Department of English and Literacy

S1 Textual Analysis Pack

Passage 1: ‘A Christmas Carol’

**Read the passage then answer all of the questions. Check over your answers at the end and contact your teacher if there were any questions you had trouble with.**

*In this part of the novella, the Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge to visit Bob Cratchit’s house.*

Then up rose Mrs Cratchit, Cratchit's wife, dressed out but poorly in a twice-turned gown, but brave in ribbons, which are cheap and make a goodly show for sixpence; and she laid the cloth, assisted by Belinda Cratchit, second of her daughters, also brave in ribbons; while Master Peter Cratchit plunged a fork into the saucepan of potatoes, and getting the corners of his monstrous shirt collar (Bob's private property, conferred upon his son and heir in honour of the day) into his mouth, rejoiced to find himself so gallantly attired, and yearned to show his linen in the fashionable parks. And now two smaller Cratchits, boy and girl, came tearing in, screaming that outside the baker's they had smelt the goose, and known it for their own; and basking in luxurious thoughts of sage and onion, these young Cratchits danced about the table, and exalted Master Peter Cratchit to the skies, while he (not proud, although his collars nearly choked him) blew the fire, until the slow potatoes bubbling up, knocked loudly at the saucepan-lid to be let out and peeled.

"What has ever got your precious father then?" said Mrs Cratchit. "And your brother, Tiny Tim; And Martha warn't as late last Christmas Day by half-an-hour."

"Here's Martha, mother," said a girl, appearing as she spoke.

"Here's Martha, mother!" cried the two young Cratchits. "Hurrah! There's such a goose, Martha!"

"Why, bless your heart alive, my dear, how late you are!" said Mrs Cratchit, kissing her a dozen times, and taking off her shawl and bonnet for her with officious zeal.

"We'd a deal of work to finish up last night," replied the girl, "and had to clear away this morning, mother."

"Well. Never mind so long as you are come," said Mrs Cratchit. "Sit ye down before the fire, my dear, and have a warm, Lord bless ye."

This extract comes from ‘A Christmas Carol’ by Charles Dickens

Read it here for free:

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/24022>

**Passage 1 Questions**

1. In your own words, describe what is happening in paragraph 1. = 5 marks
2. What do the words: conferred, gallantly and exalted in paragraph 1 mean? = 3 marks
3. What does the clothing worn by the Cratchits say about their finaces? = 2 marks
4. Where has Martha come from? = 2 marks

1. Give an example of how the writer creates a feeling of a happy family in this extract. = 4 marks

**Passage 1 Answers**

1. In your own words, describe what is happening in paragraph 1. = 5 marks

* Mrs Cratchit and her daughters laid the table
* Peter cratchit stirs the potatoes
* The two younger children burst in to tell of the lovely food they have seen/smelled while they were out
* The children danced around the kitchen, singing their brother’s praises
* Peter continued to cook the potatoes until they were ready

1. What do the words: conferred, gallantly and exalted in paragraph 1 mean? = 3 marks

* Given/passed down
* Grand/impressive
* Raised up/praised highly

1. What does the clothing worn by the Cratchits say about their finaces? = 2 marks

* They are poor
* “twice turned gown”
* Ribbons are cheap/ shirt is handed down

1. Where has Martha come from? = 2 marks

* From work
* "‘We'd a deal of work to finish up last night," replied the girl, "and had to clear away this morning, mother.’"

1. Give 2 examples of how the writer creates a feeling of a happy family in this extract. = 4 marks

Any 2 plus appropriate evidence:

* Family all working together to make dinner
* Children praising their elder brother
* Father passing his best clothes on to his eldest son
* Mother not angry that daughter is late
* Mother welcomes her eldest daughter by the fire

Passage 2: ‘The Woman in Black’

**Read the passage then answer all of the questions. Check over your answers at the end and contact your teacher if there were any questions you had trouble with.**

*Arthur Kipps, a solicitor on business, is alone in a graveyard and has once again noticed the mysterious, ill-looking woman he saw at Mrs Drablow’s funeral.*

Suddenly conscious of the cold and the extreme bleakness and eeriness of the spot and of the gathering dusk of the November afternoon, and not wanting my spirits to become so depressed that I might begin to be affected by all sorts of morbid fancies, I was about to leave, and walk briskly back to the house, where I intended to switch on a good many lights and even light a small fire if it were possible, before beginning my preliminary work on Mrs Drablow’s papers.

But, as I turned away, I glanced once again around the burial ground and then I saw again the woman with the wasted face, who had been at Mrs Drablow’s funeral. She was at the far end of the plot, close to one of the few upright headstones, and she wore the same clothing and bonnet, but it seemed to have slipped back so that I could make out her face a little more clearly. In the greyness of the fading light, it had the sheen and pallor not of flesh so much as of bone itself. Earlier, when I had looked at her, although admittedly it had been scarcely more than a swift glance each time, I had not noticed any particular expression on her ravaged face, but then I had, after all, been entirely taken with the look of extreme illness. Now, however, as I stared at her, stared until my eyes ached in their sockets, stared in surprise and bewilderment at her presence, now I saw that her face did wear an expression. It was one of what I can only describe – and the words seem hopelessly inadequate to express what I saw – as a desperate, yearning malevolence; it was as though she were searching for something she wanted, needed – must have, more than life itself, and which had been taken from her. And, towards whoever had taken it she directed the purest evil and hatred and loathing, with all the force that was available to her. Her face, in its extreme pallor, her eyes, sunken but unnaturally bright, were burning with the concentration of passionate emotion which was within her and which streamed from her.

Whether or not this hatred and malevolence was directed towards me I had no means of telling – I had no reason at all to suppose that it could possibly have been, but at that moment I was far from able to base my reactions upon reason and logic. For the combination of the peculiar, isolated place and the sudden appearance of the woman and the dreadfulness of her expression began to fill me with fear. Indeed, I had never in my life been so possessed by it, never known my knees to tremble and my flesh to creep, and then to turn cold as stone, never known my heart to give a great lurch, as if it would almost leap up into my dry mouth and then begin pounding in my chest like a hammer on an anvil, never known myself gripped and held fast by such dread and horror and apprehension of evil. It was as though I had become paralysed. I could not bear to stay there, for fear, but nor had I any strength left in my body to turn and run away, and I was as certain as I have ever been of anything that, at any second, I would drop dead on that wretched path of ground. It was the woman who moved. She slipped behind the gravestone and, keeping close to the shadow of the wall, went through one of the broken gaps and out of sight.

**Passage 2 Questions**

1. How does the writer use word choice in paragraph 1 to set the scene and show the speaker’s growing fear? = 2 marks
2. List 4 details about the woman from paragraph 2 = 4 marks
3. What does the word, “malevolence” mean in the context of paragraph 2 and why is it a good word for the writer to use? = 2 marks

1. How does the writer show Arthur’s fear in the final paragraph? = 4 marks
2. Looking at the whole passage, do you think the writer is successful in creating a mood of tension and fear? Choose 2 examples of effective language techniques used = 4 marks

This extract comes from ‘The Woman in Black’ by Susan Hill

Available as a paperback, e-book or audio book:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07B9RMP32/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1>

**Passage 2 Answers**

1. How does the writer use word choice in paragraph 1 to set the scene and show the speaker’s growing fear? = 2 marks

Any 1 plus appropriate explanation from:

* Cold/extreme bleakness/eeriness
* Gathering dusk
* Morbid fancies
* Walk briskly back
* Switch on a good many lights

1. List 4 details about the woman from paragraph 2 = 4 marks

Any 4 of:

* Gloss on ‘wasted’/‘ravaged’/face destroyed by illness/decaying
* Wearing a hat he had seen her in before
* Gloss on ‘pallor of bone’/deathly white
* Look of illness
* Gloss of ‘yearning malevolence’/evil/haunted look
* Gloss on ‘bright’/’burning’ eyes/demonic/evil

1. What does the word, “malevolence” mean in the context of paragraph 2 and why is it a good word for the writer to use? = 2 marks

* Evil/Wishing harm to others
* Shows how threatening the sight of this woman is/How unsettled/afraid Arthur is of her

1. How does the writer show Arthur’s fear in the final paragraph? = 4 marks

Any 2 plus appropriate explanation from:

* He is suddenly gripped with the fear of the woman and of the isolated situation he is in: “For the combination of the peculiar, isolated place and the sudden appearance of the woman and the dreadfulness of her expression began to fill me with fear.”
* Use of physical description and similes: “Indeed, I had never in my life been so possessed by it, never known my knees to tremble and my flesh to creep, and then to turn cold as stone, never known my heart to give a great lurch, as if it would almost leap up into my dry mouth and then begin pounding in my chest like a hammer on an anvil, never known myself gripped and held fast by such dread and horror and apprehension of evil.”
* Short sentence to highlight the single feeling of helplessness: “It was as though I had become paralysed.”
* Use of hyperbole to show extreme fear: “I could not bear to stay there, for fear, but nor had I any strength left in my body to turn and run away, and I was as certain as I have ever been of anything that, at any second, I would drop dead on that wretched path of ground. It was the woman who moved.”

1. Looking at the whole passage, do you think the writer is successful in creating a mood of tension and fear? Choose 2 examples of effective language techniques used = 4 marks

Any 2 plus appropriate explanation:

Description of setting:

* “Suddenly conscious of the cold and the extreme bleakness and eeriness of the spot and of the gathering dusk of the November afternoon”
* “I was about to leave, and walk briskly back to the house, where I intended to switch on a good many lights and even light a small fire if it were possible”
* “I glanced once again around the burial ground and then I saw again the woman with the wasted face”

Description of woman:

* “In the greyness of the fading light, it had the sheen and pallor not of flesh so much as of bone itself.”
* “as a desperate, yearning malevolence; it was as though she were searching for something she wanted, needed – must have, more than life itself, and which had been taken from her”
* “And, towards whoever had taken it she directed the purest evil and hatred and loathing, with all the force that was available to her.”
* “Her face, in its extreme pallor, her eyes, sunken but unnaturally bright, were burning with the concentration of passionate emotion which was within her and which streamed from her.”
* “She slipped behind the gravestone and, keeping close to the shadow of the wall, went through one of the broken gaps and out of sight.”

Description of Arthur:

* “not wanting my spirits to become so depressed that I might begin to be affected by all sorts of morbid fancies”
* “Now, however, as I stared at her, stared until my eyes ached in their sockets, stared in surprise and bewilderment at her presence”
* “I was far from able to base my reactions upon reason and logic”
* “For the combination of the peculiar, isolated place and the sudden appearance of the woman and the dreadfulness of her expression began to fill me with fear”
* “my knees to tremble and my flesh to creep”
* “my heart to give a great lurch, as if it would almost leap up into my dry mouth and then begin pounding in my chest like a hammer on an anvil”
* “It was as though I had become paralysed”
* “I was as certain as I have ever been of anything that, at any second, I would drop dead on”

Passage 3: ‘MacKay’s Store’

**Read the passage then answer all of the questions. Check over your answers at the end and contact your teacher if there were any questions you had trouble with.**

1. In MacKay’s store you could buy everything from a pound of tea or a pin, to a litre of paraffin. The goods for sale were piled unceremoniously on bare, unpainted wooden shelves supported by metal frames in tiers of four that rose from floor to ceiling. Very little light came through the tiny windows and the naked fluorescent tubes, high up under the roof, burned even during the brightest day.
2. When Shona walked in Mr MacKay was deep in conversation with Mrs MacBratney, the tall, thin wife of the island’s garage mechanic.
3. ‘Hello, Shona,’ he called out. ‘I’ll see to you in just a minute, when I’ve finished with Mrs MacBratney. Why don’t you have a look round my dear?’
4. Shona, like all the locals, did not need to ‘look round’. She knew from habit where everything lived. The store’s huge stock of such a diverse range of goods might have seemed odd to tourists but it proved an enormous comfort to the locals when the island was cut off for weeks at a time during the winter gales.
5. The main reason for Mr MacKay’s invitation to wander round the store was so that he could continue his gossip with Mrs MacBratney and the first words Shona overheard made certain that her ears remained well tuned to the conversation.
6. ‘The Laird said that he wants to put up a new building,’ said Mr MacKay. Mrs MacBratney was clearly shocked. ‘But you’ve only had this place these last twenty years.’
7. ‘Aye, well, he thinks I need refrigerated display cabinets, like they have on the mainland and that I should have a big, huge window all down that side.’
8. ‘Whatever for?’
9. ‘So that people can see it’s a shop,’ he said.
10. ‘But everybody *knows* it’s a shop. It’s the only one on the island.’
11. Mr MacKay nodded. ‘He thinks it ought to *look* like one though. Which is why he wants to put in this fine big window.’
12. ‘And the first winter gale will take it straight out again!’ Mrs MacBratney said scornfully.
13. Mr MacKay nodded in agreement. ‘And the cost! He’s no doubt trying to find a way of putting up my rent, that’s all. I suspect he’ll have second thoughts when he realises that everything has to come from the mainland and costs three times as much by the time it lands here. And when Fergus called with the mails this morning he tells me the Laird’s been talking about building a great factory for processing fish and seaweed over on the west side of the island.’
14. ‘But the boats would never get in there, it’s far too shallow!’
15. ‘Fergus says the Laird intends dredging it. But then, I says, how’s he going to get the stuff out to the ferry with nothing but a sandy track, fit only for a horse and cart, between the west side and the quay?’
16. ‘Ah,’ it was Mrs MacBratney’s turn to sound knowing, ‘have you not heard about all the new, good, wide roads he’s going to build? He mentioned to my husband when he called to buy petrol.’
17. ‘We’ve heard it all before! These people come up here with their grand plans to change the world but they lose interest quickly enough in my experience.’ Mr MacKay shook his head.
18. Shona hoped they would lose interest. She wanted her island to stay the way it was. Nothing she had heard so far sounded like a change for the better.

**Passage 3 Questions**

1. Is the purpose of this story to entertain, persuade, explain or inform? Give a reason for your answer. (2)
2. Who do you think is the intended audience for this piece? With close reference to the text, give a reason for your answer. (2)
3. Summarise the reasons that the Laird has for upgrading the shop in paragraphs 6-13. (4)
4. Why does Mr MacKay’s shop sell everything? (1)
5. What kind of people are Mr MacKay and Mrs MacBratney? Give evidence from the text and explain what this shows about them. (3)
6. Why does Shona hope they do lose interest? What is the writer trying to tell the reader about attempts to modernise the simple island life? (2)
7. How does the writer’s use of word choice or punctuation in paragraph 12show that Mrs MacBratney thinks the new window is a bad idea? (2)
8. How successful has the writer been in conveying the island as being a small close-knit community? You should make two clear references to the passage to support your answer. (4)

**Passage 3 Answers**

1. Is the purpose of this story to entertain, persuade, explain or inform? Give a reason for your answer. (2)

* To entertain (1). Appropriate explanation (1)

1. Summarise the reasons that the Laird has for upgrading the shop in paragraphs 6-13. (4)

* Anyone interested in island life/Change/Modernisation (1).Reference to evidence that shows how close-knit the island is/The changes that the Laird is planning/The islanders’ concerns regarding the changes (1)

1. Summarise the reasons that the Laird has for upgrading the shop in paragraphs 6-13. (4)

* Gloss of: Building has been standing twenty years (1). So it can display/sell more fresh food (refrigerators) (1). Big windows so that people can see in – perhaps tourists (1). The Laird can charge more rent (1).

1. Why does Mr MacKay’s shop sell everything? (1)

* It's the only one on the island/Winter gales cut it off from the mainland (1)

1. What kind of people are Mr MacKay and Mrs MacBratney? Give evidence from the text and explain what this shows about them. (3)

* Any two of: Old fashioned/Don’t like change/Like to gossip/Any other appropriate answer (2). Evidence from the text to support answer (1)

1. Why does Shona hope they do lose interest? What is the writer trying to tell the reader about attempts to modernise the simple island life? (2)

* She likes her island home/Way of life (1). That people from rural communities don’t always appreciate change/Change isn’t always better/Doesn’t always benefit the people themselves (1)

1. How does the writer’s use of word choice or punctuation in paragraph 12show that Mrs MacBratney thinks the new window is a bad idea? (2)

* Exclamation mark/word choice ‘scornfully’ (1).Plus appropriate explanation (1)

1. How successful has the writer been in conveying the island as being a small close-knit community? You should make two clear references to the passage to support your answer. (4)

* Everyone knows everyone else/All talk to each other/News travels fast/Locals do not need to look around the shop/Only one shop/Everyone knows it’s a shop /Heard these ideas before/Few people/Few cars/Few roads/Everyone knows everything that’s going on/All lived there for years. Any two references plus appropriate explanation (4)