(10 points)** | A response:  - Gives sufficient evidence of the ability to justify interpretations of  Information (identifies a defensible theme, connects literary elements to the formation of the theme)  - Includes specific examples that make clear reference to the text  - Adequately supports examples with clearly relevant information from  the text |
| **1**  **(7.5 points)** | A response:  - Gives limited evidence of the ability to justify interpretations of  Information (identifies a defensible theme, makes an attempt to connect the literary elements to the formation of the theme)  - Includes some examples that make clear reference to the text.  - Supports examples with limited information from the text |
| **0**  **(5 points)** | A response gets no credit if it provides no evidence of the ability to justify  interpretations of information, includes no relevant information from the  text, or is vague. |

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