

# Cheat sheet for unseen texts

## CONTRAST

**Look for:** Change of tone, setting, punctuation, colour, words. **Effect:** illuminates/reveals a shift in attitude, from ... to ...

## KEY WORDS

**Look for:** Conjunctions (but, yet, nevertheless, however, although) **Effect:** The composer's use of conjunctions reveals a change in pace and attitude from...to...

## FORM

**Look for:** Shape and length of stanzas, rhyming patterns, Title, sound.  
**Effect:** Structural choices mirror central theme of text.

## PUNCTUATION

**Look for:** (dashes, periods, colons, brackets, ellipses)  
**Effect:** The composer's choice of punctuation shows/reveals a change in attitude/draws reader's focus to particular words and themes.

## METAPHOR/SIMILE

**Look for:** Vivid and arresting images that leave a lasting impression on the reader.  
**Effect:** The salient image/metaphor/simile creates an image...

## SYMBOLS/MOTIFS

**Look for:** The motif guides the reader to the text's most important theme.  
**Effect:** The repetition of particular motifs, connect readers to the theme of the work, allowing the reader to contemplate a position and see the world from a new perspective.

## SENSORY DETAILS/IMAGERY

**Look for:** What you can see, hear, taste, smell, touch through the five senses.  
**Effect:** Brings the place to life, the pictures created with words invite readers to experience the delightful new world, the persona discovers ...

## PERSONIFICATION/FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

**Look for:** Personification, alliteration, assonance, sibilance  
**Effect:** Draws attention to key ideas, enlivens an object...