**AO2 Advanced Therapy**

**Finding language and structural features in unseen extracts**

To achieve the highest grade within the exam it is important that you show a critical and exploratory approach to your analysis. While you may find it easy to offer interpretations, or even alternative interpretations, to language and structural features, it may be more difficult to link these ideas together while also maintaining a sophisticated and critical level of analysis.

Higher level analysis should be viewed as a jigsaw puzzle analysis. It’s important that you now begin to link together all of your AOs to show a broad knowledge of the text.

Let’s start by looking at language features such as metaphor, pathetic fallacy and hyperbole within the extract below. Read the extract from the Chapter 5 of *Frankenstein*. In this section, Frankenstein is about to bring life to his creation…

It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils. With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, I collected the instruments of life around me that I might infuse a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet. It was already one in the morning; the rain pattered dismally against the panes, and my candle was nearly burnt out, when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs.

How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch whom with such infinite pains and care I had endeavoured to form? His limbs were in proportion, and I had selected his features as beautiful. Beautiful! Great God! His yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles and arteries beneath; his hair was of a lustrous black, and flowing; his teeth of a pearly whiteness; but these luxuriances only formed a more horrid contrast with his watery eyes, that seemed almost of the same colour as the dun-white sockets in which they were set, his shrivelled complexion and straight black lips.

Now consider how you might begin to tackle this exam style question:

*“Frankenstein is the villain in the novel. He was wrong to play God.”*

Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this statement.

*e.g. The use of pathetic fallacy in the extract clearly shows that Frankenstein is wrong to play God - “the rain pattered dismally against the panes”. Here Shelley is showing the reader that even nature is against the “toils” of Frankenstein. The weather is seen to be representing the mood of the character. However, Frankenstein still doesn’t see this as reason to stop. In this time period, nature was seen as close to God and, therefore, connected strongly with religion. In ignoring these signals, Frankenstein is clearly shown to be the villain as he defies God and instead, takes on the role himself.*

Identify how each language feature is used to give the impression that Frankenstein is a villain.

1. Pathetic Fallacy:

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1. Hyperbole:

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1. Metaphor:

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To achieve a high level response for AO2 on this task, you need to show more critical interpretations of the text. This means really considering why the writer has done certain things and how certain things within the text may represent multiple things.

Consider how each of the following ideas is shown within the extract through language features:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Object or specific thing being described** | **Language Feature and Evidence** | **Interpretation and what it tells us about Frankenstein** |
| The candle | “…my candle was nearly burnt out”- Metaphor | 1. Frankenstein’s mental and physical exhaustion after creating the monster. He is ‘burnt out’ as he has nothing more to give. 2. The shortness of life and the need to act quickly and seize opportunities for fear of missing out. Frankenstein feels a need to make discoveries first and ‘play God’ |
| The monster | “…shrivelled complexion and straight black lips” |  |
|  | “Beautiful! Great God!” |  |

**Using a word or phrase to prompt structural analysis**

It is important that you don’t limit your analysis of structure to sentence types, paragraph lengths and use of punctuation. A more critical and precise observation will use a particular language feature to describe how structure is developed, e.g. how pathetic fallacy and the weather can be used as inspiration to create a stormy or unsettled structure through the use of erratic sentence lengths and punctuation.

In this extract, the creation of the monster is the clear focus of the description.

Explain how the writer creates an erratic structure within the text to show the “convulsive motion” of the monster coming to life.

* Explain how the different sentence structures and punctuation reflect the experience of the monster.
* Explain how the reader might feel when reading this and how it affects our view of Frankenstein, the monster’s creator.

*E.g. Upon reading the extract, the reader would begin to make assumptions about the main character, Frankenstein. The use of language, such as metaphor when the Shelley writes “my candle was nearly burnt out”, suggests that Frankenstein is tired and agitated; perhaps he has been working on this project for a while and, much like the candle, feels that he has given himself entirely to it and is almost “burnt out”. This shows the reader that Frankenstein is a passionate character who is determined to succeed. However, the use of darker imagery such as the candle and the pathetic fallacy of the “dismal” rain suggest that perhaps Frankenstein is attempting to do something that he shouldn’t. This all builds up to create an image of Frankenstein battling the elements and God’s will to do something which goes against nature, thus making us question his morals.*

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Now, draw together all of your ideas to give a two-paragraph response to the initial question. You should analyse both language and structure within your response and focus on giving multiple interpretations which link to wider themes and ideas.

“Frankenstein is the villain in the novel. He was wrong to play God.” Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this statement.

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