

Key term	Definition
Inference	A conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning
Concise	Avoiding unnecessary words and being straight to the point
Precise	Exact and accurate in expression or detail
Quotation	'Copied directly from the text'
Analyse	To break the quote/text down and explain in detail what it means
Imagery	Words which create a picture in the reader's mind
Figurative language	Language which expresses a meaning different to the literal e.g. simile, metaphor
Tone	The author's attitude towards the subject matter
Atmosphere	The feeling or mood created through setting, action, character.
Narrative voice	The perspective of the storyteller
Evaluate	To make a judgement and justify it

Relationships <i>(Interactions)</i>		
Strained	Complicated	Distant
Close	Professional	Dysfunctional
Difficult	Affectionate	Stable
Loving	Tense	Amicable
Reliant	Toxic	Nurturing

Words to describe characters

Personalities <i>(Thoughts, feelings, actions)</i>		
Extroverted	Cruel	Calm
Introverted	Humorous	Pessimistic
Conscientious	Reliable	Optimistic
Kind	Empathetic	Anxious
Narcissistic	Creative	Assertive

Question types

Q1. List 5 things you learn about ... (5)

- No need to write in full sentences
- Bullet points
- Explicit details lifted from the text
- No more than 5 minutes

Q2. What impression do you get OR How does the writer... (5)

- Up to 5 mini PEEs
- Quotes concisely analysed
- Start a new line for each point
- 5 minutes

Q3-4. What impression do you get OR How does the writer... (10)

- Up to 10 mini PEEs
- Quotes concisely analysed
- Don't repeated inferences or quotes
- Where possible, avoid using more than one quote from the same sentence
- Start a new line for each point
- 10-12 minutes

Q5. How far do you agree with [statement about the text]... (10)

- Open with an overview statement to state if you agree/partly agree/ don't agree
- Everything else is the same as Qs 3-4

All should be answered based on what you learn from the story extract given (1-2 pages long).

Good annotation

Model answer 10/10

Equally eluding

Avoiding conflict

Elara traced the rim of her teacup, her gaze fixed on the swirling dregs. Across the small, scarred kitchen table, Liam meticulously spread butter on his toast, a ritual performed with the solemnity of a religious rite. They had shared this breakfast table for seven years, a silent testament to a life intertwined, yet often feeling worlds apart.

Distance

"Did you remember to water the fern?" Elara finally asked, the question hanging in the air like the steam from her cooling tea.

Tumultuous thoughts

Liam looked up, his eyes, the colour of a stormy sea, meeting hers briefly before returning to his task. "Yes," he said, his voice flat, devoid of inflection.

uninterested

A small sigh escaped Elara's lips. It wasn't the 'yes' that bothered her, but the lack of anything more. No, 'it's looking a bit dry,' or 'almost forgot, thanks for reminding me.' Just a clipped affirmation, a barrier erected word by word. She wondered when their conversations had become so functional, so devoid of the warmth that had once simmered between them.

Changed

Strained

How does the writer present Elara and Liam?

The writer immediately suggests Elara is avoiding conflict ✓ by having 'her gaze fixed' on her tea – she is avoiding interacting with Liam. Equally, Liam is seemingly eluding contact with Elara when he 'meticulously spread the butter'. The fact that this has become a 'ritual' suggests this avoidance is long-standing and both are struggling to confront it ✓.

This is confirmed when the writer describes how they 'often feel worlds part'. The idiom enhances the distance in the relationship ✓, that neither seems to know the other anymore.

There is clear tension between Elara and Liam as Elara 'finally asked, the question hanging in the air'. It would have taken courage ✓ for Elara to do this.

Before Liam responds, his eyes are compared to 'a stormy sea' which highlights the tumultuous thoughts he seems to be experiencing ✓, the inner conflict.

When he does respond, 'his voice is flat'. This suggests that he is trying to show that he is uninterested, bored maybe. Yet we know from his eyes that he is not. ✓

Elara's subsequent 'small sigh' implies her exasperation ✓. Yet the fact it 'escaped' could suggest that she would usually hold this emotion in. Elara is also presented to have a sense of longing for a better relationship with Liam ✓. When the writer explains that it's 'the lack of anything more' that upsets her, we can infer that she would like to communicate better with him.

There is perhaps even a sense of bitterness ✓ here towards Liam from Elara when his response is viewed as 'clipped' and a 'barrier', further emphasising their strained relationship.

Finally, the writer presents both characters as once having a loving relationship ('warmth') which has now become 'functional' and difficult for both. ✓

Look at the model answer and ticks. Notice how it pairs every inference with a quote, no inferences or quotes are repeated, analysis is precise and concise, the text is tracked chronologically, the quotes are short, a couple of points use 2 quotes to support their idea, a new line is started for every point.