

This student confidently analyses Dickens' intentions for this piece of non-fiction writing. They are able to assess the importance of context and have used this to inform their interpretation.

Methods are analysed in depth. Quotations have been selected judiciously to do so.

The student is able to make a range of perceptive and detailed inferences.

15/3/23 Victorian Non-Fiction Assessment:

How does Dickens present his perspective on prisons?

Dickens ~~criticises~~ criticises the state of Newgate prison and highlights the ~~beatn~~ beatment as well as the state of mind of the prisoner. Dickens describes the prisoner as 'he pees the horror limits of his cell with rapid sobs, cold drops of terror starting on his forehead, and every muscle of his frame quivering with agony.' Here, Dickens emphasises with the prison, creating an ~~impression~~ impression of a tormented prisoner, panicking and pacing along a narrow cell. The use of the adjective 'narrow' further creates empathy, as horror has connotations of being confined and trapped; picturing that this prisoner is ~~quivering~~ quivering with utter fear, and spending the last moments of his life confined in a small dark place. Dickens conveys how hopeless the prisoner, emphasising his empathy of the trapped prisoner - frightened, loved away and soon to be forgotten - a fear that many people have, which further strengthens our reader's empathy. Good

Secondly, Dickens questions the state of prisons, especially on how they treat prisoners ready for (public) execution. Dickens structures this writing quite oddly, with it getting more and more gut-punched and frightened - just like the state of the prisoner as the hours count down. To state, the prisoner seems very somber and regretful in his cell - 'conceive the situation of a man, spending his last night on Earth in this cell - Buried up with some vague and undesired hope of reprieve - he will know

not why - indulging in some wild and ~~visiting~~ idea of escaping, the verb 'indulging' has connotations of enjoying joy and happiness - in this case, this is the prisoner's last joyful moment - with some hope of escape; however this dissolves and merges into terror and regret. In the middle of the text, the prisoner is repenting and ~~reflected~~ reflecting on his past actions - he gets more and more panicked as the hours pass - he dreams of escape, but instead of indulgence, it's desperation. When he wakes up, 'he found himself on the bench.' This has a hopeless tone and 'found' has connotations of ~~depression~~ depression too. The end of the text is quite sombre - showing Dickens questions prisons - there is no hint of treatment of the men, no joy, just repulsion - a bleak end to the man's life. 'And in two hours more will be dead.'

Thirdly, Dickens challenges the prison system by using techniques such as the repetition of exclamatory sentences, 'The deep bell of St. Paul strikes - one! He heard it; it has roused him. Seven hours left!' The repetition of such exclamatory phrases is ~~that~~ that creates the sense of panic and fright in the prisoner, creating empathy for the reader; Dickens also does this to show his empathy, feeling sorrowful and imagining what a horrible time it would be if he was that prisoner - cold, alone, frightened, and terrified. The verb 'roused' also has connotations of dread, confusion, and fear - further portraying the man's increasing fear and dread of his soon-to-come death.

The writing is mature and sophisticated in expression. The argument is well structured and precise.

This is a highly impressive piece of writing for a Year 9 student. They write with maturity and clearly understand the text and its significance in depth.

Finally, Dickens interrogates the state of cells in prisons. He describes ~~them~~ it as 'a stone dungeon, eight feet long by six wide, with a bench at the upper end, under which were a common rug.' The use of the noun 'dungeon' gives the cell negative connotations of being dirty, dark, neglected and torture. This shows Dickens ^{feeling} towards the ^{horrible} treatment of the prisoners as, alongside the terrible emotional state of ~~them~~ pairing this with the description of cells portrays prison as a place of torture and sorrow - emotional torture as Louis took down. The use of the adjective 'common' further defines the poor quality of the cell. Common has connotations of non-luxurious and basic - also portraying that a prisoner is being left to rot in a basic, stone cell before he will be taken away and killed alongside of tens or hundreds of people. The description of a 'small, high window' also shows us the disconnection of society between it and the prisoner - Dickens has used this to create even more empathy - showing that he is alone, and broken away from his friends and family; he will be forgotten of society.

Excellent Alex → very detailed and precise analysis of the text - well done 😊

Ⓜ Don't end a paragraph on a question → analyse it!