**Obituary –** The death of Marylyn Monroe

1) This obituary is very imaginatively crafted by a very skilful journalist but is does follow the rudimentary **structure** of an obituary: opening paragraph on time and circumstances of death followed by a chronological appraisal of the deceased’s life. Briefly outline the stages of Marilyn Monroe’s life that Alistair Cooke describes.

2) Make a list of some of the many **adjectives** used in the piece. What kind of audience do many of them appeal to and what do they contribute to the purposes of the piece?

3) What is the **running metaphor** in the second paragraph? Exemplify how it develops and think about why it is an effective metaphor given the subject of the obituary.

4) Make a list of some of the very wide range of cultural references in the text and think about how this might appeal to the audience and help our understanding of Marilyn Monroe.

5) There are lots of very long, multi-clausal sentences in the obituary. Find some examples and think about the way Cooke uses them as a way of expressing and encompassing some of the contradictions of Marilyn’s life.

6) The article is laced with a quite subtle but also rather barbed irony that conveys Cooke’s disapproval of the industry that Marilyn worked in. This is often contained in the connotations of certain words. Can you identify where this happens?