



**AO4 Base Therapy:**

**Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual reference.**

Read the extract below, then read the guidance and complete tasks in order.

They sat for a few moments in silence: each of them, once again, trying to wrestle as best they could with the conundrum of why their parents should have chosen to go away for half-term without them. Then, as soon as the cold started to bite, Nicholas jumped to his feet.

**Task One**

*Tick the inferences/responses you think are true*

- a. Nicholas and his sister felt fine about their parents going on holiday.
- b. Nicholas and his sister feel confused and sad about their parents going on holiday.
- c. The reader is made to feel sympathy for Nicholas and his sister.
- d. The writer creates a happy and positive atmosphere in this extract.

**Guidance**

*To show AO4 you need to be able to identify the mood or effect of the extract to be able to agree or disagree with the statement in the question. You also need to prove your opinion through using quotations and / or references to the text.*

**Task Two**

Now underline any words which you think suggest sadness / confusion / sympathy for the reader, e.g. 'silence'.

**Task Three**

*Complete the paragraph below by inserting ideas from **Task One** and **Task Two***

I agree / disagree with statement d. The writer creates a happy / sad mood because

.....  
.....

..... An example of this shown in the

quote '.....'



**Task Four**

**Practice Question**

4. The writer uses description to create a sad atmosphere within the extract. How far do you agree with the statement?

In your response, you could:

- write about your own impressions of the atmosphere
- evaluate how the writer has created these impressions
- support your opinions with references to the text.

Here is an example of how you could approach this question.

1. **Answer the question - Do you agree or disagree with the statement and why?**
2. **Include a quotation / quotations which prove your opinion**
3. **Identify any devices / particular words or phrases and explain what effect they create for the reader**
4. **Link all of this back to your first point about why you agree / disagree**

Here is what it looks like in an example paragraph:

*I agree that the writer creates a sad atmosphere within the extract because both characters feel abandoned. The fact that they have to 'wrestle' with the 'conundrum' of why their parents left them also shows that it affects the children. The use of the verb 'wrestle' suggests that they find this a struggle to understand and come to terms with being left alone. By describing the emotions of both characters, the writer creates a sad atmosphere.*

Now try and write your own paragraph to answer the question using your ideas **from Task One and Two** as a starting point:

.....

.....

.....

