

Structure in plays

Stage directions are a crucial part of any play. They tell the actors how to present themselves. When responding to a play, it is important that you comment on the stage directions.

Dramatic irony is when the audience knows about certain events and details that the character in the play doesn't know about.

Structure in prose

There are various ways in which a narrator can structure their writing.

Chronological – in time order, e.g. *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Cyclical – starts and ends at the same place, e.g. *Of Mice and Men*.

Flashbacks – jumps back to a previous time or event, e.g. *Heroes*.

Symbolism

Writers often use symbols to represent ideas.

What is a symbol? In literature, symbolism allows authors to use one thing (like a flower) to represent a deeper meaning (like love).

Often, symbolism suggests abstract ideas or emotions by using something that the reader can physically see or hold.

Narrative point of view

The narrator is very important in the story. We get an insight into the characters through the narrative voice.

Different types of narrative voice	
First person	The character within the story or play is telling the story. The main personal pronouns used are <i>I, my, me, we</i> .
Second person	This is not commonly used by writers. The personal pronouns <i>you</i> and <i>your</i> are used throughout.
Third person	The story is being told by the voice of someone who is not actually a character in the story. The main personal pronouns used are <i>she, he</i> and <i>they</i> .
Omniscient third person	The story is being told by a voice who shows they know far more than the characters in the actual story – the narrator is all-knowing. The main personal pronouns used are <i>she, he</i> and <i>they</i> .

Colloquialism, as a literary device, refers to the usage of informal or everyday language in literature. This is an important presentation technique as the reader can understand a lot about a character (and an author) from how the characters speak.

Assessment objective 2

Explain how language, structure and form contribute to writers' presentation of ideas, themes and settings.

Vocabulary

quatrain	stanza	caesura	rhythm
rhyme	sonnet	colloquialism	narrator
structure	cyclical	chronological	flashback
dramatic irony	connotations	refrain	tercet

Poetic structure

There are different types of poems. These include the following:

A sonnet is a 14-line poem. The fourteen lines of a traditional sonnet consist of an octave (or two quatrains making up a stanza of 8 lines) and a sestet (a stanza of six lines).

A villanelle is a 19-line poem made up of five tercets and a final quatrain (four-line stanza) in which all 19 lines carry one of only two rhymes.

The ode is one of the oldest forms of poetry.

A ballad is another old and traditional form of poetry that typically tells a dramatic or emotional story.

An elegy has a set subject: death.