

## STRUCTURE IN PROSE

## 'NIGHT' BY ALICE MUNRO

Alice Munro (1931–) is a famous Canadian short story writer. She has won numerous literary awards, including the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2013. She is an innovative writer who made changes to the short story as a genre. Chief among these is the way she uses time shifts and moves the narrative forwards and backwards. Character development and how they are coping with life at different stages is often more important than plot in her stories.

## ACTIVITY 3

A01

A02

## SKILLS

CRITICAL THINKING, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION

## ▼ ANALYSING STRUCTURE

Consider the structure of Alice Munro's short story 'Night'. Using the series of questions on beginnings, middles and ends on page 222, comment on the story. In particular, think about the ending.

## ACTIVITY 4

A04

A05

## SKILLS

ADAPTIVE LEARNING, CREATIVITY, INNOVATION

## ▼ AN ALTERNATIVE ENDING

Like many writers, Alice Munro often makes revisions to her stories before they are published. Can you write an alternative ending to 'Night', considering the structural techniques that you have learned about in this chapter?

## STRUCTURE IN POETRY

Structure is important when analysing poetry too. You should think about the following:

- organisation of the stanzas
- line length
- punctuation
- rhyme
- rhythm.

Consider how these might lend themselves to create different effects.

## 'OUT, OUT—' BY ROBERT FROST

Robert Frost (1874–1963) was a popular and critically respected American poet. His poetry often tackles complicated themes about American people and society through the rural settings of **New England** where he spent most of his life. His work is also influenced by the grief and loss he suffered in his personal life. He won four Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry.

## GENERAL VOCABULARY

**New England** an area in the north-east of the United States of America