Perfecting Poetry Analysis **Worksheet**

Analysing a poem involves:

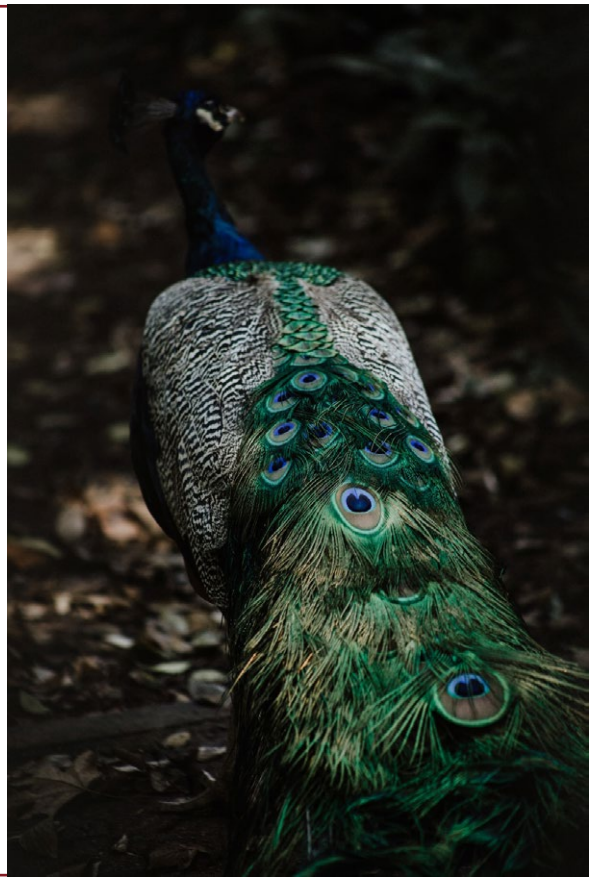
1. Reading the text carefully
2. Identifying relevant techniques
3. Explaining the effect of techniques on the audience
4. Linking the composer's choices to their purpose

Read through the poem below in your head, then read it aloud to hear the rhythm.

Panic
by Alduous Huxley

The eyes of the portraits on the wall
Look at me, follow me,
Stare incessantly:
I take it their glance means nothing at all?
- Clearly, oh clearly! Nothing at all...

Out in the gardens by the lake
The sleeping peacocks suddenly wake;
Out in the gardens, moonlit and forlorn,
Each of them sounds his mournful horn:
Shrill peals that waver and crack and break.
What can have made the peacocks wake?



Questions

1. Identify and record one example of the following poetic devices in this poem.
   a. Enjambment

   _____

   _____

   b. Rhetorical questions

   _____

   _____

c. Repetition

d. Rhyme

e. Assonance

2. Explain why ‘clearly’ and ‘nothing’ are repeated in the last two lines of the first stanza.

3. Discuss why the poem ends with a rhetorical question.

4. What is the overall mood of this poem? Include at least one line to support your answer.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Writing an Analytical Paragraph

There are two options below for your paragraph - one with suggested starters and one that allows you to begin sentences as you see fit. Select the task that best suits your current understanding of analytical writing.

Option One - Scaffolded Response

Analyse how Alduous Huxley engages the reader in the poem 'Panic'.

Alduous Huxley engages the reader by _____

The poem Panic makes the audience feel _____. This is evident when (include a quote) _____

_____

In this example, Huxley uses (technique) _____ to make the audience _____

_____.

Furthermore, Huxley reinforces this emotion by employing (different technique) _____ in the line (include quote) _____

_____

In this line, audiences are led to _____

Huxley's use of language therefore serves to engage the audience in his poem Panic by making them _____

Option Two - Free Response

Analyse how Alduous Huxley establishes a clear mood in the poem 'Panic'.

Remember that your paragraph should include:

- A topic sentence that outlines what mood is created in the poem.
- An explanation of how that mood is created.
- An example showing this mood.
- Analysis of your chosen example (the effect language has on the audience).
- A second example from the text reflecting the mood you have chosen.
- Analysis of your second example (the effect language has on the audience).
- A linking statement summarising how Huxley uses language to set a mood.