



AO1 Advanced Therapy

Language AO1: Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas and select and synthesise evidence from different texts

Advanced 9

Therapy

You will need:

- A highlighter pen

Read this extract from Thomas Hardy's, 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' and complete the tasks which follow.

The extract describes the main character who has taken shelter in a field. Overnight she has heard a fluttering sound nearby. This extract describes what she discovers the following morning when she investigates the noise.

Directly the assuring and prosaic light of the world's active hours had grown strong, she crept from under her hillock of leaves, and looked around boldly. Then she perceived what had been going on to disturb her. The plantation wherein she had taken shelter ran down at this spot into a peak, which ended it hitherward, outside the ⁵ hedge being arable ground. Under the trees several pheasants lay about, their rich plumage dabbled with blood; some were dead, some feebly twitching a wing, some staring up at the sky, some pulsating quickly, some contorted, some stretched out - all of them writhing in agony, except the fortunate ones whose tortures had ended during the night by the inability of nature to bear more.

¹⁰ Tess guessed at once the meaning of this. The birds had been driven down into this corner the day before by some shooting-party; and while those that had dropped dead under the shot, or had died before nightfall, had been searched for and carried off, many badly wounded birds had escaped and hidden themselves away, or risen among the thick boughs, where they had maintained their position till they grew weaker with ¹⁵ loss of blood in the night-time, when they had fallen one by one as she had heard them.



Task 1

Go back through the extract using a highlighter pen. Shade in the answers to the questions below. Remember AO1 is asking you to identify the surface meanings and the implied meanings.

Fill in the grid answering these comprehension questions on the extract provided. Use your own words or a quote. This activity asks you to look for explicit meanings.

	Question	Evidence or own words	Order
1	What time of day is it?	e.g. dawn	1
2	What type of birds are mentioned?		
3	In what ways are the birds suffering?		
4	Do the birds survive? Give an example to support your idea.		
5	What injuries do the birds have?		
6	What covered the girl as she slept?		
7	What has happened to the birds' plumage?		
8	Who or what has injured the birds?		11
9	What has fallen from the boughs overnight?		10
10	What is the cause of their falling from the boughs?		
11	What is the girl's name?		

Task 2

Go back through the extract using a pen and start to number the information in the correct order as it is given to us in the extract. The first and last two have been done for you.

Task 3

See if you can identify the implicit meanings in these quotes from the extract. Link your ideas to the themes, tone, imagery and view of the narrator you have developed while reading this extract from, 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' by Thomas Hardy.

Read back through the extract and with a pen, note down your impressions in the margin.

Evidence	Explicit	Implicit and detailed comment
Some feebly twitching a wing, some staring up at the sky, some pulsating quickly...	The birds are injured.	It is implied that the birds are in varying states of decline. The word 'feeble' implies they are weak and the word 'staring' implies they await their death.
Except the fortunate ones whose suffering had ended during the night by the inability of nature to bear more.	Some of the birds have died overnight.	It is suggested that...

Task 4

Another aspect of AO1 is understanding implied meanings. These are meanings suggested through language and tone. They are not always stated openly and require us to interpret them.

Look again at the extract:

What is implied by the main character's behaviour in the final paragraph?



Tick all the statements you think are relevant.

Statements	Tick
She is cruel.	
She hates the birds.	
She would rather kill the birds herself than allow them to suffer more than they already have.	*
She is weak.	
The writer is making a link between the character and the birds.	
The writer wants the reader to hate animal cruelty.	
The girl is violent.	
The girl is uncaring.	
Hardy sees both the main character and the birds as victims.	
The birds become a metaphor for the main character's desire for freedom.	
The birds are a metaphor about the dangers of hunting.	

Task 5

Write your own statements in response to what you see as the writer's implied message in this extract of the novel:

Hardy uses the birds as a metaphor or symbol of entrapment. Like the main character, they are trapped and are seeking shelter, 'had escaped and hidden themselves away'. This is similar to the narrator's position. Both are linked by the theme of safety and fear of discovery.
Hardy is exploring...
Hardy shows...



Task 6

AO1: Again, we are discussing implied meanings here. These can be linked to themes, ideas and/or the way a writer presents an event to us.

Tick all the statements about themes and ideas you think are relevant to this extract.
Number them in order 1=most agree; 4=least agree.

Mankind is cruel	e.g. 1
The strong must take care of the weak	
Killing is necessary to lessen the suffering of the damaged	
We must have compassion for those in need of help	
Nature and the natural world is cruel and unforgiving	

Which statement do you most agree with and why?

e.g. The strong must take care of the weak. I think this because the girl would rather kill the birds than allow them to suffer.

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