

Analytical essay planner: how a writer creates isolation

Pupil activity

Audience: Years 8 to 12 English pupils

Plan a multi-paragraph English analytical essay explaining how a writer creates a sense of isolation, using evidence and transitions from an original passage.

Original passage

The lighthouse keeper shut the door. Outside, the wind pushed at the glass. The lamp swept over the black water, then vanished into the rain. No voice answered from the shore.

Essay question

How does the writer create a sense of isolation?

Introduction

Answer the question in one sentence. What is your overall interpretation of the keeper and the setting?

My thesis: _____

Plan three connected body paragraphs

Paragraph	Point that answers the question	Short quotation	Analyse a word, image or sentence choice	Link to the argument
1, setting				
2, sound or silence				
3, development or contrast				

Transition into paragraph 2: "Furthermore ____" / "By contrast ____" / my own transition: _____

Alternative reading

Could the keeper seem determined as well as isolated? Add a quotation, explain the reading and state how it changes or limits your thesis.

Alternative view: _____ Evidence: _____

Conclusion

Return to your main argument. Explain how the three details work together without repeating every point.

Final judgement: _____
