

03

You now need to think about the **whole** of the Source.

This text is taken from the beginning of a novel.

How is the text structured to interest you as a reader?

You could write about:

- what the writer focuses your attention on at the beginning
- how and why the writer changes this focus as the Source develops
- any other structural features that interest you.

[8 marks]

At the beginning of the source, the writer focuses your attention on the blackbird by describing what it did in Alex's dream, however as the source develops, the writer begins to focus your attention on the reality of Alex's life.

This is when he says shown in from lines 12 to 15 when he starts talking about the fact that Alex is going to have a bad day.

This makes you interested because it makes you feel intrigued as to what actually happens during the day. This makes the reader continue reading because they want to know what happens next as the source progresses.

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Beginning middle end

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The way the writer structured the novel was very clear at the beginning of source "A" lines 1-15 the writer focuses on writing about Alex & how he feels, what he sees & what he does. The writer mainly talks about the weather & the effect it has on Alex. In my opinion this is a really good way get the reader's attention because it ~~is a really good way~~ makes me stop & think about what is going on. Also In the ^{beginning} ~~middle~~ of the text the writer uses language techniques such as verbs, adjectives, similes, pathetic fallacy all to describe the weather & Alex.

In the middle of the source lines 16-27 the writer talks about the family & the mood a discussion between the siblings happens this & got my attention it made me understand the text more & understand the relationships of the family more.

Towards the end of the source lines 28-44
the writer talks about the old-times before
the mother was ill & how they used to
cook food but now just order chinese or pizza.
& he also talks about how much their
mother is needed & how painful her
absence is. The ending of the text made me
feel emotional the way the writer described
the pain the family was in had a massive
effect on me.

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The writer zooms in on the character's situation at the start in order to introduce us to them. This gives us an insight ~~of~~ of who they are. The nightmare could be foreshadowing what could happen later on in the text or it could be a flashback to something ~~that~~ horrible that had happened when Alex was a child. The text then changes to talk about a storm in paragraph 2. The use of long, complex sentences ^{shows} ~~effects~~ that there is a lot of things going on at once which overwhelm the protagonist.

The text keeps changing focus throughout ~~that~~ because it's the beginning of a novel and it has to introduce everything to set the context. We can tell that Alex has strong feelings towards his mum due to the listing of what he misses about her ~~from~~ from line 37 to line 39. The long ~~list~~ list shows how Alex has thought this through many times before hence the length.

of his life. The last two paragraphs contradict each other in order for the writer to show the contrast between Alex's mother and father. ~~Paragraph~~ This has an effect on the reader because it causes a biased view on the mother and how great she was. ~~The last pa~~

The last paragraph juxtaposes itself because it talks about how Alex's mother ~~was~~ off 'affection' ~~that~~ impacted him, how much he loved her but then he compares her to 'not a little more than a silent guest' showing how she has changed. The juxtaposition could imply the huge change to Alex's every day life, and this makes the reader see the impact ^{it} has had on Alex, especially when the writer zooms in to describe Alex's mother in the last paragraph.

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The text focuses on a character called Alex Cold, and the reader gets to see him from two different angles. At the beginning he is alone in his bedroom and waking up from a nightmare where his mother was carried off by 'an enormous black bird'. In the second half of the text the writer changes the focus to Alex being with the rest of the family downstairs at breakfast time. He is snappy with his ~~two~~ sisters when Andrew says 'Mamma's going to die'. This links the two halves of the text together because the fear Alex experienced in the earlier nightmare is now manifested in his behaviour at the breakfast table. Shouting at his sister makes it seem like he disagrees with her, but because the reader has already had an insight into Alex's subconscious mind, we understand at this point that really it's the opposite. He shouts at his sister because secretly he fears what she is saying is true and his mother might really die. In the final two paragraphs, we are deliberately

presented with a direct contrast between Alex's parents. First, the focus narrows from the whole family into Mom's father, who is struggling to look after the children. There is 'nothing in the refrigerator but orange juice' and they are living on take-away ~~food~~ food. Then the final paragraph zooms in on both them and now versions of his mother. It begins with the sentence 'Alex had realised during those months how enormous their mother's presence had been and how painful her absence was now.' This structure is effective because by first showing how inadequate his father is, even though it's not his fault, it therefore emphasises how wonderful the mother is, or at least used to be. In a way, this also makes us re-evaluate the nightmare at the beginning because we have seen for ourselves the close bond between Alex and his mother and now understand why it 'started' him so much and why he experienced 'pounding in his chest', a physical reaction to ~~that~~ the fear of losing her.