

The most important thing to remember when analysing a text is to remember that the author is primarily to offer an emotional experience for the reader

METHOD	EFFECT	HOW TO WRITE ABOUT IT
complex sentence	highlights contrasting ideas	<p><i>The extract opens with a short complex sentence, which highlights two contrasting ideas. The first half of the sentence introduces Alice in a new environment because 'It's her first time in the Pyrenees', thus arousing curiosity and sympathy in the reader because it potentially makes her vulnerable. However, the conjunction, 'although' introduces a contrasting idea, that 'she feels very much at home', suggesting she feels ready and prepared for the challenges that lie before her despite her inexperience. It also hints at her courage which is important because if Alice is the protagonist, she must be willing to take action and overcome challenges to change her situation, otherwise the author risks losing our attention.</i></p> <p><i>Furthermore, the extract features a combination of showing and telling techniques; for example, the first four sentences are mainly dominated by the use of concrete nouns and adjectives such as 'jagged peaks... mountains', 'snow', 'flowers of pink and mauve', 'rock' and 'pastures'; here, the author chooses to tell because it allows her to explain – in a general sense and without slowing down the pace of the novel - the setting's beauty through three different seasons ('winter... spring... summer'); these are represented through three sentences (sentences two, three and four). The author chooses to explain these seasons quickly, rather than in detail, because they are not important with regards to Alice's current inner life, but they provide contrast and hint at the beauty, dangers and mystery of the setting which are connected to the text's themes; for example, the adjective, 'jagged' appeals to our sense of touch, implying danger and the toughness of the terrain, which forms part of the text's obstacles that she must overcome.</i></p> <p><i>Additionally, the third-last sentence begins with the conjunction 'but', indicating a change from general descriptions of the seasons, to the present moment as indicated by the adverb, 'now'. Furthermore, the author enhances the contrast between the general and the present by choosing personification to show that 'the sun has flattened the land into submission'; here, the setting starts to become more active, evoking an oppressive atmosphere and landscape to create tension. It not only asks us to empathise with Alice but also to ask if she will submit to the oppressiveness of the setting, just as the landscape does; additionally, it creates mystery by encouraging us to ask how Alice will overcome the obstacles presented by the setting.</i></p> <p><i>Another prominent feature of the text is the use of the semantic field of mystery, for example the verb 'covered': the personification in 'flowers... peep out from their hiding places': the noun, 'secrets' and the verb 'concealed' evoke curiosity and anticipation, by implying that this is a story about the discovery of 'secrets' and mysteries. In fact, the author uses the adjective phrase, 'too much' to create a hyperbolic effect, implying a mass of secrets and by repeating the phrase, we get the sense that the place is teeming with discoveries waiting to be revealed. In a symbolic sense, this may suggest that the story is about Alice's search for a more meaningful life and about the secrets she will discover within herself during her search.</i></p> <p><i>Finally, the present tense used to write the extract gives us the feeling that we will discover the secrets to the land and by extension, the secrets to Alice having a more meaningful life, as she does; it draws the reader in, making us feel as though the mysteries are unfolding in front of our eyes.</i></p>
phrase 'first time'	arouses curiosity and sympathy	
conjunction 'although'	introduces contrasting ideas	
phrase 'feels at home'	hints at her bravery - protagonists must be brave to change their situation	
telling: adjectives, nouns	allows quick explanations of contextual information, without slowing down the pace of the text to give context and contrast; hints at thematic ideas	
adjective: jagged	appeals to our sense of touch and hints at the theme of danger; also symbolises the symbolises Alice's obstacles	
conjunction: 'but'	indicates a change of ideas or perspective, from the general to the present	
adverb: 'now'	brings the reader into the present	
showing: personification - 'the sun flattened the land'	creates tension, makes the setting active, makes us sympathetic for Alice, creates mystery - how will Alice overcome the obstacles of the land?	
semantic field of mystery: 'covered, secrets, concealed'	evokes our curiosity and anticipation; hints at the theme of discovery	
adjective phrase / hyperbole: 'too much'	brings into perspective the abundance of secrets	
repetition: 'too much... too much'	gives the impression that the place is teeming with discoveries waiting to be made; this may be a reflection of Alice herself	
present tense: 'if she goes back down to the main camp now'	we uncover the secrets and mysteries of the land and Alice's life as she does	