**AO2 Base Therapy**

**Finding language features in unseen extracts**

There are lots of different language features that might be in the extract you are given. If you find it hard to find anything, start by identifying the easiest language features first (such as adjectives) before moving on to more difficult examples.

Let’s begin by some revision of language features.

Each of the following examples comes from *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Underline all of the adjectives in the examples.

1. *Mr. Utterson the lawyer was a man of rugged countenance*
2. *I never saw a circle of such hateful faces*
3. *This was a hearty, healthy, dapper, red-faced gentleman…*

Now let’s practise by looking at a short section of the novel. Read the extract below and find an example of each of the following features:

Alliteration

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Simile

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Description of sounds

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And at last his patience was rewarded. It was a fine dry night; frost in the air; the streets as clean as a ballroom floor; the lamps, unshaken, by any wind, drawing a regular pattern of light and shadow. By ten o'clock, when the shops were closed, the by-street was very solitary and, in spite of the low growl of London from all round, very silent. Small sounds carried far; domestic sounds out of the houses were clearly audible on either side of the roadway; and the rumour of the approach of any passenger preceded him by a long time. Mr. Utterson had been some minutes at his post, when he was aware of an odd, light footstep drawing near. In the course of his nightly patrols, he had long grown accustomed to the quaint effect with which the footfalls of a single person, while he is still a great way off, suddenly spring out distinct from the vast hum and clatter of the city. Yet his attention had never before been so sharply and decisively arrested; and it was with a strong, superstitious prevision of success that he withdrew into the entry of the court.

*It’s important that once you have identified language features, you link them back to the question and describe their effect. Below is an example of a question that you could be asked about the novel.*

How does Stevenson use his description of the setting to make London seem strange?

* Talk about how London is made to seem strange in the extract
* Talk about how London is made to seem strange in the whole novel

*Fill in the table below to help you plan an answer to the first bullet point. The first row has been done for you as an example.*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **How does London seem strange? Write one sentence to sum up your ideas below.** | **Write your quotation below** | **How does the writer do this? Write down the name of the language feature they have used to create this effect.** |
| London is made to seem as if it is an animal or something that is alive. | “…the by-street was very solitary and, in spite of the low growl of London from all round, very silent.” | Personification |
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*Great! You’ve started to answer the bullet point above, but to get the most marks we now need to develop those ideas.*

*Let’s talk about the effect of language. To do this you need to think about what the reader would think about the setting, characters or story based on what the writer has said and why the writer might want them to think that way.*

*Let’s take the first example from the table above to help us to structure a PEEL paragraph.*

*Stevenson has used personification to make London seem as if it is alive in the extract, almost like an animal. We can see this when the writer says “…the by-street was very solitary and, in spite of the low growl of London from all round, very silent.” By saying that London “growls”, the reader is made to think that London is like a dangerous animal. An animal will growl when it isn’t happy and so the writer wants us to think that London is a dangerous place. This is how London is made to seem strange in the extract.*

Now you’ve seen an example, it’s time to try to answer yourself. Remember to think about these two things when developing your answer

1. What does this language feature make the reader think about London?
2. Why does the writer want us to think this about London?

Try writing your own paragraph using one of the other examples from the grid.

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