

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This lesson will help you to:

- begin reading and interpreting poetry and prose texts.

TYPES OF TEXT

In the Pearson Edexcel Anthology, you will read a variety of poetry and prose extracts. You will need to analyse and interpret them in order to answer questions in the exam.

APPROACHING PROSE

KEY POINT

It is useful to have a series of questions in your mind when approaching any prose text. These are some examples, but you can think of more.

When you read a prose text, start thinking about it by asking yourself the following questions.

- How is the story told?
- Who is telling it?
- Where is it located?

Next, considering the features of the text will help you to analyse what the writer is doing. These features could include:

- setting
- narrative perspective
- characterisation
- descriptive techniques
- effect, or how it makes the reader feel
- possible interpretation or interpretations of the text's implicit meanings.

APPROACHING POETRY

When you read a poem, you should also start by considering the following questions.

- What is it about?
- How does it make you feel?
- What does it mean to you personally?

Then consider how the poet communicates meaning and feeling. This could be achieved by:

- imagery
- linguistic techniques
- rhythm and rhyme
- structure and form
- possible interpretation or interpretations of the text's implicit meaning.

Read the following poem and then complete Activity 1.

▼ 'LINES WRITTEN IN EARLY SPRING' BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

I heard a thousand blended notes,
While in a grove I sate reclined,
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

To her fair works did nature link
The human soul that through me ran;