# Discuss how Munro has been represented in the film, The World’s Fastest Indian.

“The World’s Fastest Indian” (2005) is an insightful movie directed by the world renowned director, Roger Donaldson. A character I enjoyed in this film was Burt Munro. I enjoyed this character because of his high, uplifting spirit of determination. Burt Munro is important because he reveals the ideas of ‘Manawanui (Perseverance),’ ‘Realising Your Dreams’ and ‘Overcoming Obstacles.’ These ideas are seen through the film techniques: dialogue, lighting and types of camera shots and angles.

Burt Munro is a character I enjoyed because of his total dedication and wholeheartedness towards his dreams, living a day at a time. This is seen when at the start of the movie, Burt perseveres when making his bike, even though he was poor, he showed that nothing is impossible. Additionally, on his way to Bonneville, he meets a car dealer who offers him a job. He could have accepted the job, and turned down his dream of setting a land speed record. But he didn’t. He persevered, even through temptation that could give his life a U –Turn. This is important because he reveals the idea of ‘Manawanui’ of persisting through the most daring times of his life.

This character is also important because he shows the idea of ‘Realising your Dreams.’ This is seen through when the cameraman uses specific film techniques such as lighting. This is because lighting is usually considered the fundamental parts in the movie, because it sets the feeling or mood. Similarly, the lighting used around Burt is also used to represent his feelings and moods. An example of this would be: when Burt asleep in his bed, then there is a flash- forward of Burt on Oreti Beach, Invercargill looking determined and ready for a challenge. This is depicted by the bright, clear, natural lighting of the sun shining on Burt’ s pensive face, to show endurance and diligence of Burt adopting his dream.

This is also seen when Burt uses dialogue. For example, when Burt says to his neighbour, Tom, “All my life I’ve wanted to do something big, something bigger and better than all the other jokers.”Furthermore, he uses old English words such as ‘Bung,’ or ‘Bob’s your uncle.’ This is important because it represents Burt’s ingenuity and it shows Burt has realised his dreams and is aiming to fulfil it, successfully.

Lastly, this character is important because he reveals the idea of ‘Overcoming Obstacles.’ This is seen through the specific film technique: Close- Ups. This is important because it also reveals the feeling of the character and makes you relate to them. For example, when Burt realises he hasn’t registered, there is a Close- Up of the anguish on Burt’s face, because he thinks that all hope is lost. Consequently, this shows that Burt is learning to overcome the obstacle of being rejected and going the hardships of life by being turned down.

This also is seen through the specific film technique: Reverse Tracking. This is important because it makes you feel as if you are in the scene with the characters and its surroundings. An example of this would be; when Burt is about to attempt his land speed record, there is a reverse tracking shot of Burt’s surroundings and what Burt’s challenge is out on the flats. This therefore shows Burt’s obstacle of the flats; by conquering his challenge out on the flats of becoming the ‘World’s Fastest Indian.’

In conclusion, I enjoyed Burt Munro because of his total dedication and wholeheartedness towards fulfilling his dreams. Likewise, Burt shows the ideas of ‘Manawanui,’ ‘Realising Your Dreams’ and ‘Overcoming Obstacles.’ These ideas are seen through specific film techniques such as lighting, dialogue, flash-forward, close-ups and reverse tracking shots. These film techniques are important because they represent Burt’s ingenuity, his fulfilment of his dreams, hardships of life, and his dreams being conquered. Ultimately, the director’s intention of showing the film was: to exhibit someone’s perspective, and to show the reality of how people do live, even nowadays.

# How has the significance/importance of Burt Munro’s character been portrayed in the film ‘The World’s Fastest Indian’?