



# English Language Out Of Hours Reading + Writing Intervention



## The Forest

THE HARDER  
YOU WORK  
FOR SOMETHING,  
THE GREATER  
YOU'LL FEEL  
WHEN YOU  
ACHIEVE IT.

## Read this extract

- Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again. It seemed to me I stood by the iron gate leading to the drive, and for a while I could not enter, for the way was barred to me. There was a padlock and chain upon the gate. I called in my dream to the lodge-keeper, and had no answer, and peering closer through the rusted spokes of the gate I saw that the lodge was uninhabited. No smoke came from the chimney, and the little lattice windows gaped forlorn. Then, like all dreamers, I was possessed of a sudden with supernatural powers and passed like a spirit through the barrier before me. The drive wound away in front of me, twisting and turning as it had always done, but as I advanced I was aware that a change had come upon it; it was narrow and unkempt, not the drive that we had known. At first I was puzzled and did not understand, and it was only when I bent my head to avoid the low swinging branch of a tree that I realised what had happened. Nature had come into her own again and, little by little, in her stealthy, insidious way had encroached upon the drive with long, tenacious fingers. The woods, always a menace even in the past, had triumphed in the end. They crowded, dark and uncontrolled, to the borders of the drive. The beeches with white, naked limbs leant close to one another, their branches intermingled in a strange embrace, making a vault above my head like the archway of a church. And there were other trees as well, trees that I did not recognise, squat oaks and tortured elms that straggled cheek by jowl with the beeches, and had thrust themselves out of the quiet earth, along with the monster shrubs and plants, none of which I remembered.



- Go back through the extract – what words could you use to link to this picture?

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# Quick fire questions

- Is the speaker dreaming or awake? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are we told about the gate? \_\_\_\_\_
- How are we told she got through the gate? \_\_\_\_\_
- How was the drive different from usual? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are we told about the beeches? \_\_\_\_\_
- How are the trees like a church? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are we told at the end she doesn't remember?  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Identify

- What are we told about the chimney? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are we told about the windows? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are we told about the drive? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are we told about the woods? \_\_\_\_\_
  
- How would you describe the over all tone of the piece?
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Language

- Which words create a spooky/ eerie/ mysterious atmosphere?

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

# Language

- Look at the description of the woods
- Select 3 quotes from this.
- What do these show about the woods?

- Quote - \_\_\_\_\_

- What it shows - \_\_\_\_\_

- Quote - \_\_\_\_\_

- What it shows - \_\_\_\_\_

- Quote - \_\_\_\_\_

- What it shows - \_\_\_\_\_

# Structure

- How does the piece open? \_\_\_\_\_
- What does this suggest? \_\_\_\_\_
- How does the focus shift in the piece? From what to what?
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How does the piece close? \_\_\_\_\_
- How is there a loss of control throughout the piece?
- \_\_\_\_\_



# Evaluate – ‘I agree’

- ‘The writer has created a lonely and fearful atmosphere within this piece through her descriptions of the surroundings’.
- What areas or surroundings would you break down to cover?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- Look at the extract again and decide what quotes you would use

# Aspects to include

- Look at adjectives for
- Lodge \_\_\_\_\_
- Chimney \_\_\_\_\_
- Windows \_\_\_\_\_
- Look at how you could connect these for loneliness
- Look at how nature has been personified – what could this show?

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- Think about how it has taken over the drive

# Further aspects

- What negative description given to woods? \_\_\_\_\_
- What does triumph mean? \_\_\_\_\_
- What triplet is used? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the effect of this? \_\_\_\_\_
- Look for more personification - \_\_\_\_\_
- What feeling is a church normally associated with? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is this ironic? \_\_\_\_\_

Take 15 mins to write up this answer.

# Writing a description based on picture

- What aspects of the picture would you zoom in on?

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# Creating your picture plan –

Write up either  
description or picture

Aspects	- Ideas
Who is your key focus on? Who will be your character?	
How will you open / create sense of mystery?	
What will happen next?	
What is your quest / moral challenge / dilemma?	
What could your flashback be?	
How will you resolve / end story?	