

**AO4 Mastery Therapy:**

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

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

Adele felt as much a part of the garden as her husband, who had grown up on these lawns. She had seen babies become adults. She had seen a hundred families come and go. She had had dozens of other people’s children in and out of her home. The garden became a mystery during these winter months: neighbours becoming shadows glimpsed through windows, their children growing taller and taller behind closed doors, people moving out, people moving in and people occasionally dying. And it wasn’t until the onset of spring, until the days grew longer and the sun shone warmer, that the secrets of the winter were revealed.

**Guidance**

*At Mastery level, you are expected to critically evaluate texts. This means you may agree to some extent, but then develop your opinion further by also including a different point of view.*

**Task One**

Statement: ‘The atmosphere created within the extract is one of tension and unease.’

Combine both of these viewpoints to write your own point, **agreeing to some extent** with the statement but also bringing in another point of view.

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Example:  
Strongly disagree - the character is presented as feeling ‘part of the garden’ and, therefore, is content, making a positive atmosphere.



Strongly Agree

Agree to some extent...

Strongly Disagree

Example: Strongly agree - the reference to ‘secrets’ makes the reader think something bad has happened.



**Task Two**

The following paragraph was written about the extract you have read. Based on this, deduce a possible statement that may have been included in the question set.

*To some extent the writer’s use of language presents the character of Adele as lonely and isolated; however, to some extent there is also a sense of inclusion and community. For example, the ‘hundred families’, ‘babies’; and ‘adults’ suggests a lot of people and Adele being involved with them all. However, the phrase ‘come and go’ also suggests Adele must deal with loss. The change from summer to ‘winter’ and the idea of ‘shadows’ also supports this view of unhappiness and loneliness.*

**Statement suggestion:**

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.....

Now tick which response the student chose to adopt:

Agree

Disagree

Agree to some extent but...

**Task Three**

Record any key phrases or points you have understood from this therapy in the box below.

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