

‘Do’s and ‘Don’t’s for answering the quiz:

1. These should go without saying:
 - Write in full sentences always, even for questions asking for short answers.
 - Upper case (capital letter) in the beginning of the sentence and for proper nouns (names). No random upper case.
2. Write short sentences. Do not unnecessarily keep using “and” to link parts of a sentence.

Example:

“The eldest princess knows that she is going through a fairy tale and unlike conventional fairy tales where the eldest is expected to stray from the path and turn to stone, the eldest princess herself chooses to explore the forest and help the scorpion, the toad and the cockroach and at the end chooses to stay with the old woman.” (an actual student answer from a previous year)

Better:

The eldest princess knows that she is going through a fairy tale ~~and~~. Unlike conventional fairy tales where the eldest is expected to stray from the path and turn to stone, [in this story] the eldest princess herself chooses to explore the forest and help the scorpion, the toad, and the cockroach. ~~and~~ At the end chooses to stay with the old woman.”

(the inserts in square brackets are my additions)

Try to use other linking words/phrases such as:

- Within a sentence: Comma + for, (and), nor, but, or, yet, so (FANBOYS)
 - Therefore/Thus,
 - Similarly,
 - Nevertheless,
 - However,
 - In spite of the above,
 - On the one hand/ On the other hand,
3. Write in simple present tense (not present continuous or past tense) when writing about a text (see the example in pt. 2). Try not to switch tense randomly.
 4. In one-sentence answers, finish the sentence to address the question.

Example:

What happens in the story “The Eldest Princess” that Propp would call a “lack” in his listing of functions in a fairy tale?

Acceptable answer:

The sky turning green from blue is what Propp would call a “lack”.

Or,

The “lack” is the sky turning to green from blue in the beginning of the story.

Not acceptable answer:

The sky turning green.

5. Read the question carefully; understand what precisely it is asking. **Answer the question closely.** Writing generally about what happens in the story does not suffice.
6. In longer answers: *bridge* the details you are offering to address the question. That is, spell out explicitly the connection/s between details you provide and how they answer the question.

Handy phrases for this work:

- This shows that ...
- Therefore, we can see
- This suggests
- This refers to
- This reminds the reader of

Example

Question: Note three ways in which Brother William of *The Name of the Rose* intertextually recalls Sherlock Holmes. (5 marks: about 100 words, in half page)

Unacceptable answers (even if minimally provides two correct points)

Brother William’s name is Baskerville. He uses similar methods.

Full answer

Brother William’s full name is William of Baskerville. Baskerville reminds the readers of the Sherlock Holmes novella *Hounds of Baskerville* by Conan Doyle. Brother William’s method is based on observation, elimination of possibilities by deduction, and deduction, made famous by the character Sherlock Holmes. The article Sherlock Holmes publishes in the second chapter of *A Study in Scarlet* is titled “The Book of Life”: Brother William, echoing this, tells Adso that ‘the world speaks’ like ‘a great book.’ Taken together, the intertextual recall of Sherlock Holmes is strong, and may be even be thought of as an allusion.

7. As far as possible add conceptual/categorical terms alongside plot details for stronger answers.

Example

Question: How does eldest princess survive the conventional fairy tale that aims to entangle her? (5 marks)

A somewhat adequate answer:

"The eldest princess knows that she is going through a fairy tale and unlike conventional fairy tales where the eldest is expected to stray from the path and turn to stone, [in this story] the eldest princess herself chooses to explore the forest and help the scorpion, the toad and the cockroach and at the end chooses to stay with the old woman."

For a better answer, use words such as self-reflexive, master-trope, quest, interdiction, and revision/re-writing in one or two sentences to conceptually answer the question. Then use the plot details to 'explain' the points. The reverse, first explaining the plot and then building on this using conceptual words, can work as well. You may also combine the two as done below. Either way, both levels are needed.

Revised:

In this 'fairy story,' the eldest princess, who is a reader and a story-teller herself, self-reflexively recognizes the master trope of the conventional fairy tale that seeks to trap her. She knows that the eldest is expected to stray from the path and turn to stone or otherwise fail the quest. She chooses to violate the 'interdiction' against straying from the path anyway to help the scorpion, and explore the forest. At the end chooses to stay with the old woman rather than try to complete the quest. In this way, she survives the inconvenient story that works against her by revising/rewriting it into a new one that frees her.

8. Do not add incorrect details or details for which there is no textual evidence. It can change a correct answer to incorrect one.

Example:

Sherlock Holmes plays the violin **and the piano** quite well.

Sherlock Holmes plays the violin **in his free time**.

(the details in yellow are not in the text)

9. Put double quotes around titles of stories, chapters, poems, short pieces. Underline names of books. So, "The Science of Deduction" and A Study in Scarlet.