Y6 Classic Modern Fiction

KS2 Y6 English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Break down the first sentence of Extract A.

Step 1 · Find the main clause

I first beheld the house in Fenwick Lane

Step 2 · When?

upon a bitter evening in the December of that year

Step 3 · What was it like then?

the fog lay so thick that the lamplighters could scarcely find their posts

Answer: On a freezing, foggy December evening, I first saw the house in Fenwick Lane.

Check: Chunking a long sentence makes it manageable.

2. Now try one with the steps

How does the writer of Extract A make the house seem threatening?

Step 1 · Find descriptive details

Step 2 · Find the narrator's feeling

Step 3 · The creepiest detail

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What is a 'classic' novel?

2. In which month is Extract A set?

3. What does 'scarcely' mean?

4. What shape is the door knocker in Extract A?

5. On which floor is the flat in Extract B?

6. How many steps does Kez count?

7. Why does Kez count the steps out loud?

8. Give one sign that Extract A is set in the past.

9. What does 'my heart misgave me' tell you about the narrator's feelings?

10. Why is it strange that the servant says 'You are expected, miss'?

11. What impression do you get of the foster carer? Give evidence.

12. Give one way the language of Extract B is different from Extract A.

13. Give one thing both extracts have in common.

14. Suggest one strategy for understanding old-fashioned words in a classic book.

4. Before you hand it in

Giving up on a classic because the first page is hard.
Chunk long sentences, use a glossary, or listen to an audiobook alongside.

Guessing old words from modern meanings: 'I fancied' = I liked him.

Check the context: 'I fancied' here means 'I imagined'.

Forgetting earlier chapters in a long book.

Write a one-line summary after each chapter.

Thinking modern books are 'easier' so less worth discussing.

Analyse both: 'Obviously.' one-word sentence is a deliberate choice.