

Shakespeare ('Macbeth')

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macbeth as deceitful.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this speech
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in the play as a whole.

30 marks + 4 marks for SPaG

Introduction

- Securing your introduction is crucial as this will shape your entire argument.
- Make a bold, opinionated statement in response to the question. Imagine you had to answer the question in no more than three sentences. What would you say? Address the beginning, middle, end and context.

Main body: Language Analysis

- Remember that you **MUST** write about the beginning, middle and end of the text to show that you have an understanding of the **whole text**.
- Work out where in the play the extract comes (it will often give you a clue in the writing above the extract. E.g. At this point in the story, Macbeth has just...)
- Decide what order you are going to write your sections in. E.g. are you going to write about the beginning first, then the middle, then the end – regardless of what extract you're given? Or, if your extract is from the middle or the end of the text, will you make that your first section?
- Each of your three sections should address the argument outlined in your introduction.
- In your plan, write three headings: Beginning / Middle / End.
- Under each heading, note down anything relevant that you remember about the plot, themes and characters of the text (linked to the question).

Conclusion

- End with a bold, opinionated and confident set of claims that echo (but don't exactly replicate) your introduction.
- Avoid boring essay phrases such as 'In my essay I have shown that...'

EXTENSION ONLY

Main body part 2: Structural Analysis

- *What do you notice about the beginning/middle/end of the play, compared to elsewhere?*
- *What do you notice about the focus of specific Acts or Scenes? Look for patterns.*
- *What is the pace of the text like in different places? How are the sentence lengths contributing to this?*
- *What is the tone of the text like in different places? What features are contributing to the tone?*
- *Discuss the beginning, middle and end as a whole. Why do you think the writer structured it in this order?*
- *What's the climax? Why does it occur when it does?*
- *Are there any contrasting ideas? Flash backs? Foreshadowing? Foregrounding?*
- *Why has the author made all of these structural decisions?*
- *What is the effect on the reader / audience?*

Introduction

At the beginning of the play, Shakespeare has presented Macbeth as a noble and honourable character. However, over the course of the story, he crumbles and tumbles into a deceitful, murderous tyrant who betrays not only his King, but everyone around him. *This is particularly interesting because the moral of the story, which is not follow in Macbeth's treasonous and supernatural footsteps, would have pleased King James I (for whom the play was written) immensely.*

Beginning

- **(Point)** At the beginning of the play, Shakespeare presents Macbeth as... [Do not just use the word(s) in the question. Make your own judgement].
- **(Evidence)** The quote... '...' gives me the impression that he is _____ because ...
- **(Analysis 1)** Specifically, the writer has used the **word** [use correct term] to show... to imply... to makes us think of... to creates imagery of...to make us feel... to help us learn _____ about the character...
- **(Analysis 2)** Contextually, this is interesting because...

Middle

- **(Point)** Later, Macbeth is presented as... [Look for a shift in how the character or theme is presented].
- **(Evidence)** The quote... '...' gives me the impression that he is _____ because ...
- **(Analysis 1)** Specifically, the writer has used the **word** [use correct term] to show... to imply... to makes us think of... to creates imagery of...to make us feel... to help us learn _____ about the character...
- **(Analysis 2)** Contextually, this is interesting because...

End

- **(Point)** By the end of the play Macbeth has become... [Look for a shift in how the character or theme is presented].
- **(Evidence)** The quote... '...' gives me the impression that he is _____ because ...
- **(Analysis 1)** Specifically, the writer has used the **word** [use correct term] to show... to imply... to makes us think of... to creates imagery of...to make us feel... to help us learn _____ about the character...
- **(Analysis 2)** Contextually, this is interesting because...

Conclusion

Starting out with a bright future, in which he is respected by his peers, Macbeth winds up as a disgraced traitor with his head on a spike. Shakespeare's message is clear: betray your King or interfere with the supernatural and there will be consequences. *This would have been a stark warning to the superstitious Jacobeans, not to tempt fate or meddle with magic. James I would likely have been extremely satisfied with this message, especially as he was terrified of witches and the supernatural.*

19th Century Novel ('A Christmas Carol')

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think Dickens presents Scrooge as an outsider to society.

In your response you should:

- how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- how Dickens presents Scrooge in the novel as a whole.

30 marks

Introduction

- Securing your introduction is crucial as this will shape your entire argument.
- Make a bold, opinionated statement in response to the question. Imagine you had to answer the question in no more than three sentences. What would you say? Address the beginning, middle, end and context.

Main body: Language Analysis

- Remember that you **MUST** write about the beginning, middle and end of the text to show that you have an understanding of the **whole text**.
- Work out where in the novella the extract comes (it will often give you a clue in the writing above the extract. E.g. At this point in the story, Scrooge has just...)
- Decide what order you are going to write your sections in. E.g. are you going to write about the beginning first, then the middle, then the end – regardless of what extract you're given? Or, if your extract is from the middle or the end of the text, will you make that your first section?
- Each of your three sections should address the argument outlined in your introduction.
- In your plan, write three headings: Beginning / Middle / End.
- Under each heading, note down anything relevant that you remember about the plot, themes and characters of the text (linked to the question).

Conclusion

- End with a bold, opinionated and confident set of claims that echo (but don't exactly replicate) your introduction.
- Avoid boring essay phrases such as 'In my essay I have shown that...'

EXTENSION ONLY

Main body part 2: Structural Analysis

- *What do you notice about the beginning/middle/end of the play, compared to elsewhere?*
- *What do you notice about the focus of specific staves? Look for patterns.*
- *What is the pace of the text like in different places? How are the sentence lengths contributing to this?*
- *What is the tone of the text like in different places? What features are contributing to the tone?*
- *Discuss the beginning, middle and end as a whole. Why do you think the writer structured it in this order?*
- *What's the climax? Why does it occur when it does?*
- *Are there any contrasting ideas? Flash backs? Foreshadowing? Foregrounding?*
- *Why has the author made all of these structural decisions?*
- *What is the effect on the reader / audience?*

Introduction

At the beginning of the novella, the reader could be led to believe Scrooge is a complete outcast and one who definitely cannot be saved or change his ways. However, as the novella progresses, we witness a transformation in Scrooge: from selfish, greedy and hateful businessman to warm, loving and generous family man. This is particularly interesting because in this presentation, Dickens has highlighted a stark class divide but shows us that we can (and should) integrate, show compassion and close the gap between wealth and poverty.

Beginning

- **(Point)** At the beginning of the novella, Dickens presents Scrooge as... [Do not just use the word(s) in the question. Make your own judgement].
- **(Evidence)** The quote... '...' gives me the impression that he is _____ because ...
- **(Analysis 1)** Specifically, the writer has used the **word** [use correct term] to show... to imply... to makes us think of... to creates imagery of...to make us feel... to help us learn _____ about the character...
- **(Analysis 2)** Contextually, this is interesting because...

Middle

- **(Point)** Later, Scrooge is presented as... [Look for a shift in how the character or theme is presented].
- **(Evidence)** The quote... '...' gives me the impression that he is _____ because ...
- **(Analysis 1)** Specifically, the writer has used the **word** [use correct term] to show... to imply... to makes us think of... to creates imagery of...to make us feel... to help us learn _____ about the character...
- **(Analysis 2)** Contextually, this is interesting because...

End

- **(Point)** By the end of the novella, Scrooge has become... [Look for a shift in how the character or theme is presented].
- **(Evidence)** The quote... '...' gives me the impression that he is _____ because ...
- **(Analysis 1)** Specifically, the writer has used the **word** [use correct term] to show... to imply... to makes us think of... to creates imagery of...to make us feel... to help us learn _____ about the character...
- **(Analysis 2)** Contextually, this is interesting because...

Conclusion

Starting out as a recluse whose pent up anger and resentment for the world causes him to hate and be hated, Scrooge's character proves that people can change. Dickens' message is clear: no matter what an individual's hardships are in life, it is possible for them to rise above it and put others, who are less fortunate, first. The novella manages to shine a light on the issues of Victorian poverty in a playful way, by poking fun at the story's protagonist and his grumpy manner. In effect, Dickens has managed to inoffensively poke fun at any of his readers (past and present) who might have initially had views and attitudes aligned with those of Scrooge at the start of the story.

19th Century Novel ('Frankenstein')

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think Shelley presents the Creature as needing to be loved.

In your response you should write about:

- how Shelley presents the Creature in the extract
- how Shelley presents the Creature in the novel as a whole

30 marks

Introduction

- Securing your introduction is crucial as this will shape your entire argument.
- Make a bold, opinionated statement in response to the question. Imagine you had to answer the question in no more than three sentences. What would you say? Address the beginning, middle, end and context.

Main body: Language Analysis

- Remember that you **MUST** write about the beginning, middle and end of the text to show that you have an understanding of the **whole text**.
- Work out where in the novel the extract comes (it will often give you a clue in the writing above the extract. E.g. At this point in the story, the Creature has just...)
- Decide what order you are going to write your sections in. E.g. are you going to write about the beginning first, then the middle, then the end – regardless of what extract you're given? Or, if your extract is from the middle or the end of the text, will you make that your first section?
- Each of your three sections should address the argument outlined in your introduction.
- In your plan, write three headings: Beginning / Middle / End.
- Under each heading, note down anything relevant that you remember about the plot, themes and characters of the text (linked to the question).

Conclusion

- End with a bold, opinionated and confident set of claims that echo (but don't exactly replicate) your introduction.
- Avoid boring essay phrases such as 'In my essay I have shown that...'

EXTENSION ONLY

Main body part 2: Structural Analysis

- *What do you notice about the beginning/middle/end of the story, compared to elsewhere?*
- *What do you notice about the focus of specific chapters? Look for patterns. Consider the effect of epistolary.*
- *What is the pace of the text like in different places? How are the sentence lengths contributing to this?*
- *What is the tone of the text like in different places? What features are contributing to the tone?*
- *Discuss the beginning, middle and end as a whole. Why do you think the writer structured it in this order?*
- *What's the climax? Why does it occur when it does?*
- *Are there any contrasting ideas? Flash backs? Foreshadowing? Foregrounding?*
- *Why has the author made all of these structural decisions?*
- *What is the effect on the reader / audience?*

Introduction

At the beginning of the story, the Creature is presented as childlike and innocent – craving love from its paternal figure or creator. Later in the story, this desire for compassion is reinforced as the creature gazes lovingly at the interactions of the family in the woods. However, by the end – there is little love left. Cast out and lonely, the Creature replaces any capacity for love with anger and revenge. *This is particularly interesting because the Creature's transformation raises questions about the power of nature versus nurture: is anyone really born evil or do we only have our own prejudices to blame for the darkness in society?*

Beginning

- **(Point)** At the beginning of the novel, Shelley presents the Creature as... [Do not just use the word(s) in the question. Make your own judgement].
- **(Evidence)** The quote... '...' gives me the impression that he is _____ because ...
- **(Analysis 1)** Specifically, the writer has used the **word** [use correct term] to show... to imply... to makes us think of... to creates imagery of...to make us feel... to help us learn _____ about the character...
- **(Analysis 2)** Contextually, this is interesting because...

Middle

- **(Point)** Later, the Creature is presented as... [Look for a shift in how the character or theme is presented].
- **(Evidence)** The quote... '...' gives me the impression that he is _____ because ...
- **(Analysis 1)** Specifically, the writer has used the **word** [use correct term] to show... to imply... to makes us think of... to creates imagery of...to make us feel... to help us learn _____ about the character...
- **(Analysis 2)** Contextually, this is interesting because...

End

- **(Point)** By the end of the story, the Creature has become... [Look for a shift in how the character or theme is presented].
- **(Evidence)** The quote... '...' gives me the impression that he is _____ because ...
- **(Analysis 1)** Specifically, the writer has used the **word** [use correct term] to show... to imply... to makes us think of... to creates imagery of...to make us feel... to help us learn _____ about the character...
- **(Analysis 2)** Contextually, this is interesting because...

Conclusion

Starting life as a miracle and a wonder of science, the Creature could have expected to be treated with care and respect, whilst his creator basked in the glory of genius. However, instead, the discrimination and prejudices of society determined the Creature's path of destruction and, arguably, society only had themselves to blame for his actions. *Shelley has drawn on her own experiences of prejudice, love and loss to portray a character that divides popular opinion, raising the question: who is truly to blame for the evil in the world? The individual? Or the collective?*

Macbeth

Act 2, Scene 3 – Macbeth has just murdered the guards ‘in anger’ at them killing Duncan.

Who can be wise, amazed, temperate and furious,
Loyal and neutral, in a moment? No man:
The expedition my violent love
Outrun the pauser, reason. Here lay Duncan,
His silver skin laced with his golden blood;
And his gash'd stabs look'd like a breach in nature
For ruin's wasteful entrance: there, the murderers,
Steep'd in the colours of their trade, their daggers
Unmannerly breech'd with gore: who could refrain,
That had a heart to love, and in that heart
Courage to make 's love known?

A Christmas Carol

Stave One – The reader is first introduced to Scrooge's character

Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grind- stone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dogdays; and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas. External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him. No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty. Foul weather didn't know where to have him. The heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet, could boast of the advantage over him in only one respect. They often "came down" handsomely, and Scrooge never did. Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, "My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?" No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle, no children asked him what it was o'clock, no man or woman ever once in all his life inquired the way to such and such a place, of Scrooge. Even the blind men's dogs appeared to know him; and when they saw him coming on, would tug their owners into doorways and up courts; and then would wag their tails as though they said, "No eye at all is better than an evil eye, dark master!" But what did Scrooge care? It was the very thing he liked. To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance, was what the knowing ones call "nuts" to Scrooge.

Frankenstein

Chapter 15 – The Creature is reflecting upon the behaviours of the De Lacey family.

'Their happiness was not decreased by the absence of summer. They loved and sympathised with one another; and their joys, depending on each other, were not interrupted by the casualties that took place around them. The more I saw of them, the greater became my desire to claim their protection and kindness; my heart yearned to be known and loved by these amiable creatures: to see their sweet looks directed towards me with affection was the utmost limit of my ambition. I dared not think that they would turn from me with disdain and horror. The poor that stopped at their door were never driven away. I asked, it is true, for greater treasures than a little food or rest: I required kindness and sympathy; but I did not believe myself unworthy of it. 'The winter advanced, and an entire revolution of the seasons had taken place since I awoke into life. My attention, at this time, was solely directed towards my plan of introducing myself into the cottage of my protectors. I revolved many projects; but that on which I finally fixed was, to enter the dwelling when the blind old man should be alone. I had sagacity enough to discover, that the unnatural hideousness of my person was the chief object of horror with those who had formally beheld me. My voice, although harsh, had nothing terrible in it; I thought, therefore, that if, in the absence of his children, I could gain the good-will and mediation of the old De Lacey, I might, by his means, be tolerated by my younger protectors.'