

Towards the start of the extract the writer fixates our attention on the physical hardships of the Hartop family, dropping readers ever so quickly. "Ford Motor-van old and scratched" revealing an idea of struggle through experiences. However, as the story develops the writer makes a sudden change in focus towards family members. Showing a disregard for emotions the author now goes into description of Mr. Hartop's character. "Sprawling awkwardly" this change in focus showcases his nature and power as he doesn't mind having his family sat squeezed up. Progressing, through the extract the writer has now taken the time to go into description of the daughter Alice and Wife. The two seem obedient as they don't retaliate against Mr. Hartop's behavior and resemble fear when against him. To summarise, the Author has structured the text to interest you as a reader with a wide range of descriptive language, phrases and changes in focus. "Faces molded in clay" is a perfect example as it gives the sense that faces are like masks covering one's true feelings from Mr. Hartop's unreasonable conduct.

3. You now need to think about the **whole** of the source.

This text is from the beginning of a short story.

How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?

You could write about:

- what the writer focuses your attention on at the beginning of the source
- how and why the writer changes this focus as the source develops
- any other structural features that interest you.

Level Achieved: Level 3 (5-6 marks)

Mark Awarded: 6/8 Great effort ...this was a good piece of work

Rationale:

- **Understanding of Structural Features:** This student shows clear understanding of structural features, identifying the shift in focus from the physical hardships of the family to Mr. Hartop's character, then to other family members like Alice and the wife.
- **Explanation of Effects:** The explanation of how Mr. Hartop's behaviour showcases his power and disregard for his family is clear, but it could be more precise in analysing the overall effect on the reader.
- **Examples:** The student selects relevant examples, such as "Ford Motor-van old and scratched" and "faces moulded in clay," showing engagement with the text. However, the explanation of the example "faces moulded in clay" could be further developed to delve deeper into its metaphorical meaning.

- **Subject Terminology:** The response uses subject terminology, such as “focus” and “description,” but this could be more sophisticated. Terms like “narrative perspective,” “juxtaposition,” or “progression” could enhance the explanation.

Areas for Improvement:

1. **Perceptive Analysis:** To push the response to Level 4, the student could delve deeper into the *why* behind the writer’s choices. For example, he could explore how the description of the van at the beginning not only represents hardship but foreshadows the family's dynamic and Mr. Hartop's treatment of them.

Rewrite Example: "The opening focus on the 'Ford Motor-van old and scratched' not only highlights the family's physical hardships but subtly introduces a metaphor for Mr. Hartop’s worn, domineering presence in the family. The vehicle, representing the father, sets the tone for the emotional struggles within the family, foreshadowing how he will later be described as sprawling 'awkwardly,' showing his disregard for those around him."

2. **Judicious Use of Examples:** Instead of just referring to examples, the student could use them more judiciously to support detailed analysis. For example, the shift from the family’s physical condition to Mr. Hartop's behaviour could be linked to a larger thematic analysis of power dynamics within the family.

Rewrite Example: "The writer shifts from describing the 'old and scratched' van to Mr. Hartop's awkward sprawl, which mirrors his emotional detachment and authority within the family. This juxtaposition between the vehicle and his dominating presence signals the dysfunctional relationship at the heart of the story, where Mr. Hartop is more concerned with asserting control than showing care."

3. **Sophisticated Use of Subject Terminology:** The student should aim for more sophisticated and accurate terminology. For instance, instead of saying "change in focus," the student could mention “shifts in narrative perspective” or “structural progression.”

Rewrite Example: "The writer's structural progression, moving from external hardships to Mr. Hartop's internal flaws, emphasises a deepening exploration of family dynamics. The shift from description to character insight reflects a growing tension, ultimately creating a narrative arc that engages the reader's empathy for the family."

Final Tip:

This student should continue to explore *why* the writer structures the text in a certain way and how it impacts the reader, focusing more on the emotional and thematic progression throughout the story. Adding these elements would enhance the perceptiveness of his analysis.

Next task

Have a go at the Q4 with the 'student's statement'.

You need to include **an introduction paragraph** about where you stand with the question "to what extent you agree?"

Remember it is the whole statement which is divided into two parts:

"...shows how hard and cruel Hartop is, so that all of our sympathy is with Alice."

And then look at the bullet points to structure your response and remember you can only focus on lines 34-the end! **So really read this part of the source well** and ask are there acts **of cruelty**; and should we give **all our sympathy** to Alice?

REMEMBER

You have done question 2 where the emphasis is language

You have done question 3 where the emphasis is structure

In question 4 the question has to focus on the how the writer creates, so this means that you must include both language and structural references to support your opinions

consider whether Alice is treated cruelly by her father
evaluate how the writer creates sympathy for Alice
support your response with references to the text.

You should write at **least three paragraphs** focusing on cruelty and sympathy? Make sure you understand the definitions of cruelty and sympathy.

Finally write a summary/conclusion paragraph to bring everything together.

You should write a minimum 250 words and up to 350 words

Watch this YouTube video on Q4

[YouTube q4](#)

So, 6 x paragraphs altogether

Good luck