

Nineteenth Century Novel

GCSE English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Plan: 'How does the writer present the theme of social class?'

Step 1 · Thesis

The writer presents class division and damaging, and wants readers to feel responsible for it.

Step 2 · Extract

Two or three methods: a description, a symbol, the narrator's voice.

Step 3 · Whole novel

How is class shown at the opening, the turning point and the end?

Step 4 · Context

Link to Victorian class structures and the writer's purpose.

Answer: Thesis → extract → whole novel → context woven in.

Check: Both extract and whole text covered.

2. Now try one with the steps

Analyse narrative voice: the opening of A Christmas Carol.

Step 1 · Quotation

Step 2 · Method

Step 3 · Effect

Step 4 · Purpose

Answer:

3. Practice

Show your working. The marks tell you how much is expected.

1. What is narrative voice? [1]

2. What is pathetic fallacy? [1]

3. Name three methods a novelist uses that you should analyse. [2]
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4. Give two common features of Gothic fiction. [1]
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5. What is the difference between first-person and third-person omniscient narration? [2]
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6. Why does social context matter so much for 19th-century novels? [2]
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7. How does the narrator of A Christmas Carol speak to the reader? [1]
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8. Explain the symbolism of the door in Jekyll and Hyde. [2]
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9. How should you track a theme across a whole novel? [2]
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10. Why might Stevenson use multiple narratives and documents in Jekyll and Hyde? [3]
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11. Analyse 'The cold within him froze his old features' (A Christmas Carol). [3]
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12. Name one other 19th-century novel often set at GCSE besides A Christmas Carol and Jekyll and Hyde. [1]
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13. Write a thesis on how a 19th-century writer presents a theme in your set novel. [2]

14. Why should you analyse the ending of a 19th-century novel? [2]

4. Before you hand it in

Retelling the plot instead of analysing.

Analyse how the writer presents events through methods and their effects.

Only writing about the extract.

Widen out to the beginning, a turning point and the end (see GeT17).

Ignoring the narrator.

Ask how the narrator positions the reader.

Assuming every Victorian novel was serialised.

Only use serialisation when it applies to your text.