

Analysing a Text

POINT

Make a statement that may talk about a technique. *'Agard uses a metaphor of standing on one leg to demonstrate that when people use the term 'half-caste' they are making him feel like half a person.*

EVIDENCE

Support your point with a quotation from the text.

'He starts the poem with an apology: 'excuse me standing on one leg'.

ANALYSE

Analyse the quote in detail using different stages to help....

This slightly ridiculous image helps the reader to understand his true feelings about the term 'half-caste'.

ZOOM

Pick out a key word / phrase from the quotation and analyse the language. This could involve looking at the connotations of the word.

'Excuse me' could be using a formal tone as he introduces himself and seems to be him apologising for being there because he is unworthy.

ALTERNATIVE INTERPRETATION

Give an alternative idea or interpretation of meaning.

However, you could also read this as using a sarcastic tone which mocks the whole idea of the phrase and how it is used to describe mixed race people.

WRITER'S INTENTION

What was the writer trying to do? What is their message?

Agard is trying to point out the ridiculousness of the phrase and use humour to deliver a serious message.

EFFECT ON THE READER

What is the effect on the reader? How does it make you feel? What are your own opinions?

The reader is able to understand how hurtful it can be to be described as half of something. When you introduce yourself to someone you want them to see the whole of you and not be defined by your skin colour.

HOW DO I START A POINT?

Steinbeck uses....to...

Steinbeck shows how by...

"....." shows / demonstrates.....

When Steinbeck describesas

'.....' he implies that....

HOW DO I EXPLORE LANGUAGE?

The connotations of '.....' are/is....

The word '.....' suggests/implies

Describing theas '.....' Indicates that....

The effect of using a/an.....to describe.....is

HOW DO I GIVE AN ALTERNATIVE INTERPRETATION?

However, you could also say that....

An alternative idea is that....

Another meaning of this is....

In my own opinion, I think/believe...

HOW DO I TALK ABOUT THE WRITER'S INTENTION?

Steinbeck wanted to....

His intention was to....

Steinbeck wanted the reader to.....

HOW DO I TALK ABOUT THE EFFECT ON THE READER?

The effect on the reader is to make them feel.....

We feel...

The word '...' makes the reader feel.....because.....

HOW TO ANALYSE A TEXT

- What is the writer trying to tell us about the character /theme/setting?
- What emotions are being conveyed?
- What do they want us to feel as a reader?

Sentence starters:

The reader gets the impression that...

The reader is positioned to feel/imagine...

The writer causes the reader to consider...

The reader is encouraged/positioned to be in favour of/against... because...

- How is the writer doing this?
- How do they use the language (word, phrase, techniques) form / structure to do this?
- How does it tell us something about the context?

Sentence starters:

The adjective/noun/verb/phrase/image/simile/metaphor/alliteration...

This implies/conveys/highlights/reinforces/develops/creates/hints at...

It could be argued that...

Perhaps the reader may infer...

- Why is the writer doing this?
- Why did they choose that language?
- Why might they want us to interpret it in different ways?

Sentence starters:

The writer wants us to understand...

This is the turning point in the text because...

It can be seen that/It might be thought/It could be argued/Some readers might think/alternatively/possibly/on the other hand/conversely/equally...

WHAT?

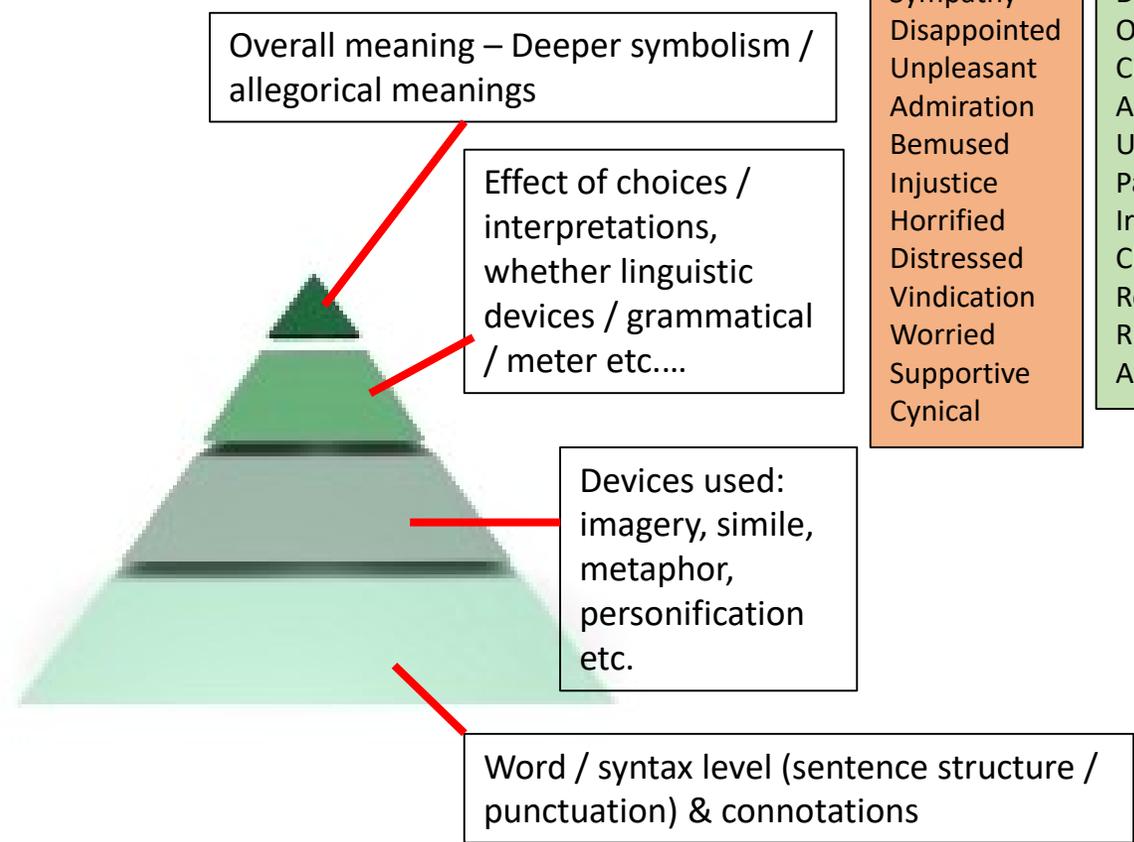
HOW?

WHY?

There are 3 basic things to consider: What is the writer telling us about the character/theme/setting? How do they use language/structure/form to do this? Why are they doing this?

Use only the writer's LAST name and spell it correctly	Shakespeare presents... Duffy emphasises the use of...
Present tense = writing about the text Past tense = referring to the historical past	Fitzgerald uses dramatic irony to... The Romantic poets focused on the ideas of the Enlightenment...
Use short embedded quotations	Tom is a 'brute' with a 'cruel body'...
Use modal verbs / adverbs to show tentative approach	Verbs: might, could, may, should Adverbs: probably, perhaps, possibly
Use collective pronouns to add academic authority	We, us, our (not I and me/my)
Use vocabulary that adds precision and sophistication	Instead of using 'big', upgrade to vast / major / significant / momentous
Use analytical verbs	Implies, conveys, highlights, hints at...
Analyse the language and form and structure of the text	Words, phrases, clauses, sentence structures, punctuation, language techniques, symbolism, motifs, imagery, sound patterns, repetitions, contrasts and juxtapositions. Characterisation, settings, genre features/devices, narrative view and voice, atmosphere, mood, tensions Shifts, changes, developments, chronology, cause/effect, foreshadowing, flashback, Freytag (conflict, problem, solution, opening and closing)

WHAT TO DO WITH MY ANALYSIS...
 Explicit meanings;
 Implicit meanings;
 Connotations at word/sentence level (connotations);
 Figurative techniques;
 Word classes/lexical sets;
 Tone/mood/atmosphere created;
 Writer's message;
 Possible effects on readers (based on above);
 Synthesis with other quotations to support your argument;
 Relevance of punctuation and structure.
 Relevance of form – narrative structure / voice for example.



How the reader feels:

Outraged Approval Anxiety Negative Respect Shocked Justice Catharsis Trepidation Elated Compassion Appalled Sympathy Disappointed Unpleasant Admiration Bemused Injustice Horrified Distressed Vindication Worried Supportive Cynical	Excitement Pessimistic Pity Empathy Thrilled Concern Guilt Disgusted Celebratory Indignant Benevolent Overjoyed Disapproval Offended Critical Anger Uncomfortable Pathos Irritation Challenged Relieved Ridicule Astonished
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Analytical verbs:

Accentuates
 Creates
 Epitomises
 Symbolises
 Establishes
 Typifies
 Represents
 Intensifies
 Enhances
 Builds
 Reinforces
 Characterises
 Heightens
 Encapsulates
 Strengthens
 Evokes

Vocabulary to evaluate:

Admirable
 Compelling
 Satisfying
 Powerful
 Pleasing
 Wonderful
 Accomplished
 Commendable
 Subtle
 Challenging
 Crucial
 Pivotal
 Skillful
 Striking
 Significant
 Provocative