

Analysing a rich unseen extract

Lesson 1



Subject Terminology

Juxtaposition

Plosives

Verbs

Personification

Repetition

Simile

Rhetorical question



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Rhetorical question





How does the writer use language to create an unsettling atmosphere?

Extract from *The Woman in Black*

Then from somewhere, out of that howling darkness, a cry came to my ears, catapulting me back into the present and banishing all tranquillity.

I listened hard. Nothing. The tumult of the wind, like a banshee, and the banging and rattling of the window in its old, ill-fitting frame. Then yes, again, a cry, that familiar cry of desperation and anguish, a cry for help from a child somewhere out on the marsh.

There was no child. I knew that. How could there be? Yet how could I lie here and ignore even the crying of some long-dead ghost?

“Rest in peace,” I thought, but this poor one did not, could not.

Underline any parts of this extract that you think is rich and the writer is doing something interesting with language – annotate it with your ideas



Can you identify any of the subject techniques we've talked about so far this lesson?

Extract from *The Woman in Black*



personification

Juxtaposition

Then from somewhere, out of that **howling darkness**, a **cry** came to my ears, **catapulting me back** into the **present** and **banishing** all tranquility.

I listened hard. Nothing. The tumult of the wind, **like a banshee**, and the **banging** and rattling of the window in its old, ill-fitting frame. Then yes, again, a **cry**, that familiar **cry** of **desperation** and anguish, a **cry** for help from a child somewhere out on the marsh.

Rhetorical question

There was no child. I knew that. **How could there be?** Yet how could I lie here and ignore even the crying of some long-**dead** ghost?

Repetition

“Rest in **peace**,” I thought, but this **poor** one did not, could not.

Listen to my initial analysis of this extract and annotate your copy or make notes on the ideas I explore.

Simile

The writer has used **repetition** to create an unsettling atmosphere, by purposefully repeating 'cry' throughout the extract. Here the writer introduces a tragic and deeply unhappy mood as someone cries when they are either very unhappy or in physical pain. The fact that it is repeated also shows how unsettling it is for the other character as this cry is incessant and must be very distressing for them to continually listen to. The unsettling atmosphere is sustained as the writer states that it is a 'cry of desperation and anguish' with 'desperation' suggesting that whoever is making this noise is extremely unhappy and desperately seeking help, 'anguish' reinforces the sense of suffering and torment and this is particularly unsettling to the reader with the writer revealing that the 'cry' is that of a 'child' someone who is deemed as vulnerable and in need of help from adults.

Your home-learning due Friday 10th July – spend 25 minutes answering the following question:

How does the writer use language to create an unsettling atmosphere?

