

ACTIVITY 2

A01

SKILLS ANALYSIS

▼ THEMES

Copy and complete the following table, thinking carefully about the themes of the extract. Add some more themes that you noticed in the extract.

THEME	EXAMPLE	COMMENT
Beauty of the bird	Lines 24–26: 'She is a conjuring trick... a fallen angel... like gold...'	Macdonald is completely fascinated, almost overwhelmed, by the bird.
Fierce personality of the bird		
Emotional reaction		

EXPLORING LANGUAGE

GENERAL VOCABULARY

lexicographer writer of dictionaries
curated objects objects in a museum

The language of this passage is inventive and intense. It is clear that the writer was concentrating hard on communicating as vividly as possible an experience that was important in her life and in the story that she is telling. You can see this in a number of ways such as in the precision of the vocabulary, the originality of the imagery (the figurative language); and the variety of sentence structures.

Mark Cocker wrote that Macdonald 'combines a **lexicographer's** pleasure in words as carefully **curated objects** with an inventive passion for words or for ways of releasing fresh effects from the old stock'. Can you see why he said this?

ACTIVITY 3

A02

SKILLS CRITICAL THINKING, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION

▼ LANGUAGE FOR EFFECT

Copy and complete the following table, finding examples of the different linguistic techniques and devices and considering the effect that they create. Then identify some more linguistic techniques, quotations and effects for yourself.

TECHNIQUES OR DEVICES	QUOTATION	EFFECT CREATED
Lists	'glitter on the waves, a diving cormorant...'	This makes you understand in detail the range and precision of the bird's vision.
Similes		
Metaphors		
Short incomplete sentences		