



LINGUISTIC AND LITERARY ANALYSIS: PROSE FICTION AND NON-LITERARY TEXTS

Linguistic and literary terms

Form:

Narrative perspective – first person, second person, third person; genre, dialogue, chronology, juxtaposition, flashback

Grammar:

Sentence mood – imperative, declarative, interrogative; exclamatory tone, sentence types – minor, simple, compound, complex; phrases, clauses, independent main clauses, dependent clauses, parallelism, foregrounding, end focus, listing – syndetic, asyndetic; oxymoron, tripling, repetition, passive and active voice, ellipsis, syntax inversion, interjections, non-standard syntax, dialect

Lexis:

Nouns – common/concrete, proper, collective, abstract; verbs – dynamic, stative, modal; adjective, compound adjective, comparative, superlative, adverb, pronoun, conjunction – subordinating and coordinating; preposition, article, lexical set, connotation, vocative, non-standard lexis, archaism, neologism, colloquialism, double negative, discourse marker

Imagery:

Simile, metaphor, personification, pathetic fallacy, allusion, symbolism, euphemism, conceit, listing, oxymoron, tripling, hyperbole, litotes

Sound:

Alliteration, sibilants, fricatives, plosives, bilabial nasals, assonance, onomatopoeia, aspirants, elision

Top tips – Reading

If you are considering a passage of prose fiction, ask yourself the following:

- What is the narrative perspective?
- Is the narrator reliable or unreliable?
- How has the narrative voice been created?
- What tense or tenses have been used?
- Is the register formal or informal?
- Is the use of dialogue significant?

If you are considering a non-literary text, ask yourself the following:

- What context was this written in? Is it contemporary or was it written sometime in the past? Where was it originally published?
- What was the writer's purpose in writing the text?
- What is the register of the piece?
- Does the writer directly address the reader?
- Is there a shift in tone as the passage progresses?

Top tips – Writing

- Read the text carefully and keep the focus on the question in mind.
- Don't write a long introduction. Begin by summing up the tone or attitude of the text.
- Don't be too assertive or make sweeping statements. Use tentative phrases such as 'In places...', 'On occasions...', 'Perhaps this might suggest...'
- Use SEA to ensure that every linguistic or literary term is supported by evidence.
- Use alternatives to 'positive' and 'negative'.
- Use alternatives to 'suggests'.
- Use a wide range of linguistic and literary terminology.