

Analysing Prose Extracts

Supplementary Material

Analysing Prose Extracts

There are many reasons to choose the extract question in the exam. Most obviously, you will be given a print out of the passage. Considering you are not allowed to take texts into the exam, this is a significant benefit.

however

To answer an extract question successfully, you **MUST** be able to put it into context: discuss its importance to the novel as a whole and show an appreciation for any relevant events that have occurred prior or just after the passage occurs.

If you can not do this, you will not do well.

Analysing Prose Extracts

To begin with...

The question will often guide your reading of the passage. However, it is still important that you form your own overview of it. Decide what its focus is: character, setting or action, for example. How are all these things related to the question you have been set?

Analysing Prose Extracts

Next

Now look more closely at the language, structure and form. You need to comment closely on this in particular, as you have the advantage of using the extract.

Respond primarily to the section you have been given, but look to identify patterns and contrasts with the novel as a whole, as well as referring to event. You should however, save your broader conclusions for the end of your essay.

Analysing Prose Extracts

Finally

When answering the extract question, a good way to end your essay is by commenting on the significance of the language, structure and form of the passage to the rest of the novel. If the passage is from the end of the story, then you can comment on how satisfying it is as an ending.