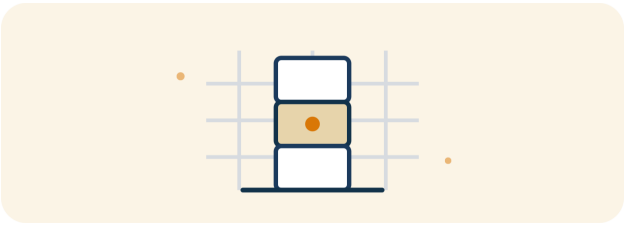
TUTORWOW

The Structure and Form Pack

How to analyse structure like a technique, so form stops being the scary part



HSC ENGLISH

Most students analyse language confidently, then freeze the moment they have to write about structure. Structure is just the order the composer chose to reveal information. Treat it exactly like a technique: name the choice, ask why that order, then analyse its effect on the reader.

01 The method

Analyse a structural choice

- **Name** the choice: non-linear timeline, withheld information, a framing device, a cyclical ending.
- **Ask why** the composer chose that order.
- **Analyse** the effect on the reader, in a full sentence.

02 A bank of structures

- **Non-linear timeline.** Makes the reader experience memory or trauma out of order, the way the character does.
- **Withholding a key fact until the end.** Forces a re-reading of everything before it, mirroring the character's own shift in understanding.
- **Opening at the end.** Every hopeful moment afterwards reads as tragic, because we already know how it falls apart.
- **Cyclical ending.** Suggests entrapment, that nothing has really changed, however far the character travelled.

03 A model sentence

Band 6. The novel opens at the end, so we read the whole story already knowing how it collapses, which turns every early moment of hope into something the reader grieves in advance.

04 Checklist

- I named the structural choice, not just "the structure".
- I asked why the composer chose that order.
- I analysed the effect on the reader, not just labelled the device.
- Form is treated as a choice, the same as any language technique.

Watch out. Labelling the structure and stopping. "The text is non-linear" is not analysis. Say what that order does to the reader and why the composer wanted it.

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