

Marrakech – Critical Essay

Answers to questions on prose non-fiction should address relevantly the central concern(s) of the text and be supported by reference to appropriate techniques of prose non-fiction such as: ideas, use of evidence, selection of detail, point of view, stance, setting, anecdote, narrative voice, style, structure, organisation of material...

Question: Choose a non-fiction text in which vivid description is an important feature. Discuss in detail how the vivid description is created and go on to explain how it contributes to your appreciation of the text as a whole.

Introduction:

- **Title and Author**
- **Use words from the question and explain why your text is suitable for this.**
- **A short summary of the text - setting the context of where and when if possible. (1-2 sentences max)**
- **Refer to the key themes of the writing and indicate that description contributes to your appreciation of the text as a whole.**

REMEMBER: P.E.E. = Point / Evidence / Explanation

Main body of the essay:

Part 1 - FOCUS: theme of POVERTY

P - Topic sentence - task + technique.

Example: Orwell effectively uses vivid description to lead the reader through colonial Marrakech in order to make us think about the poverty and injustice the native people had to endure.

Ev - context + quotes

Focus on finding **two** pieces of evidence to show how Orwell brings Marrakech alive. e.g.: The opening section of the funeral highlights the poverty of the native Moroccans. In your comments, you should focus on word choice/ideas and show how Orwell seems to want to shock the reader.

Other examples of vivid description could be taken from any of the following: the old woman, the Jews, the donkey — or any other example you feel shows **real poverty**.

Ex - analyse and explain

How does the description of these events add to your appreciation of the text as a whole?
What do these events show you about Imperialism?

Part 2 – FOCUS: poverty PLUS the racism

P - task and technique (focus for this paragraph is poverty plus the racist view Imperialists had of natives)

Example: Orwell's use of anecdotes manage to highlight the poverty of the native Moroccans

Ev - you could mention the gazelle, Jews, the donkey...(pick only 2)

Ex - how do these anecdotes help illustrate Orwell's main concerns.

Part 3 – FOCUS: Orwell's unease and the inevitable downfall of the Empire

P — task+theme

Ev — quote supporting Orwell's idea that the Empire can't last forever (focus on vivid description... remember the task!)

Ex — analyse and explain

Personal Evaluation

You should have been evaluating **throughout the essay** with words like 'effectively' and 'vividly', 'with subtlety', 'powerfully' and so forth, but in this paragraph you need to overtly show if you think Orwell has **effectively** portrayed his thoughts on **poverty, racial injustice** and **imperialism**. Do you think some of his ideas are still relevant today or is it an essay very much of its time.

Conclusion

Finally, draw your essay to a conclusion. Signal clearly you are summing up by using a phrase like: To conclude... In conclusion... To sum up...

e.g.: *To conclude, Orwell's vivid description is important when considering the central concerns of...*