

**Context** – what life was like when a book or play was written, including the overall time period or setting.

**The Victorian Era** – the period in which Queen Victoria was monarch Britain. Occurred from 1837 to 1901.

**The Spirit of Christmas** – the traditions associated with the Christian festival of Christmas were developed during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The traditions were influenced by the Royal Family.

**Social Classes** – people being divided into a hierarchy of groups, mainly based on economic status.  
  
e.g. **upper, middle, working class**

**The Christian Message** – the principles of love for one's neighbours, repentance and forgiveness.

**The Hungry Forties** – The rapid growth of cities and social changes in the 1840s which resulted in poverty, hunger and hardship in England.

**The Poor Law** – From 1834, money and resources were no longer given out to the poor in England. Poor people had to go to work in dangerous workhouses or receive no help at all.

**Thomas Malthus** – a wealthy man from the Victorian era who believed that the poor didn't have a place in society and were a burden.

**Child Labour** – the employment of children in an industry which might exploit or endanger them.



**Assonance**- repetition of vowels and similar sounds within a sentence.  
  
e.g. *the fleet of feet sweep by the geese*

**The Senses**- using the sense of sight, smell, taste, touch or sound to add imagery and detail to a description.  
e.g.  
*the hand brushed against the cold surface beside her*  
*the sudden scream echoed around the room.*

**Adverbs**- words which add detail to actions (verbs). Often end in 'ly'.  
  
e.g. *slowly, suddenly, quietly, bravely*

**Sibilance**- when strongly stressed syllables and consonants are close within a sentence.  
  
e.g. *she sells sea shells by the sea shore*

**Pathetic Fallacy**- matching human emotions to nature or objects to create an atmosphere within a piece of writing. Most often used with the weather.  
  
e.g.

**Satire**- using humour or exaggeration to engage an audience.

*the rain attacked the village below.*  
*the clouds crept quietly over the hills*

**Allusion**- making a reference to something already previously mentioned.  
  
e.g. *you're acting like a Scrooge!*

**Juxtaposition**- the fact of two things being placed closely together with contrasting effect.  
  
e.g. *the use of light and dark in a story or good versus evil.*

<b>Structural Features and Key Questions</b>		
<p><b>Opening</b> When I first start to read the text, what is the writer focusing my attention on? Why? How am I supposed to respond to this opening?</p>	<p><b>Withholding information</b> What information is the writer keeping secret, at this time? Why do they do this? Why does this intrigue me as a reader?</p>	<p><b>Shifting focus</b> What does the writer shift the focus to? Why does the writer want the reader to focus on this? Why has the writer waited until now to share this information?</p>
<p><b>Foreshadowing</b> Are there any examples of foreshadowing in the text (Where the writer hints at something that happens later in the text)? Why does the writer choose to use this?</p>	<p><b>Flashback</b> Are there any examples of flashbacks in the text (Where the writer writes about past events)? Why does the writer choose to use this?</p>	<p><b>Juxtaposition</b> Are there any examples of juxtaposition in the text (Where the writer explores two contrasting ideas in order for the reader to realise something)? Why does the writer choose to use this?</p>
<p><b>First Person Perspective</b> Why is the piece written from the character's viewpoint (I, me, we, my, our...)? How does the reader respond to this?</p>	<p><b>Second Person Perspective</b> Why is the piece using direct address (you and your)? How does the reader respond to this?</p>	<p><b>Third Person Perspective</b> Why is the piece written from an outsider's viewpoint (he, she, they, them...)? How does the reader respond to this?</p>
<p><b>Detail</b> What does the writer describe in the most detail? What are we supposed to understand from this level of detail?</p>	<p><b>Ending</b> What is the lasting impression we are left with? What are we left wanting to know more about? Why?</p>	<p><b>Cliff Hanger</b> Does the ending imply that this isn't the end of the story? How? How do we react to this?</p>