*Invictus* : Close Reading

Yr 10 English

*Invictus* by Ernest Henley

Out of the night that covers me,

Black as the Pit from pole to pole,

I thank whatever gods may be

For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance

I have not winced nor cried aloud.

Under the bludgeonings of chance

My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears

Looms but the horror of the shade,

And yet the menace of the years

Finds, and shall find me, unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,

How charged with punishments the scroll.

I am the master of my fate.

I am the captain of my soul.

Read the poem and answer the following questions in sentences.

1. What does the word ‘Invictus’ mean? (1 mark )

2. Discuss two techniques used by the poet and provide examples from the poem. (2 marks)

3. What is the message in the poem? (2 marks )

4. What do the last two lines of the poem mean? ( 2 marks )

5. Write a paragraph explaining how the poem relates to film *Invictus*. (3 marks )

Mark / 10