GCSE English Literary Analysis

Summer 2023

In each lesson we will study a particular skill set for the GCSE English exam, using examples from two mock exam questions per week to help us think about the format and structure of these questions. For each different type of analysis, we will dig into different ways of interpreting and analysing language, thinking about evaluating another writer’s craft in a creative and innovative way. By the end of these five weeks, they will have studied how to answer a GCSE analysis question, focusing on different skills needed for the GCSE, and will have also taken a mock exam, designed to help them feel confident in their analytical and essay writing skills.

**Lesson 1: Prose**

In our first lesson we will focus on prose in the GCSE exam and the kinds of questions students are likely to be asked about a passage. We will learn about:

* Creation of suspense and tension
* Character development
* Atmosphere
* Language devices

**Lesson 2: Techniques & Structure**

In this lesson we will look more closely at specific techniques and structural features that the class should be aware of for GCSE analysis. We will learn:

* How to interpret the impact of techniques
* How to think creatively about structure
* New and unusual techniques such as metonymy
* Literary references and allusions

**Lesson 3: Poetry**

In this lesson we will look at the unseen poetry section of the GCSE exam, discussing the skills needed to tackle poetry analytically and looking at examples from past papers. We will learn about:

* Poetic structures
* Poetic techniques
* Rhythm, metre and form
* Content and ideas

**Lesson 4: Theme**

In this lesson we will tackle some of the common themes that arise on the GCSE analysis papers, thinking about how to discuss large and philosophical topics with reference to a text. We will learn:

* The type of themes that are commonly used in GCSE exam papers
* How to infer deeper meaning from a text
* Philosophical approaches to literature
* How to write a theme-based essay

**Lesson 5: Mini Mock**

In the first part of this class the students will complete a mock analysis paper which we will then feedback on as a class and discuss the different ideas, themes and techniques the students were able to comment on in the writing. I will then mark these and the students will have a sense of their progress over the duration of the course.

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