

# GCSE English Language : Paper 1

## Section A : Reading

### Focusing on Q3 Language & Structure



Section A on your initial assessment will have a question which asks you how a writer has used language and structure techniques.

This presentation will give you some suggestions of what you might like to consider for this question.



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## Section A : Reading

### Focusing on Q3 Language & Structure



Frankenstein  
by  
Mary Shelley



# MARY SHELLEY'S 'FRANKENSTEIN'



Mary Shelley's novel Frankenstein was first published in 1818 around the time she was 20 years old.



Born 1797 – 1851  
London, England

It all began whilst she, along with some friends, were on holiday in Geneva, Switzerland. Whilst the weather was too wet for them to venture outside they challenged themselves on who could write the scariest horror story. Shelley obviously took this challenge very seriously.

She was inspired to use the name Frankenstein from a castle she had visited whilst on holiday previously in Germany.

Shelley was intrigued to learn that during the 1600's Castle Frankenstein had been famous for carrying out strange scientific experiments on dead bodies.

It may have looked like this one.



During the time of writing, a Scientist by the name of Luigi Galvani found that frog's legs twitched - as if alive - when struck by a spark of electricity. This idea of injecting electricity into a dead body became known as Galvanism.

It was also common at that time for Doctors to hire grave diggers to dig up dead bodies and use parts of their anatomy to experiment on.

All this fuelled Mary Shelley's vivid imagination and sent shock waves amongst the people at that time.



# Plot summary:

- ▶ *Frankenstein* tells the story of gifted scientist Victor Frankenstein who succeeds in giving life to a being of his own creation. However, this is not the perfect specimen he imagines that it will be, but rather a hideous creature who is rejected by Victor and mankind in general. The Monster seeks its revenge through murder and terror.



# Read the description of the monster

▶ His limbs were in proportion, and I had selected his features as beautiful. Beautiful! -- Great God! His yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles and arteries beneath; his hair was of a lustrous black, and flowing; his teeth of a pearly whiteness; but these luxuriations only formed a more horrid contrast with his watery eyes, that seemed almost of the same colour as the dun white sockets in which they were set, his shrivelled complexion and straight black lips.



# VOCABULARY AND SPELLING (CORE SKILLS)

## Find the definitions and practice spelling

- limbs
- proportion
- features
- scarcely
- arteries
- lustrous
- pearly
- luxuriances
- horrid
- contrast
- dun white sockets
- shrivelled
- complexion





Q3. How does the writer use **language** and **structure** to show the **narrator's thoughts** and **feelings** about **his creation** ?

Support your views with reference to the text.

Read the extract again and highlight key words that the narrator uses that tell us about the creature





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# Firstly, language features

CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE FROM THE NARRATOR'S **DESCRIPTIVE LANGUAGE** ?

YOU'LL HAVE AN **IMAGE** IN YOUR MIND.

WHAT IMAGE DOES '**YELLOW SKIN**' CONNOTE? CHECK FOR ANY LANGUAGE TECHNIQUES

*CHOOSE 3 QUOTES, E.G.,*

' HIS HAIR WAS OF A LUSTROUS BLACK'

' HIS TEETH OF A PEARLY WHITENESS '

' HIS SHRIVELLED COMPLEXION AND STRAIGHT BLACK LIPS'



# Secondly, structural features

SO, HOW MUST HE BE FEELING?

PUT YOURSELF IN HIS SHOES; HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?

SO, WHAT IS THE PACE? HOW QUICKLY DO EVENTS UNFOLD? TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT IS HAPPENING

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SEMI COLON (;)?

EXCLAMATION MARK (!) **BEAUTIFUL! -- GREAT GOD!**

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DASH (—)?

HOW CONFIDENT IS HE FEELING AT THE START OF THE EXTRACT COMPARED TO THE END?

LOOK AT THE SENTENCE STRUCTURE – IS THIS SIGNIFICANT?



# Structuring your response



**P**oint: Answer the question (make your point)

**E**vidence: Short and succinct quote

**E**xplain: Zoom in 2 times and analyse the quote

Impact( what can you imagine/visualise

How do you feel towards the writer?



Here are useful phrases to use and you can use your own too. These can be used for IMPACT!

- The writer's use of descriptive writing ---
- I can imagine --- --- creates vivid imagery of ---
- --- giving the reader an insight into ---
- This reflects the narrator's emotions --- emphasises / highlights---( structure)
- --- speeds up/slow down the pace, enabling the reader to ---

