

Half term school- Paper 1 morning session (levels 7-9)

Q3 exemplar:

Overall, the writer of 'Spies' structures the text to interest the reader and build up their understanding of the unreliability of the narrator. For example, the first paragraph clearly relays the narrator's memory of a childhood event. We understand that this is an event in the narrator's past through the opening line which states 'Where the story began though, was where most of our adventures and projects began- at Keith's house'. This opening line helps us to understand that the narrator is going to relate a tale of adventure about a moment in his childhood with his friend Keith. This interests the reader as they begin to understand that the narrator was an daring and adventurous child. In this opening paragraph, where the focus is on this memory, the narrator makes it clear that he distinctly remembers the 'soft clinking' of the 'blue beads' against the jug. The paragraph ends with an ellipsis suggesting that the narrator may be pausing to think or to recall more details of this memory. However, there is a clear change in structure when the narrator starts paragraph two with the phrase 'No, wait.' The effect of the punctuation used here is to create a clear pause while the narrator reflects on his story and its accuracy. He then proceeds to repeat the image of the jug, but alters the location of the memory. This image of the jug is then repeated again in paragraph three and four where the memory alters even more- the narrator's confusion is further evident in the rhetorical question 'When is this?'. The 'clinking' sound however remains the same in all paragraphs, suggesting that this is the only element of the event which he can recall with certainty. The disjointed nature of these paragraphs and the memory helps the reader to understand that the narrator is keen to recall his memory in vivid detail. It also makes the reader immediately aware that the narrator's memory is unreliable- perhaps due to the nature of how long ago it occurred. Therefore, the writer has clearly used the text's structure to reflect the narrator's confusion about the events in his past and to give the reader further insight into his unreliability.

Q4 exemplar:

After fully investigating this extract, I completely agree that Dickens presents Marley as both supernatural and horrific.

Firstly, Marley is clearly and successfully presented as supernatural through the repetition of the noun 'ghost' to describe him. This is then further accentuated by the noun 'phenomenon' and the adjective 'transparent'. These are all words that have a clear connection with spectral imagery. In particular, 'ghost' clearly implies that Marley is dead and has reappeared to visit Scrooge- this is clearly a supernatural 'phenomenon' as it has little basis on real life and cannot be proved by science. Dickens is abiding by Victorian ghost story conventions to create a sense of intrigue and mystery for the reader through this supernatural appearance. Perhaps Dickens repeats this word 'ghost' to highlight to the reader that this is in fact a ghost story and they can expect to be shocked by more paranormal events later in the text. In addition, the pronoun 'it', used to refer to Marley later on, is interesting as it helps to further the presentation of Marley's ghost as supernatural and horrific. Dickens does not refer to it for what it is and this reminds the reader that it is something other-worldly- it essentially makes Marley seem more horrific as it dehumanises the ghost and makes it more monstrous and shocking

Secondly, Marley is effectively presented as horrific. In fact, the descriptions of him throughout this extract are designed to fully astonish and horrify the reader. For example, 'livid colour' is used to describe the hue of the ghost. It ultimately suggests that the ghosts colour is out of the ordinary- not the pale colouring you may expect from a supernatural being. Furthermore, it could imply that Marley is literally reddened by his

own anger. Moreover, by altering the ghost's colour in this way, Dickens may perhaps be conjuring up images of hell and hell fire. This implies that Marley's character in life was both dangerous and sinful, therefore in my opinion making Marley seem all the more horrific. A further description in the final paragraph of the 'dying flame' reflects this image of hell and fire and mirrors the earlier description of Marley as having a 'dismal light' about him. Dickens describes the flame as 'leaping up and crying' as Marley 'came into the room'. Firstly, the personification of the flame and its death hints that Marley's appearance is so horrific that it can even kill something which has no life to lose. However, the verbs 'leaping' and 'crying' are designed to remind the reader that they too should be shocked and frightened by Marley's appearance and the supernatural way in which he entered the room through the 'heavy door'.

Ultimately, I agree that Dickens is successful in creating a supernatural and horrific character through his use of language and structure in this paragraph.