

1

ENGLISH: YEAR 8- End of Year Exam- Explorations in Reading and Creative Writing.

THE BASICS:

Read the text – 5 mins

Section A

Q1 – List 4 things (4 marks)

Q2a- Identify and select information to prove a point. (2 marks)

Q2b – How does the writer use language to... (4 marks)

Q3a- Identify and select information to prove a point. (2 marks)

Q3b – How does the writer use language to... (4 marks)

Q4a – How does the writer shape and influence the thought of the reader... (1 marks)

Q4b – Explain your thoughts and ideas using a quotation from the text (3 marks)

Q5a – The opening: Select the correct structural feature (1 marks)

Q5b – Explain how structural features keep reader engaged?

Q5c – The middle: Select the correct structural feature (1 marks)

Q5ci – Explain how structural features keep reader engaged?

Q5d- The end: How does the writer choose to end the story and why? (4 marks)

Q6: [statement] To what extent do you agree? (8 marks)

Section B

Q5: Write a continuation of the story showing an understanding of what you have read. Stay true to the form and style of the original story and ensure a logical sequence (45 mins including planning time.)

2

Section A: Question 1

Question stem: Write down four things you learn...

1. Read the question and highlight the key words, including the lines it asks you to focus on.
2. Draw a box around the lines you need to focus on in the insert.
3. Write in full sentences.
4. One point per line.
5. Keep it simple i.e. explicit inferences.

3

Question 2-4

Question stem: How does the writer use language to...

1. Read the question and highlight the key words to ensure you understand what the focus of your answer will be.
2. Re-read the section of text the question asks you to focus on.
3. Highlight key quotations which will help you answer the focus of the question. Consider the use of different language devices.



Spotting the device is not the important part: it's being able to say **why** it is used and what its **Impact** is upon the reader.

5

Question 6

Question stem: '[statement about the text]' To what extent do you agree?

1. Read the question and highlight the key words, including the section of the text if specified. Think carefully about how far you agree with the statement.
2. Draw a box around the section of the text specified.
3. Read through and highlight words/phrases/language devices you will use to argue FOR, and maybe against the statement.

4

Question 5

Question stem: How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader? (What goes where and why?)

1. Read the question and highlight the key words. This question is about how the text is put together and organised, rather than the language devices used.
2. Annotate where you see evidence of the following structural features:
 - * Dialogue
 - * Setting
 - * Shift in focus
 - * Time
3. Skim through the whole source again. Highlight and label where you see different features particularly focus on how the opening and ending are effective.

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6.

Write a continuation of the story. Planning (THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT!) 1. Decide which elements of the original story you will include. 2. Plan using the structures below. 3. Write your story. REMEMBER: If you do not show your teacher you can do use a certain skill (e.g. use capital letters/ adventurous vocabulary/ paragraphs/ varied punctuation etc.) They are left to simply assume you can't. You do not have hours and hours, so quality is preferred over quantity.

-V.S.S The VERY SHORT SENTENCE

Deliberate use of a sentence consisting of no more than 5-6 words in total. Must be for effect and every word must count.

- Out went all light.
- Call me Ishmael.

Prepositional openers – used to show the relationship between the noun and other words in a sentence

- In a flurry ...
- Off in the distance ...
- Throughout ...
- Since last year ...

-ing or -ed openers. Use of a verb in its present or past form

- Frightened, the child backed away ...
- Singing softly, mum soothed my brother ...
- Having far to much fun, they decided to stay another hour ...

7.

How do I open a sentence without using an article or pronoun?

Transitional openers – to begin sentences with interruptions or to change the direction of your story / argument

- Pop! He sent small smoke-rings in to the air.
- Moreover, they did not realise there would be no phone signal here.

Clausal openers- use any of the clausal words to start a sentence (when, where, while, as, since although, if)

- When she demanded it back, Toby confessed that he had...
- If he had got here sooner, we wouldn't have had to queue

Adverb openers – a word or phrase that modifies the meaning of an adjective or other adverb expressing manner, place, time or degree

- Tentatively
- Confidently
- Slowly

9.

Story Mountain

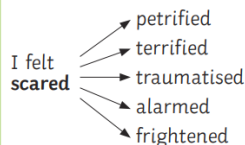


10.

How to Improve

Highlight any ambitious vocab you have used.

Up-level your words: choose a more ambitious, powerful word!



8.

Double adverb

Slowly but surely, the darkness surrounded everything they loved and cherished.

Horror genre

Without warning, the candle vanished as if the flames had been suddenly nipped between a finger and thumb and darkness surrounded her once more, leaving her alone with the figure that no longer needed to lurk in the shadows.

Emotion comma sentence

Terrified, she froze instantly on the spot where she stood, the darkness surrounded her from every corner.

Make the reader feel hope

Although darkness surrounded humanity, they knew enduring the darkness would show them the stars and guide them back to the light.

...**darkness surrounded**...

Developing character

Darkness surrounded my thoughts, leaving me in this abyss of sadness and despair, unable to escape its pull.

A year ago. A month ago. A day ago. Today.

A year ago, Earth was vibrant and full of life. A month ago, we watched as the meteoroid soared towards our planet. A day ago, darkness surrounded the whole world, eliminating everything in its path. Today, I desperately seek other survivors.

Media res

Darkness surrounded the battlefield as he fumbled over the top, trying his best to avoid staring at the fallen souls of the men he once called his friends.

The more, the more

The more he succumb to the forces of evil, the more the darkness surrounded him, extinguishing the last ray of light within him.