

### How to 'analyse'

### WHAT IS ANALYSING?

Analysing is how we get our marks in English. It is about exploring the text in a deeper way and thinking about what characters symbolise, what ideas are recurrent and what the writer is intending to do in their writing (considering context and what we know about the writer)

### BREAKING DOWN ANALYSING

**Step 1**: Technique

**Step 2**: Say what it does

Step 3: Say what it shows

Step 4: Say WHY

# Technique, what it does, what it shows and WHY

### **TECHNIQUE**

• Refer to technique sheet for the range of techniques you can pick when looking at a quote

### SAY WHAT IT DOES

- Say the effect of the technique
- Does the technique: emphasise, draw attention to an idea, build trust, highlight an idea...
- Look at the technique sheet for the effect of each technique

### SAY WHAT IT SHOWS

- What does this technique further show?
- If it is a connotation for example, and a connotation of a "fire" is 'hell' this could show that there will be hellish consequences of... (explain idea)
- Use the word you said for 'what it does' and then explain what it shows.
- For example, if you say the alliteration on a phrase creates a repetitive tone (this is your what it does), you could say that this reinforces that (whatever the idea is) is repeated (this is your say what it shows) and then you'd explain this



### WHY

- Why have you said it shows this?
- Use words such as 'because' and 'as' to say why
- In the above example, we said the word 'hell' could show there are 'hellish' consequences, we would then say why we think this
- E.g. 'the word "fire" has connotation of "hell" this could show there would be hellish consequences because the Birlings' are so ignorant to the detrimental impact of their obliviousness, this will result in eternal punishment.'
- In your WHY, you can link it back to what you said the effect of the technique was earlier. In this
  example, I've used the idea of 'hellish consequences' in my WHY by referring to the idea of
  'eternal punishment' (another way of saying hellish consequences)

### BONUS BIT OF ANALYSIS

- To really push yourself, look at what the character **symbolises/ is emblematic of/ is a**microcosm of.
- This just means you are exploring the character more **critically** and furthering your analysis (something the examiner loves).
- Symbolise/emblematic- think about what they represent and what the deeper meaning/ purpose is of their character.
- Microcosm- when a smaller idea/ concept represents a bigger picture or idea. E.g. Mr Birling
  is a microcosm for the ignorant upper class capitalists. That is because although Mr Birling is one
  character, he represents the general attitude evident in society at the time of capitalists.



## Examples

### EXAMPLE 1 - AN INSPECTOR CALLS - SHEILA

- Technique: the semantic field of 'hell' on "fire and blood and anguish"
- Say what it does: creates an image of eternal punishment
- What it shows: showing that the Birlings' will eternally be punished
- Why: due to their incessant amount of ignorance and prejudices towards the lower classesthe Inspector warns that if they retreat back into their detrimental capitalist ways, they will face these consequences in their afterlife
- Bonus (symbolism/ emblematic/ microcosm): Through Sheila echoing the words of the Inspector, she is a microcosm for the rising power of socialism in 1945- her change from an oppressed capitalist to a liberate socialist reflects this change.

### PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

The semantic field of 'hell' on "fire and blood and anguish" creates an image of eternal punishment showing that the Birlings' will eternally be punished due to their incessant amount of ignorance and prejudices towards the lower classes- the Inspector warns that if they retreat back into their detrimental capitalist ways, they will face these consequences in their afterlife. Through Sheila echoing the words of the Inspector, she is a microcosm for the rising power of socialism in 1945- her change from an oppressed capitalist to a liberate socialist reflects this change.



### EXAMPLE 2 - MACBETH

- Technique: the motif of sleep permeates the text: "Macbeth does murder sleep"
- Say what it does: it creates an idea of sleep being synonymous with innocence
- What it shows: this compounds how Macbeth's loss of sleep highlights his loss of innocence
- Why: this is because of Macbeth's treacherous acts of regicide, his conscience will forever be
  plagued by guilt- his innocence has been permanently removed
- Bonus (symbolism/ emblematic/ microcosm): Thus, Macbeth becomes a symbol of guilt and highlights the detrimental effects of its consumption of an individual.

### PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

The motif of sleep permeates the text: "Macbeth does murder sleep" it creates an idea of sleep being synonymous with innocence, this compounds how Macbeth's loss of sleep highlights his loss of innocence. This is because of Macbeth's treacherous acts of regicide, his conscience will forever be plagued by guilt- his innocence has been permanently removed. Thus, Macbeth becomes a symbol of guilt and highlights the detrimental effects of its consumption of an individual.



### EXAMPLE 3 - A CHRISTMAS CAROL

- Technique: the 7 negative adjectives on "squeezing, wrenching..."
- Say what it does: highlights the abundance of negative characteristics Scrooge obtains
- What it shows: This could reinforce how Scrooge has acquired an abundance of these undesirable traits in order to ostracise himself from society
- Why: Scrooge actively participating in his ostracization is as a result of his neglected and
  isolated childhood of being a "solitary child", thus perhaps reinforcing how this is the state he
  retreats howback into due to feeling the most protected by it.

### PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

The 7 negative adjectives on "squeezing, wrenching...": highlights the abundance of negative characteristics Scrooge obtains. This could reinforce how Scrooge has acquired an abundance of these undesirable traits in order to ostracise himself from society. Scrooge actively participating in his ostracization is as a result of his neglected and isolated childhood of being a "solitary child", thus perhaps reinforcing how this is the state he retreats back into due to feeling the most protected by it.