**AO4 Advanced Therapy:**

**Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual reference.**

Read the extract below, then read the guidance and complete tasks in order.

Adele felt as much a part of the garden as her husband, who had grown up on these lawns. She had seen babies become adults. She had seen a hundred families come and go. She had had dozens of other people’s children in and out of her home. The garden became a mystery during these winter months: neighbours becoming shadows glimpsed through windows, their children growing taller and taller behind closed doors, people moving out, people moving in and people occasionally dying. And it wasn’t until the onset of spring, until the days grew longer and the sun shone warmer, that the secrets of the winter were revealed.

She looked again at the new arrivals. Gorgeous girls, tall and big-boned, both of them, with square-jawed faces like warrior queens. And then she turned her gaze to their elfin, worried-looking mother. ‘Was there a man?’ she asked Leo. ‘When they moved in?’  
‘Not that I noticed,’ he said.

She nodded.

She wanted to wander out there now, accidentally cross paths, introduce herself, make sure they realised that there was more to the garden than it might appear on a dank January afternoon such as this. She wanted to impart some sense of the way the garden opened like a blossom during the summer months: back doors left open; children running barefoot in the warm dark of night; the red glow of tin-can barbecues for two in hidden corners; the playground full of young mothers and toddlers; the pop and thwack of ping-pong balls on the table wheeled out by the French family along the way; cats stretched out in puddles of sunshine; striped shadows patterning the lawn through fronds of weeping willows.

***Guidance***

*You are expected to have perceptive and subtle ideas in relation to texts for the top bands. The following activities are intended to challenge you into thinking really critically as opposed to stating the obvious.*

**Task One**

1. Rank the following inferences from most to least significant (1 being most, 5 being least).
2. Adele feels isolated and ill at ease about the new neighbours’ reaction to the garden.
3. Adele loves the garden all year round.
4. The new neighbours have a secret or are somehow distressed.
5. Adele is a confident character who is self assured.
6. Adele feels she needs an excuse to talk to the new neighbours.
7. Now, think about which of the following statements are examples of perceptive inferences by labelling them with the letter ‘P’.
8. Adele feels isolated and ill at ease about the new neighbours’ reaction to the garden.
9. Adele loves the garden all year round.
10. The new neighbours have a secret or are somehow distressed.
11. Adele is a confident character who is self-assured.
12. Adele feels she needs an excuse to talk to the new neighbours.

***Guidance***

*A perceptive point is one that not everyone may pick up on. It is often to do with synthesising several inferences in order to see a more developed one.*

*For example:*

*Simple inference - Adele wants to speak to the ‘new arrivals’*

*Perceptive - The fact that Adele focuses so much on the garden as a source of worry and also happiness shows a conflicted character. This is then emphasized later in the extract by her feeling the need to ‘impart’ ‘some sense’ of how beautiful the garden can be. This is an unusual thing and suggests insecurity with other characters’ judgements and views.*

**Task Two**

Now read the paragraph below from the end of the extract. Annotate any perceptive inferences and points you can about the emotions of the character of Adele.

But right now that was all a long way off. Right now it was January and in an hour or so it would be getting dark, lights switched on, curtains pulled shut, everyone sealed up and internalised. The garden itself dark and shabby; lines of bare-branched trees, dead-faced backs of houses, pale gravelled paths covered in the last of autumn’s leaves; an air of desolation, melancholic whistle of wind through leafless tendrils of weeping willows, cats sitting listlessly on garden walls.

**Task Three**

Now engage with the statement below by deciding whether you agree, disagree and why, making sure you use the inferences and ideas you have already found of your own.

‘The most successful part of the extract is the use of setting; it is what creates the greatest sense of tension.’

How far do you agree or disagree with the statement and why?

Put your ideas into the table below

**Disagree with statement**

*e.g. Disagree, the characters are as interesting and create tension themselves as evidenced by ’…………………..’ etc.*

*e.g. Agree - the setting creates tension as it is ambiguous (whether positive or negative) based on the quotes ‘…..’ and ‘…’ etc.*

**Agree with statement**

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