

# Reading Fiction

KS3 English · Follows the national curriculum

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. Worked example

**Write a PEE paragraph: 'His hands trembled signed his name.'**

Step 1 · Point: state what this suggests

The character is nervous or fearful.

Step 2 · Evidence: quote precisely

'His hands trembled'

Step 3 · Explanation: analyse the word choice

'Trembled' — an involuntary physical reaction that the character cannot control — suggests deep, visceral anxiety. The act of signing (a formal, decisive action) contrasted with physical trembling creates tension between external performance and internal state.

**Answer: Full PEE: Point → Evidence → Explanation of language/effect**

Check: Does the explanation comment on the writer's language choice specifically? ✓

## 2. Now try one with the steps

**Use STEAL on 'The Interview': what do Kwame's actions show?**

Step 1 · Actions

Step 2 · What they suggest

Step 3 · Effect on others

**Answer:**

## 3. Practice

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

**1.** What is the difference between direct and indirect characterisation? [2]

**2.** What does 'atmosphere' mean in fiction? Give TWO ways a writer creates it. [2]

3. In the Learn-tab extract 'The Interview', how many times does Kwame check the time? Write the number. [1]
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
4. What does STEAL stand for? [1]
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
5. From: 'The candles flickered in the deserted hall.' What atmosphere is created? Quote evidence. [3]
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
6. Using PEE: 'She gripped her bag tightly entered the room.' What does this reveal? [3]
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the setting of 'The Interview'? [1]
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
8. What does Kwame's action of smoothing his tie suggest about how he feels? [1]
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
9. Define 'theme' and identify a theme in any text you have studied. [2]
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
10. Explain how first-person narration differs from third-person in its effect on the reader. [4]
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
11. What is the effect of the short final sentence 'Then the door opened.'? [2]
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

12. How does the ticking clock add to the atmosphere? [2]

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13. Write a PEE paragraph explaining how the writer shows Kwame is nervous. [3]

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14. How would the extract change if it were told in the first person by Kwame? [2]

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#### 4. Before you hand it in

##### Writing 'This makes the reader feel scared' without explaining HOW

Always explain which specific word(s) create the effect and why that word choice works. 'Trembled' makes the reader feel anxious because it connotes loss of control — an involuntary reaction the character cannot hide.

##### Quoting a long passage instead of a precise word or phrase

Select the most specific, powerful evidence. Three words are better than three sentences. 'Gripped' not 'She gripped her bag tightly entered the room.'

##### Writing about characters they were real people: 'Kwame should calm down.'

Write 'the writer presents Kwame as...' and focus on the methods used.

##### Saying 'the atmosphere is tense' without naming any method.

Link the atmosphere to specific features: the ticking clock simile, the short sentences, the indifferent receptionist.