

How do I start my answer?	How do I identify methods?	How do I analyse quotations?
✓ Use the words in the question ✓ Identify the question focus ✓ Explain your idea about the question focus <i>in your own words</i> – don't use the words in the extract In short: refer to the writer and explain what you think about the question focus.	Revise the devices below.	✓ Select the most interesting words and devices ✓ Name the method/s ✓ Describe the meaning/connotations ✓ Explain the effect on the reader – what can we infer?
Example (Part 1)	Methods list	Example (Part 3)
Question: How does the writer use language to present the old lady?	Word classes: Noun – <i>a person, place or thing</i> Adjective – <i>a word that describes a noun</i> Verb – <i>an action/doing word</i> Adverb – <i>a word that describes an action</i>	Answer: Here, the writer has used the adjective 'glacial' to convey the old lady's emotional coldness and hostility towards Sally, while the subsequent metaphor suggests she is angry and foreshadows a potential outburst. The writer's intention may be to emphasise the old lady wields a quiet power, generating interest in this character and what could have provoked this severe attitude.
Extract: There was a glacial silence from the old lady, and a look that spoke thunder; but Sally sat firm and stared her out.	Language devices: Simile – <i>comparing two things using like or as</i> Metaphor – <i>comparing two things directly</i> Personification – <i>giving non-human things human characteristics</i> Emotive language – <i>words that elicit emotion</i> Imagery – <i>words that paint a picture</i> Semantic field – <i>a group of words with a common theme</i>	How do I develop my answer?
Answer: The writer uses language to present the old lady as a stern and strong-willed character.	Structure devices: Repetition – <i>using the same word multiple times</i> Juxtaposition – <i>placing two things next to each other to emphasise the difference</i> Dialogue – <i>use of speech</i> Flashback – <i>reverting to a time in the past</i> Foreshadowing – <i>hinting at what will happen</i> Fragment – <i>an incomplete sentence</i>	✓ Add further detail to your response ✓ Consider if there are different ways to interpret your chosen quotations (multiple interpretations) ✓ Consider how your ideas link to bigger concepts (ethical, environmental, philosophical, political, social, etc.) ✓ Use a supporting quotation
How do I select and embed quotations?	Literature devices:	Example (Part 4)
Look for quotations that are: ✓ Short (no more than five or six words typically) ✓ Relevant to the question ✓ Rich in devices (check they include methods you can name and analyse)	Dramatic irony – <i>reader knows something characters do not</i> Soliloquy – <i>speaking thoughts aloud</i> Literary foil – <i>contrasting character</i> Symbolism – <i>something that represents a deeper meaning</i> Recurring motif – <i>an image or idea that is revisited throughout the text</i>	Additionally, 'glacial' could have been used to exaggerate how slowly time appears to move as the silence continues, building further tension for the reader.
Example (Part 2)		Analytical verbs
Answer: ...when she pairs “a glacial silence” with a facial expression that “spoke thunder”.		Suggest / Imply / Convey / Portray / Depict / Illustrate
		Emphasise / Highlight / Reinforce / Accentuate
		Sequence / Contrast / Introduce / Establish / Develop
		Signify / Symbolise / Represent / Express / Embody
		Evoke / Elicit / Provoke / Prompt / Lead / Cause

Q2: How has the writer used language to present the setting? The writer has used language to present the setting as eerie and intriguing when he describes a breeze that “stirred the air” and a “brooding mist” that “crept”. In these examples, the writer has used personification to create an immersive scene that will captivate his readers. Additionally, the writer has created a suspenseful atmosphere through his word choice; the adjective ‘brooding’ suggests the mist is a menacing and foreboding omen, which could possibly foreshadow sinister events later in the narrative. This sinister imagery is juxtaposed with description of a peaceful and picturesque landscape, in which the moon is “cradled” between two mountains that are “glistening” with snow. Here, the writer’s use of the verb ‘cradled’ connotes comfort and security, while the adjective ‘glistening’ introduces light into the scene, a symbol of hope and positivity. From this, the reader may infer that this is a magnificent and compelling setting – one in which something important and interesting will later unfold.	Q4: In this part of the text, the writer presents Eragon’s experience as dangerous and exciting. To what extent do you agree? I strongly agree that the writer uses a semantic field of dynamic verbs to present Eragon’s experience as dangerous and exciting. Following the explosion, the writer describes how Eragon “lunged”, was “racing”, “slid”, “cursed” and “spun”. Collectively, these verb choices create the impression that Eragon is responding instinctively and lacks control over his actions. The fast pace is engaging for the reader, who may fear for Eragon’s safety as they continue to wonder what has happened. The writer also presents Eragon’s circumstances as dangerous by emphasising the magnitude of the explosion, which was so powerful it blew the needles from the trees; this imagery – coupled with multi-sensory description (“a burnt smell”) – conveys the forcefulness of the blast, while the reader continues to wonder what could have caused such an enormous disturbance.
Q3: How has the writer used structure to build tension? In the opening of the extract, the writer has built tension by focusing our attention on the protagonist, Eragon, who appears to be engaged in a hunt. The writer establishes that Eragon tracks deer “with a practiced eye”, before describing his prey: a “small doe with a pronounced limp”. The juxtaposition between Eragon, who is characterised as a capable hunter, and the vulnerable young deer, introduces an early contest, leading the reader to wonder what the outcome of this conflict will be. As I read further, the writer directs my attention towards the deer’s progress into increasingly dangerous territory. We see Eragon – “the only hunter ... who dared” – pursue the doe into “untamed mountains”. In this part of the extract, the writer continues to build tension as we see a subtle shift in the power dynamic; the writer no longer emphasises the doe’s vulnerability compared to Eragon’s hunting expertise, but instead emphasises Eragon’s vulnerability in what is undoubtedly a perilous landscape. As I approach the end of the extract, the tension reaches a fever pitch when Eragon prepares to shoot his target. The writer zooms in on fine details – the deer’s injured leg which was “stretched out awkwardly” and Eragon’s “steadying breath” – before “an explosion shattered the night”. This clause prompts the reader to question what caused the explosion and what Eragon’s fate will be now his hunt has been disturbed by a catastrophic event.	Next, the writer introduces a sense of excitement by focusing our attention on a “polished blue stone” that Eragon spies in the centre of the blast site. The position of the stone implies that it was the cause of the explosion, which subverts our expectations as, while this is not typically an explosive substance, it appears to have caused a seismic blast. Having directed us to focus on the stone, the writer proceeds to describe it in greater detail. The stone’s texture is “smooth”, “cool” and “frictionless ... like hardened silk”. These adjectives highlight the strangeness of the stone, further marking it as a unique and interesting artefact. The writer also describes the appearance of the stone, which has “thin veins of white ... spiderwebbed across it”. The writer’s intention may be to emphasise the captivating nature of the stone. Finally, the writer uses a series of rhetorical questions to reveal Eragon’s fascination with the stone. The protagonist wonders not only where the stone came from, but whether he is “meant to have it”. With this question, the writer introduces the notion of fate into the narrative, thereby creating more excitement for the reader. This idea is then reinforced with a reference to “magic”. By introducing the supernatural at this point in the story, the writer adds another component to the stone’s mystique. Based on this evidence, I agree that Eragon’s experience, which is initially presented as a dangerous, becomes increasingly exciting as the story progresses.