GRIEF IN THE WOMAN IN BLACK

Cover Checklist- 🔽 Tick Each Section When Complete.

- PREP STEP Make a copy of this document.
- PREP STEP Share your essay outline template with your tutor.
- PREP STEP Copy and paste the link for your essay outline into your study system.
- STEP 1 Outline your 100% essay START WITH THE CONCLUSION & WORK BACKWARDS
- STEP 2 Use the TTECEA checklist for details
- STEP 3 Revise your essay check for coherence & cohesion, redundant repetition, clarity, vocabulary, etc.
- STEP 4 Edit your essay.
- STEP 5 Put your essay together as one complete piece.

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QUESTION

Read the following extract from the opening of The Woman in Black.

At this point in the story, the family is telling ghost stories and Arthur Kipps is feeling more and more uncomfortable.

The stories grew more and more lurid, wilder and sillier, and soon the gasps and cries merged into fits of choking laughter, as each one, even gentle Isobel, contributed more ghastly detail.

At first, I was amused, indulgent, but as I sat on, listening, in the firelight, I began to feel set apart from them all, an outsider to their circle. I was trying to suppress my mounting unease, to hold back the rising flood of memory.

This was a sport, a high-spirited and harmless game among young people, for the festive season, and an ancient tradition, too, as Will had rightly said, there was nothing to torment and trouble me, nothing of which I could possibly disapprove. I did not want to seem a killjoy, old and stodgy and unimaginative, I longed to enter into what was nothing more nor less than good fun. I fought a bitter battle within myself, my head turned away from the firelight so that none of them should chance to see my expression which I knew began to show signs of my discomfiture.

And then, to accompany a final, banshee howl from Edmund, the log that had been blazing on the hearth collapsed suddenly and, after sending up a light spatter of sparks and ash, died down so that there was near-darkness. And then spatter of sparks and ash, died down so that there was near-darkness. And then silence in the room. I shuddered. I wanted to get up and go round putting on every light again, see the sparkle and glitter and colour of the Christmas decorations, have the fire blazing again cheerfully, I wanted to banish the chill that had settled upon me and the sensation of fear in my breast. Yet I could not move, it had, for the moment, paralysed me, just as it had always done, it was a long-forgotten, once too-familiar sensation.

Then, Edmund said, 'Now come, stepfather, your turn,' and at once the others took up the cry, the silence was broken by their urgings, with which even Esme joined.

'No, no.' I tried to speak jocularly. 'Nothing from me.'

'Oh, Arthur...' 'You must know at least one ghost story, stepfather, everyone knows one...'

Ah, yes, yes, indeed. All the time I had been listening to their ghoulish, lurid inventions, and their howling and groans, the one thought that had been in my mind, and the only thing I could have said was, 'No, no, you have none of you any idea. This is all nonsense, fantasy, it is not like this. Nothing so bloodcurdling and becreepered and crude-not so ... so laughable. The truth is quite other, and altogether more terrible.'

Starting with this speech, explore how Susan Hill presents the theme of grief.

Write about:



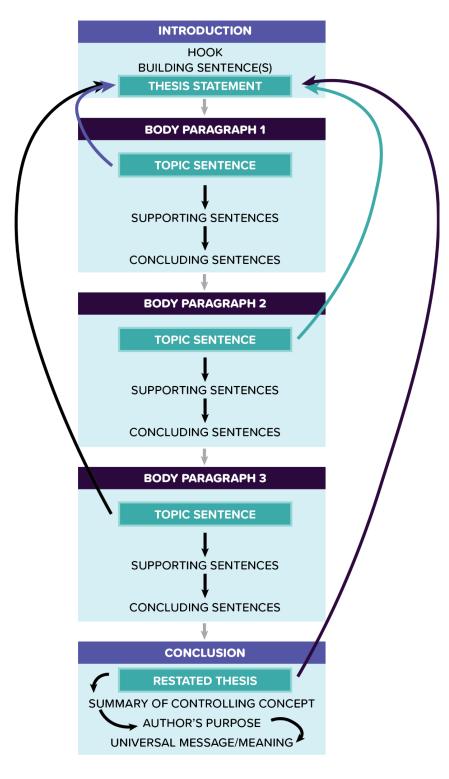


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- how Susan Hill presents grief in this extract
- how Susan Hill presents grief in the novel as a whole.



100% ESSAY STRUCTURE OVERVIEW





I. Introduction

- Introduce Susan Hill and her use of old, strange, and haunted houses in her novels.
- Briefly discuss the themes of claustrophobia, dread, and the desire for escape.
- Mention "The Woman in Black" and its exploration of grief and loss.
- Thesis statement: Susan Hill employs language and structural techniques to evoke sympathy, unease, and dread in the reader, highlighting the pervasiveness and intensity of grief experienced by both Arthur Kipps and Jennet Humfrye, and underscoring the necessity of confronting one's past to heal.

II. Kipps' emotional turmoil

- Describe Kipps' growing sense of unease and isolation.
- Analyze the transition from lightheartedness to darkness and silence.
- Discuss Kipps' inability to engage with the younger characters.
- Examine Hill's use of metaphor and imagery.
- Purpose: highlight the pervasiveness and intensity of Kipps' grief.

III. Jennet Humfrye's grief

- Examine Hill's use of language and contrasting imagery.
- Analyze the quote "would not let her see the boy at all."
- Purpose: illustrate the power dynamics of the past and the destructive force of unresolved grief.

IV. Tragic denouement

- Analyze the harrowing scene of Stella and Arthur's baby son meeting their tragic fates.
- Examine Hill's vivid descriptions and ability to engender empathy.
- Discuss the cyclical nature of suffering.
- Purpose: underscore the destructive power of unresolved grief.

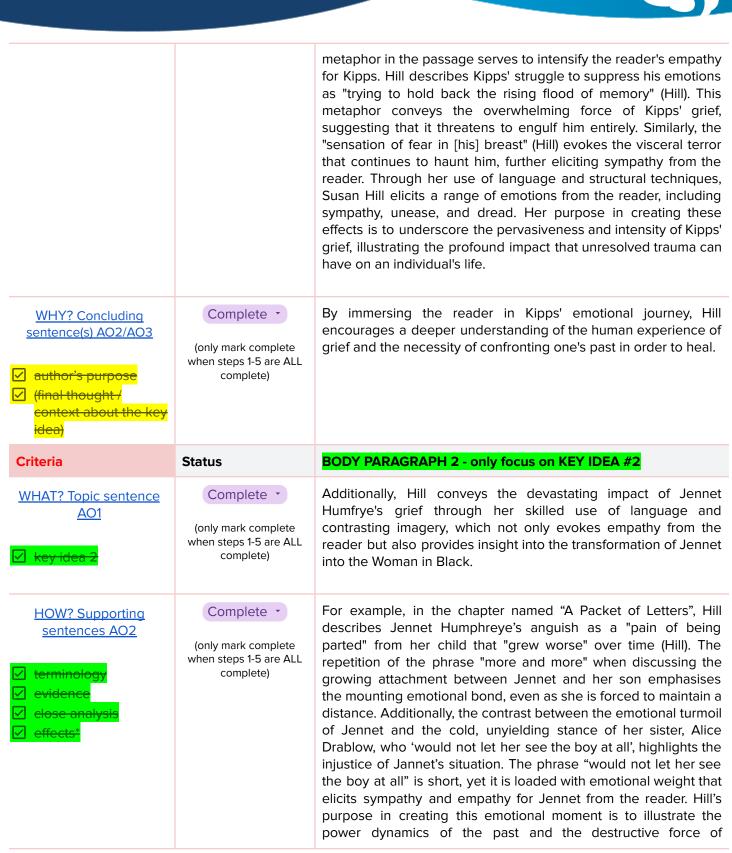
V. Conclusion

- Summarise Hill's use of language and structural techniques to evoke sympathy, unease, and dread in the reader.
- Reiterate the pervasiveness and intensity of grief experienced by Kipps and Jennet.
- Emphasise the necessity of confronting one's past to heal.
- Restate thesis statement.



STEP 1: OUTLINING - Complete Your 100% Essay Outline

Criteria	Status	INTRODUCTION - Do not make this too detailed.
Hook AO1 fact/statistic •	Complete • (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Many of Susan Hill's novels feature strange, old, and even haunted houses, and examine themes and motifs of claustrophobia, dread, and the desire for escape from one's circumstances.
Buiding sentence(s) AO3 Counter-argument OR Some contexual info 	Complete • (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	In "The Woman in Black," the author employs language and structural techniques to evoke sympathy, unease, and dread in the reader, highlighting the pervasiveness and intensity of grief experienced by both Arthur Kipps and Jennet Humfrye.
<u>Thesis statement AO1</u> <mark>✓ key idea 1</mark> ✓ key idea 2 ✓ key idea 3	Complete • (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	By exploring the devastating consequences of unresolved trauma and the cyclical nature of suffering, Hill emphasises the necessity of confronting one's past to heal and provides a cautionary tale about the potential dangers of unaddressed grief.
Criteria	Status	BODY PARAGRAPH 1 - only focus on KEY IDEA #1
<u>WHAT? Topic sentence</u> <u>AO1</u> <mark>∕ key idea 1</mark>	Complete (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Hill's use of language in the extract powerfully conveys Kipps' emotional turmoil as he experiences a growing sense of unease and isolation.
HOW? Supporting sentences AO2 ✓ terminology ✓ evidence ✓ close analysis ✓ effects [*]	Complete (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete) 	For instance, the gradual shift from the laughter and warmth of the storytelling session to the sudden "near-darkness" and "silence in the room" (Hill) mirrors Kipps' internal descent into his traumatic memories. This transition effectively creates a sense of dread and unease in the reader, as they are plunged into the darkness alongside Kipps. Furthermore, the contrast between the laughter and high spirits of the younger characters and Kipps' mounting discomfort is emphasised through phrases such as "gasps and cries merged into fits of choking laughter" and "I began to feel set apart from them all, an outsider to their circle" (Hill). This juxtaposition highlights Kipps' inability to engage with the lightheartedness around him, as his unresolved grief casts a dark shadow over his life. Moreover, the use of imagery and





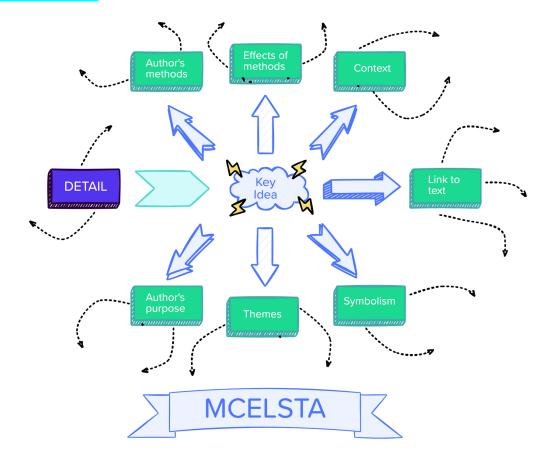
		unresolved grief. Alice Drablow's decision to take away Jennet's son is a pivotal moment in the novel, setting off a chain of events that leads to tragedy. The quote highlights the injustice of Alice's decision, which takes away Jennet's agency and causes her immense pain.
WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3 author's purpose (final thought / context about the key idea)	Complete (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	The phrase "would not let her see the boy at all" emphasises the powerlessness of Jennet and the lasting impact of Alice's actions.
Criteria	Status	BODY PARAGRAPH 3 - only focus on KEY IDEA #3
WHAT? Topic sentence AO1 ✓ key idea 3	Complete (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Moreover, the tragic denouement reveals the true extent of Jennet Humfrye's grief and its devastating consequences.
 HOW? Supporting sentences AO2 ≤ terminology ⊂ evidence ⊂ close analysis ⊂ effects* 	Complete • (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	The harrowing scene, wherein Stella and Arthur's baby son meet their tragic fates, elicits profound emotions from the reader, primarily shock and sorrow. The vivid descriptions of their injuries, such as Stella's "broken" body and "fractured" neck and legs, and their baby "crumpled on the grass," evoke an overwhelming sense of loss and heartache (Hill). This emotionally charged passage is a testament to Hill's ability to engender empathy in her readers. The author's purpose in creating these effects is to underscore the destructive power of unresolved grief, as well as to emphasise the cyclical nature of suffering. Jennet's ghostly presence, which Arthur acknowledges as her "revenge," suggests that her grief has transformed into a malevolent force that seeks to inflict pain on the living (Hill). The idea that she may be attempting to "adopt" a child by causing its death or, alternatively, exacting vengeance on society by depriving others of their children, adds a chilling layer to her tragic story.
WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3	Complete (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL	Hill thereby urges the reader to contemplate the potential consequences of unaddressed grief, while simultaneously reinforcing the novel's Gothic atmosphere through the haunting specter of Jennet Humfrye.



(final thought / context about the key idea)		
Criteria	Status	CONCLUSION - <u>CRUCIAL!</u>
<u>Restated thesis AO1</u> (Re-write your thesis statement in different words.)	Complete (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete) 	In conclusion, Susan Hill employs language and imagery to evoke a range of emotions in the reader, ultimately highlighting the pervasive and destructive nature of unresolved grief.
<u>Summary of controlling</u> <u>concept AO1</u> How does your thesis link to the central theme of the text?	Complete (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete) 	Hill's weaving of Arthur Kipps' and Jennet Humphreye's stories serves to emphasise the universality of grief and its ability to impact individuals across time and circumstance. Both characters are haunted by their pasts and struggle to confront their grief, ultimately becoming entwined in a shared tragedy. This empathetic connection between the two characters invites the reader to reflect on the complex nature of grief and the ways in which it can lead to destructive consequences when left unresolved.
Summary of author's central purpose AO1/AO3 How does the controlling concept reflect the MAIN reason that the author wrote the text?	Complete (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Consequently, through the experiences of Arthur Kipps and Jennet Humfrye, Hill underscores the profound impact of trauma on an individual's life and emphasises the necessity of confronting one's past in order to heal.
<u>Universal message AO1</u> (What is the MAIN message of the text? Focus on the end.)	Complete (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	By engaging the reader's empathy and illuminating the cyclical nature of suffering, Hill encourages a deeper understanding of the human experience of grief and the potential consequences of neglecting emotional wounds.

STEP 2: ADDING DETAIL-Complete the TTECEA Checklist for Detail

- 1. To achieve a grade 9 level of detail, ensure that you link your key idea in each of your body paragraphs to as many of the elements of the TTECEA mnemonic as possible (aim to write about 650-950 words maximum for the entire essay)
- 2. You do not need to have each of the TTECEA elements in each paragraph, but make sure you have all of them in the entirety of your essay.
- 3. Each item on the checklist should only have 2 main purposes:
 - a. to link to your key idea in each paragraph
 - b. and support your argument.
- ☑ TOPIC SENTENCE: Introduce the key idea of your body paragraph.
- TECHNIQUE: Select a key technique the author uses (one you can explore in detail, eg, metaphor, simile, etc).
- EVIDENCE: EMBED a quote to back up your ideas.
- CLOSE ANALYSIS: Break the technique into smaller pieces, zoom in and analyse them PERCEPTIVELY.
- EFFECTS ON THE READER*: Explore what the author's method makes us focus on, feel (emotionally) or think.
- AUTHOR'S PURPOSE: Explore why the might want to make us feel a certain way about certain ideas.





Ensure you have revised the following aspects of your essay:

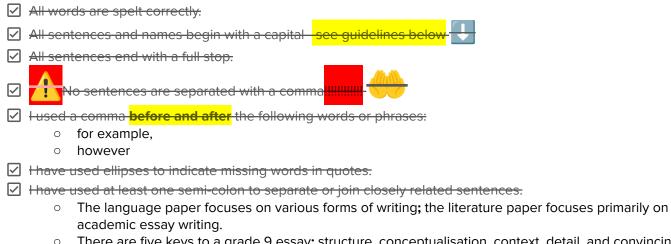
- Removed/replaced ALL redundant repetition.
- Replaced ALL instances of the word 'shows' with more accurate and specific verbs for inferring effects of the author's methods (check toolkit).
- Revised essay for coherence: are the ideas in each of the paragraphs clearly connected to each other?
- Revised essay for cohesion: check the toolkit for help.
- Removed all instances of the following words and replace them with specific details of the topics you are exploring:

0	How
0	Shows
0	Some
0	Something
0	Thing
0	This
0	Way
0	What

- Your vocabulary is academic no informal language unless quoting directly.
- Revised essay for clarity—is your essay easy to read? Ask a peer to read it and give you feedback.

STEP 4: EDITING - Edit Your Essay

Ensure you have edited the following aspects of spelling, punctuation, and grammar:



- There are five keys to a grade 9 essay: structure, conceptualisation, context, detail, and convincing evidence.
- ☑ I have used a colon to introduce a quote, phrase, word, etc.

HOW TO REMEMBER CAPITALS - ABLE PRINTS:

- Abbreviations: U.K., USA, UAE
- Beginnings of sentences: Nobody saw it coming.
- Languages: French, Spanish, Italian, Arabic,
- Emphasis I LOVE CHEESE! (avoid this)
- Places: Africa, Mecca, London, Zimbabwe
- Religions and words related to them: Islam/Muslim, Christianity/Christian, Judaism/Jewish, Hinduism/Hindu
- I, as in me
- Names (specific) of people, places, businesses, e.g., Shakespeare, Apple, London.
- Titles of books, movies, or programmes, e.g., The Lion King, Macbeth,
- Special days: Eid, Christmas, Diwali

SPAG RULES

https://www.grammarly.com/blog/category/handbook/



STEP 5: COMPLETE - Put Your Essay Together as One Complete Piece

Many of Susan Hill's novels feature strange, old, and even haunted houses, and examine themes and motifs of claustrophobia, dread, and the desire for escape from one's circumstances. In "The Woman in Black," the author employs language and structural techniques to evoke sympathy, unease, and dread in the reader, highlighting the pervasiveness and intensity of grief experienced by both Arthur Kipps and Jennet Humfrye. By exploring the devastating consequences of unresolved trauma and the cyclical nature of suffering, Hill emphasises the necessity of confronting one's past to heal and provides a cautionary tale about the potential dangers of unaddressed grief.

Hill's use of language in the extract powerfully conveys Kipps' emotional turmoil as he experiences a growing sense of unease and isolation. For instance, the gradual shift from the laughter and warmth of the storytelling session to the sudden "near-darkness" and "silence in the room" (Hill) mirrors Kipps' internal descent into his traumatic memories. This transition creates a sense of dread and unease in the reader, as they are plunged into the darkness alongside Kipps. Furthermore, the contrast between the laughter and high spirits of the younger characters and Kipps' mounting discomfort is emphasised through phrases such as "gasps and cries merged into fits of choking laughter" and "I began to feel set apart from them all, an outsider to their circle" (Hill). This juxtaposition highlights Kipps' inability to engage with the lightheartedness around him, as his unresolved grief casts a dark shadow over his life. Moreover, the use of imagery and metaphor in the passage serves to intensify the reader's empathy for Kipps. Hill describes Kipps' struggle to suppress his emotions as "trying to hold back the rising flood of memory" (Hill). This metaphor conveys the overwhelming force of Kipps' grief, suggesting that it threatens to engulf him entirely. Similarly, the "sensation of fear in [his] breast" (Hill) evokes the visceral terror that continues to haunt him, further eliciting sympathy from the reader. Through her use of language and structural techniques, Susan Hill elicits a range of emotions from the reader, including sympathy, unease, and dread. Her purpose in creating these effects is to underscore the pervasiveness and intensity of Kipps' grief, illustrating the profound impact that unresolved trauma can have on an individual's life. By immersing the reader in Kipps' emotional journey, Hill encourages a deeper understanding of the human experience of grief and the necessity of confronting one's past in order to heal.

Additionally, Hill conveys the devastating impact of Jennet Humfrye's grief through her skilled use of language and contrasting imagery, which not only evokes empathy from the reader but also provides insight into the transformation of Jennet into the Woman in Black. For example, in the chapter named "A Packet of Letters", Hill describes Jennet Humphreye's anguish as a "pain of being parted" from her child that "grew worse" over time (Hill). The repetition of the phrase "more and more" when discussing the growing attachment between Jennet and her son emphasises the mounting emotional bond, even as she is forced to maintain a distance. Additionally, the contrast between the emotional turmoil of Jennet and the cold, unyielding stance of her sister, Alice Drablow, who 'would not let her see the boy at all', highlights the injustice of Jannet's situation. The phrase "would not let her see the boy at all" is short, yet it is loaded with emotional weight that elicits sympathy and empathy for Jennet from the reader. Hill's purpose in creating this emotional moment is to illustrate the power dynamics of the past and the destructive force of unresolved grief. Alice Drablow's decision to take away Jennet's son is a pivotal moment in the novel, setting off a chain of events that leads to tragedy. The quote highlights the injustice of Alice's decision, which takes away Jennet's agency and causes her immense pain. The phrase "would not let her see the boy at all" emphasises the powerlessness of Jennet and the lasting impact of Alice's actions.

Moreover, the tragic denouement reveals the true extent of Jennet Humfrye's grief and its devastating consequences. The harrowing scene, wherein Stella and Arthur's baby son meet their tragic fates, elicits profound emotions from the reader, primarily shock and sorrow. The vivid descriptions of their injuries, such as Stella's "broken" body and



"fractured" neck and legs, and their baby "crumpled on the grass," evoke an overwhelming sense of loss and heartache. This emotionally charged passage is a testament to Hill's ability to engender empathy in her readers. The author's purpose in creating these effects is to underscore the destructive power of unresolved grief, as well as to emphasise the cyclical nature of suffering. Jennet's ghostly presence, which Arthur acknowledges as her "revenge," suggests that her grief has transformed into a malevolent force that seeks to inflict pain on the living (Hill). The idea that she may be attempting to "adopt" a child by causing its death or, alternatively, exacting vengeance on society by depriving others of their children adds a chilling layer to her tragic story. Hill thereby urges the reader to contemplate the potential consequences of unaddressed grief while simultaneously reinforcing the novel's Gothic atmosphere through the haunting spectre of Jennet Humfrye.

In conclusion, Susan Hill employs language and imagery to evoke a range of emotions in the reader, ultimately highlighting the pervasive and destructive nature of unresolved grief. Hill's weaving of Arthur Kipps' and Jennet Humphreye's stories emphasise the universality of grief and its ability to impact individuals across time and circumstance. Both characters are haunted by their pasts and struggle to confront their grief, ultimately becoming entwined in a shared tragedy. This empathetic connection between the two characters invites the reader to reflect on the complex nature of grief and the ways in which it can lead to destructive consequences when left unresolved. Consequently, through the experiences of Arthur Kipps and Jennet Humfrye, Hill underscores the profound impact of trauma on an individual's life and emphasises the necessity of confronting one's past to heal. By engaging the reader's empathy and illuminating the cyclical nature of suffering, Hill encourages a deeper understanding of the human experience of grief and the potential consequences of neglecting emotional wounds.