

Analytical Vocabulary

What to say about the EFFECTS of language

If you are asked to comment on the **EFFECTS** of language, you need to use a range of **analytical** vocabulary. You will present ideas more clearly if you use precise terminology to describe exactly **what** the effects of language are.

To show how language creates an image or idea:	To show how a text can be compared to another, or linked to a theme or idea:	What might the EFFECT be?
Creates Evokes Illustrates		Creating a powerful idea/image
Implies Gives the impression that...	Compares Reflects	
Portrays Suggests Highlights	Mirrors Alludes to	Causing a change in tone/mood
Presents Introduces	Echoes Symbolises	
		Presenting or developing a character
What techniques might the writer be using?	Questions to ask yourself:	Putting it all together:
Imagery Emotive Language	Is the writer trying to make a point?	The writer uses this <i>image</i> to <i>highlight</i> the idea of...
Dialogue Structure	Is the writer trying to change your ideas?	This idea is <i>echoed</i> in the story later on when...
Narrative Voice	Is the writer talking about his/her own experiences?	The <i>writer</i> clearly feels strongly about...

Glossary

Create:	To make an image (picture in the reader's mind) or idea. e.g. the writer creates an image of peace when he describes this family.
Evoke:	You EVOKE a mood or emotion by using powerful language. e.g. the writer evokes a feeling of joy by describing the sunrise.
Illustrate:	To illustrate is to show something or paint a picture with words. e.g. the idea of hate is illustrated by the violent images.
Imply:	To imply is to say that something MIGHT be the case. e.g. perhaps the writer is implying that the character is unhappy.
Gives the impression:	Makes us think... e.g. the writer gives the impression that something dangerous is coming.
Portray:	To present an idea or image. e.g. the writer portrays this character as a villain.
Suggest:	To offer an idea which MIGHT be true. e.g. this description suggests that the character is jealous.
Highlight:	To point out an important idea or piece of information. e.g. this image highlights the importance of their relationship.
Introduce:	To present a new idea or character. e.g. the writer introduces the theme of revenge.
Compare:	To say something is similar or different to something else

e.g. If we compare these two poems we see that...

Reflect/Mirror:	To say that the same idea is shown somewhere else. e.g. this image is reflected later in the novel.
Alludes to:	To say that something refers to another idea. e.g. here the writer clearly alludes to the idea of conflict.
Echo:	To say that the same or a similar idea is shown somewhere else. e.g. this idea is echoed throughout the poem.
Symbolise:	To say that an image or character represents a larger idea. e.g. this character is a symbol of all women in London at that time.

Example Paragraph

Here is the quotation I am analysing. It is from a war poem by Wilfred Owen.

“...watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face like a devil's sick of sin...
the blood come gargling from the froth corrupted
lungs.”

In this poem the writer **creates** a horrific **image** of war. The description of the “hanging” face **suggests** that the man's head is drooping from injury, but it could also **evoke** scenes of an execution by hanging, **introducing** the theme of violent death to the poem. This **image** is **echoed** shortly afterwards in the “froth corrupted lungs”; it is clear that the man whose lungs are full of blood is going to die. Owen wants to **convince the reader** that war is not glorious and that it just leads to the unnecessary death of young men.

