

You can use these guiding questions to help you understand, interpret, analyse and develop a personal response to any literature text.

What, How, Why Learning Mat

Ask yourself these questions and try and answer them in as much detail as you can. Ensure you use evidence and make clear references to the text.



Using **WHAT** to develop a personal response

- What do you see?
- What do you think?
- What is your impression?
- What is your view?
- What do you learn?
- What do you understand?
- What is being presented?
- What is the writer showing you? What is their intention?
- What can you say about the speaker / message / themes / character / events / setting / relationship / methods? What is revealed?

Using **How** to comment on methods and effects

- How do they help to create a tone/mood?
- How do you know this?
- How is it shown to you?
- How is it presented?
- How are you affected?
- How would the audience / reader react?
- How can you interpret meaning?
- How many interpretations can you make?

Zooming in on language and methods using **what, how, why**



Language

- ✓ What kind of language is used? What does this add to the overall technique or quotation?
- ✓ What words stand out?
- ✓ What are the connotations?
- ✓ What is implied or suggested?
- ✓ What patterns can you find? What is the effect?
- ✓ Why has this word been used? Why here?
- ✓ Why did the writer choose this particular word?
- ✓ Why is this effective?
- ✓ What kind of tone is created through the language choices?
- ✓ How would the audience / reader react?
- ✓ How can you interpret meaning?
- ✓ How many interpretations can you make?
- ✓ How does this reinforce the writer's message / intention?
- ✓ How does this reinforce your point?
- ✓ How does this reflect or link to the keyword in the question?
- ✓ How can you use context to develop your analysis?
- ✓ What does this reveal about the speaker / message / themes / character / events / setting / relationships?



Methods

- ✓ What kind of method is used?
- ✓ What patterns can you find? What is the effect?
- ✓ Why has this particular method been used? Why here?
- ✓ Why is this effective?
- ✓ How would the audience / reader react?
- ✓ How can you interpret meaning?
- ✓ How many interpretations can you make?
- ✓ How does this reinforce the writer's message / intention?
- ✓ How does this reinforce your point?
- ✓ How does this reflect or link to the keyword in the question?
- ✓ How can you use context to develop your analysis?
- ✓ What does this reveal about the speaker / message / themes / character / events / setting / relationships?

Using **WHAT** to develop your analysis

- What quotation can you use to reinforce your point?
- What can you say about the quotation?
- What methods are used by the writer?
- What do you notice about the structure? What devices can you identify? What can you say about them?
- What patterns can you find? What is the effect?
- What kind of tone is created?
- What kind of language is used? What does this add to the overall technique or quotation?
- What words stand out?
- What are the connotations?
- What is implied or suggested?
- What else can you say?
- What is an alternative interpretation?

Using **HOW** to develop your analysis

- How is the effect achieved?
- How has the writer used this method?
- How does this quotation reinforce your point?
- How does your analysis reinforce or prove your point?
- How does this word / method / quotation support a theme?
- How does this link to or reinforce the writer's intention?
- How does this link to or reflect the context?

Using **Why** to develop analysis; personal response; and interpretation

- Why did the writer write this poem / play / novel?
- Why does the poet want to leave you with this message?
- Why is a character / event / setting / relationship presented in this way?
- Why does the writer do this?
- Why does the writer present it in this way?
- Why does the writer want you to feel this way?
- Why has this word / method been used?
- Why did the writer choose this particular word / method?
- Why has this word / method been used here?
- Why is this effective?


Using **WHAT** to develop your discussion of writer's intention

- What does the writer want you to understand?
- What are their concerns/ideas?
- What is the message? Is this a universal message? A personal message? A societal message?
- What are we supposed to understand / learn? Is there a moral/religious/philosophical lesson?
- What do you know about the context that can help you to develop your interpretation of the meaning/message?

What, How, Why Learning Mat



You can use these guiding questions and useful phrases to help you structure a focused and analytical answer.

SNAPSHOT 
What do you see?
How is it presented?
Why is it presented in this way?

Essay guide

Useful phrases

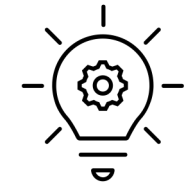
Developing a Response: introduction and thesis statement

- What** is the keyword in the question?
- What** are you being asked to do?
- What** is your idea in response to this?
- What** do you 'believe' in response to the question?
- What** are you trying to prove?
- How will you prove this? **What** will you focus on?
- What** direction will you take your essay in?
- What** are your main points or ideas? What will you focus on?



Words to show a developed interpretation:

- In addition, the use of a
- Furthermore, the use of a ... develops the idea of...
- This idea is further strengthened by the use of...
- Alternatively, the use of...could also show...
- This idea could be linked to...
- Perhaps the writer's aim is to...
- The writer is obviously trying to...
- Another interpretation...is...



Developing a Response: main body

- What** is your idea? **What** is your response to the task?
- What** is the evidence to back this up?
- What** can you infer from the evidence?
- How is your idea shown in the evidence?
- How does the writer use methods / language / structure?
- How does this link back to your initial idea?
- How effective is this method?
- Why did the writer use this? Why did they want to show this? Why did they choose to present it in this way?
- What** is the effect on the reader / audience?
- How can you use context to develop your response further?
- How many interpretations can you offer?

Words to show emphasis:

- cleverly, accurately, clearly,
- ironically, effectively, undoubtedly,
- above all, notably, especially,
- significantly, expertly

Words to summarise and conclude:

- On the whole
- Overall
- Ultimately
- Finally
- In conclusion

Developing a Response: conclusion

- What** have you proven?
- What** have you learned?
- What** is the overall message for the reader / audience with regards to the question?
- What** have you shown in terms of the themes / big ideas?
- What** is the writer's message with regards to the focus of the question?
- Why is this text and the message significant?

Useful Phrases:

- This reveals/ suggests/ implies/depicts/conveys/ emphasises/reinforces/ highlights/ portrays
- The most important word is...
- Consequently ...
- By using a...the writer creates the impression of...
- In particular, the use of...
- The word...conveys...

Useful Phrases:

- The writer conveys/presents/contrasts/ implies/indicates/ creates/reveals
- It's clear that the use of....shows how...
- It's possible the writer wants us to understand ...
- By using a the writer shows how ...
- By using ... the writer is forcing the reader to...
- This would be particularly powerful to a ...reader
- The writer would have been influenced by...