

## Building Skills in Close Reading

The following questions can be used to help you build your skills in understanding, analysing and evaluating text. Choose a feature article from a broadsheet newspaper and try to answer the questions below.

### Understanding

1. Summarise the ideas of the text, using extended bullet points. You might find it useful to write a sentence summarising each paragraph.
2. What was the overall, key idea of the passage? Write it down in one sentence.

### Analysis

3. Pick out two places where the writer used word choice to achieve a particular effects. Focus on single words and think about the words' connotations, rather than simply what they mean.
4. Pick out one place where the writer used imagery effectively. Explain how the image was used and why it was effective.
5. Pick out one place where the writer used sentence structure effectively. Identify the feature of sentence structure and explain why it was effective.
6. How would you describe the tone of this article? How is the tone created?
7. Did the writer use any other techniques to achieve a particular impact? If so, explain which techniques were used and why.

### Evaluation

8. How effective is the final paragraph as a conclusion to the article as a whole?
9. How effective has the writer been in conveying their point(s) in this article? Support your answer with reference to the text where appropriate.