

A gentle curve of hillside rose from the glittering sea. The hill and the valleys around it were an eiderdown of olive-groves that shone with a fish-like gleam where the breeze touched the leaves. Half-way up the slope, guarded by a group of tall, slim cypress-trees, nestled a small strawberry-pink villa, like some exotic fruit lying in the greenery. The cypress-trees undulated gently in the breeze, as if they were busily painting the sky a still brighter blue for our arrival.

Q: How does the writer's use of language (word choice, imagery and sentence structure) show that the family were happy to see the house? (4 marks)

Being poor can cost you your life. True. Shocking new statistics released yesterday reveal the monstrous unfairness that blights the future of many of Scotland's citizens. Certain areas of Glasgow have the mortality rate of a third world country. The figures exposed a deeply disturbing divide between the haves and the have-nots. Your new-born baby is twice as likely to survive into a healthy childhood if you have the right postcode. The child who enters the world in some areas in the East end of Glasgow has twice the chance of suffering from heart disease, diabetes and mental illness, and more than three times the likelihood of encountering drug and alcohol related problems, than those born in more affluent areas.

Q: How does the writer's use of language (word choice, imagery and sentence structure) show terrible the situation is for those living in poverty? (4 marks)

Back in the main trench, I stood on the fire-step to watch the sky whitening. I could hear the distant rumble of gunfire and the closer sound of scurrying of rats. I could see the ruined village below the hill and the leafless trees that waited like sentries. Down in the craters the dead water took a dull gleam from the sky. I stared at the tangles of wire and the leaning posts, and there seemed no sort of comfort left in life. My steel hat was heavy on my head while I thought how I'd been on leave last month.

Q: How does the writer's use of language (word choice, imagery and sentence structure) show how horrifying the trench was? (4 marks)

I gazed upon the schoolroom into which he took me, as the most depressing and desolate place I had ever seen. I see it now. A long room, with three long rows of individual desks. Scraps of old copybooks and exercises litter the dirty floor. The walls are dark and there is little light coming in from the small windows. The teacher himself is dressed all in black and I feel his dark eyes bore into me. There is a strange unwholesome smell in the room, like mildewed corduroys, sweet apples wanting air, and rotten books.

Q: How does the writer's use of language (word choice, imagery and sentence structure) show that the narrator was not happy to enter the schoolroom? (4 marks)

Twelve gunmen who broke into the bank subjected customers to a terrifying ordeal. The men forced the bank manager to open the safe by threatening to kill the 73 customers — who included 6 children and a heavily pregnant woman — and blow up the bank unless they were granted their wish. The bank-robbers — who were heavily armed with hand grenades, loaded handguns, knives and knuckle-dusters — made repeated threats to kill customers. A cashier was beaten up and left on floor with his hands tied behind his back. Customers were ordered to keep their heads down and not to look up on pain of death.

Q: How does the writer's use of language (word choice, imagery and sentence structure) show how frightening the situation was? (4 marks)

My father, when behind the wheel, was more or less permanently lost. Most of the time he was just kind of lost, but whenever we got near something we were intent on seeing he would become seriously lost. Generally it would take him about an hour to realise that he had gone from the first stage to the second. All during that time, as he blundered through some unfamiliar city, making sudden and unpredictable turns, getting honked at for going the wrong way down one-way streets or for hesitating in the middle of busy intersections, my mother would mildly suggest that perhaps we should pull over and ask directions. But my father would pretend not to hear her and would press on in that semi-obsessional state that tends to overcome fathers when things aren't going well.

Q: How does the writer's use of language (word choice, imagery and sentence structure) show that the father did not know where he was going? (4 marks)