

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

This extract gives the reader a vivid description of the writer's first impressions of a foreign land. It conveys the way in which the writer's reaction changes from an initial lukewarm attitude to a gradual fascination as she begins to learn about the country's history and observe its culture.

Travel writing gives personal accounts of explorations and travel experiences. Examples of the genre contain many factual details. Terms that are specific to that culture are explained and opinions are conveyed. Like most travel writing, this extract describes a key event and includes background details and research that was most likely conducted after the travel experience has ended.

ACTIVITY 1

A01

SKILLS ANALYSIS

▼ FEATURES OF TRAVEL WRITING

Copy and complete the following table, finding examples of these features of travel writing in the passage.

▼ FEATURE	▼ EXAMPLE
Central event	
Factual details	
Background details	
Terminology and explanation	
Opinions	
Evidence of research	

ACTIVITY 2

A02

SKILLS CRITICAL THINKING, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION

▼ LANGUAGE FOR EFFECT

Because this is a memoir, the reader learns about Bhutan through the eyes of the narrator, and it conveys her mixed feelings effectively. While the text is full of information intended to give the reader a sense of place, it is also her personal view of Bhutan and everything that she sees and experiences.

Copy and complete the following table, making a list of the writer's feelings, giving an example and explaining their effect.

▼ FEELING/ATTITUDE	▼ EXAMPLE	▼ COMMENT
A sense of being unable to understand the experience.	'... but I cannot imagine it'	The writer seems unable to even understand the geography of the area, as if it is so different from what she is used to that she needs to visualise it in different ways.
A lack of enthusiasm for the country.	'teenagers in acid washed jeans, Willie Nelson's greatest hits after the news in English on the Bhutan Broadcasting Service...'	