

I was lost and didn't know where to move. A tropic heat oozed up from the ground, rank with sharp odours of roots and nettles. Snow-clouds of elder-blossom banked in the sky, showering upon me the fumes and flakes of their sweet and giddy suffocation. High overhead ran frenzied larks, screaming, as though the sky were tearing apart.

For the first time in my life I was out of the sight of humans. For the first time in my life I was alone in a world whose behaviour I could neither predict nor fathom: a world of birds that squealed, of plants that stank, of insects that sprang about without warning. I was lost and I did not expect to be found again. I put back my head and howled, and the sun hit me smartly on the face, like a bully.

- ▶ **Sum up, in three sentences, the beginning, middle and end of the extract. Use the third person ('he') in your summary. How is the first paragraph different from the others? Can you see a reason for this?**
- ▶ **Look again at the four paragraphs from *Cider with Rosie* and write a line about the purpose or effect of each paragraph. Then explain why you think Lee chose to put the content in that order.**
- ▶ **Can you identify more structural features? Use the correct terminology.**
- ▶ **What do you think is the effect of structuring the passage in these four paragraphs? Choose the comment from the following list that you think is most useful and accurate, and fill in the blanks.**
  - The structure enables the writer to develop and \_\_\_\_\_ the narrator's feelings of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in slightly different ways \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The structure arranges the description of the setting and the narrator's \_\_\_\_\_ in a way that \_\_\_\_\_ the feeling to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The structure gives the description a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## HINT

Try to bring together your analytical and writing skills – think about how and why you would structure a piece of your own writing.

It can also be useful to consider the types of writing that the writer is using, such as description, narrative and so on. For example, a passage with some description of the setting, or a character, followed by some narrative in which something happens. As soon as you notice these different types of writing, you should be able to say something about why they are there in the passage. Many students do not consciously register when a writer is using dialogue or telling them a character's thoughts, so if you do notice these things, you will give yourself an immediate advantage.

## KEY POINT

When people talk about the structure of a piece, they are not normally referring to sentence structure, which is usually regarded as a linguistic feature. However, there are two points worth bearing in mind.

1. You might notice that a piece ends or begins with a very short sentence, in which case the writer is using sentence structure as a deliberate part of the larger structure.
2. Sentence structure is still an important point to consider. If you can make a good point about sentence structure, then you should include it in your answer.

## ACTIVITY 2

A02

SKILLS CRITICAL THINKING, INTERPRETATION

## ▼ IDENTIFYING DIFFERENT TYPES OF WRITING

Copy and complete the following table, using the analysis you have just made, to list four examples of different types of writing used by Lee in the passage that you have just read.

▼ TYPE OR FUNCTION	QUOTATION	▼ EFFECT (OR PURPOSE)
Description		
Narrative		