

A02 Top-Twenty Hit List: No more “I can’t find them!”

What is a “language technique”? What is a “structural feature”? Thing to look for to ensure maximum marks for AO2 **in all four of your papers** include:

1. **Any** word (verb, adjective or adverb) that creates a particular mood or has an interesting connotation
2. **Sentence length.** Do short simple sentences slow the writing down? What mood might this create? What about long compound sentences with lots of “ands”? Does this speed the writing up? Why does the writer do this? What about complex sentence with lots of clauses? What does each clause describe or communicate?
3. **Rhetorical questions and imperatives.** Why might a writer phrase something as a question? Or a command?
4. **Lists.** What is the effect of a writer providing a long list of words? Are they trying to create a sense of abundance? Or confusion? Or excitement?
5. **Imagery.** What is the effect of particular simile, metaphor or example of personification?
6. **Tense.** Is the writer writing in the past or present or future or conditional tense? What effect does this create?
7. **Contrast and juxtaposition.** Does the writer use structure or language to draw attention to opposites? Why?
8. **Irony.** What point is the writer trying to make?
9. **Why does a writer begin or end a paragraph or a stanza in a certain way?** What does it draw the reader’s attention to?
10. **Alliteration.** What effect or emotion does the repetition of a sound convey?
11. **Personal testimony.** Does the writer include direct speech from another speaker? Why?
12. **Anecdote:** Does the writer include a short narrative of an incident that has happened to them personally? Why?
13. **Facts and statistics.** Why has the writer chosen to include them? How do they help to communicate a point of view?
14. **Foreshadowing:** Does the writer give a hint of something that is going to happen? What does this reveal about a character? Or what mood does it convey?