**AO4 Base Test:**

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

Read the extract below, then complete the table based on what you have read.

There was a circular wooden bench running all around the base of the tower, and when Nicholas sat there, Rachel sat beside him and stared up into his pale, unresponsive blue eyes, which for all their coldness only made her feel how lucky she was, how blessed, to have an older brother like this, so handsome and confident. She hoped that one day her hair would be as blonde as his, her mouth as shapely, her skin as downy and clear. She nestled against his shoulder, as close as she dared. She didn't want to be a drag upon him, didn't want him to become too aware that, in this strange and unfamiliar town, he was the only thing that made her feel safe.

'You cold or something?' he asked, looking down at her.  
'A bit.' She inched away slightly. 'Will it be warm where they are, d'you think?'  
'Course it will. There'd be no point going on holiday somewhere where it's cold, would there?'  
'I wish they'd taken us with them,' said Rachel feelingly.  
'Well, they didn't. So that’s that.'

They sat for a few moments in silence: each of them, once again, trying to wrestle as best they could with the conundrum of why their parents should have chosen to go away for half-term without them. Then, as soon as the cold started to bite, Nicholas jumped to his feet.

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| The brother and sister are close in this extract. Agree or disagree? |  |
| Has the writer used any of the following devices?  Dialogue (speech)  Language choice |  |
| Find any quotes that show language/dialogue AND prove your point. |  |

Now, using that table as a starting point, write one paragraph to answer the following question.

‘The writer uses language to show how close the brother and sister, Nicholas and Rachel, are in the extract.’ How far do you agree with this statement?

In your response you could:

* write about your own impressions of the relationship
* evaluate how the writer has created these impressions
* support your opinions with references to the text.

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