

## Writers' effects process

### 1 Skim-reading

Read the passage or paragraph to get a sense of time, place, topic, genre, tone and atmosphere.

### 2 Scanning and selecting

After reading the question on writers' effects, and underlining the key word in each part of the question, return to the passage and highlight or underline all possible relevant language choices. Identify and highlight only the key word or phrase which is particularly effective, not a large 'chunk' of text (e.g. *fox-like face*, *pearly*).

### 3 Transferring to a plan

Transfer the best of the chosen quotations to a list (depending on how many you have been asked to give), dividing them between the two sections (if you have been asked to look at more than one section). Choose those which are unusual or particularly powerful and figurative, so that there is something to say about them. Against each choice explain its meaning and the effect it conveys in this context. Treat each short choice separately and avoid 'clumping' (i.e. giving a list and treating them as a group). Explore the similes and metaphors. You may use literary terms if they are relevant and accurate, but you still need to explain the precise effect of the example you have chosen and how it works in this particular context. For example, 'fox-like' suggests that he has a thin face and pointed nose; 'pearly' conveys the idea of the opaque and shiny whiteness found in oyster shells.

### 4 Developing the response

Look again at the relevant paragraphs of the passage, this time at the use of such devices as repetition, contrast, question marks or exclamation marks, sentence lengths, sound effects and what these convey to the reader. Comment at the beginning or end of each section of your response on how the vocabulary choices link and combine to create a sustained overall effect. For example, 'The combined effect of these references to cold and dark is to create an uncomfortable and tense atmosphere'. Remember to include non-linguistic features as well. For example, in the sentence 'Perhaps one of the most weird and fascinating characters I met during my travels was the Rose-beetle Man', the delayed object creates suspense.

### 5 Writing the response

The response should be written in continuous prose, putting one of the selected quotations in inverted commas within each sentence and explaining its effect, and not repeating unnecessarily the words 'the effect is ...'. The whole response is expected to be no more than 300 words, expressed concisely but exploring fully the connotations and associations for the reader.