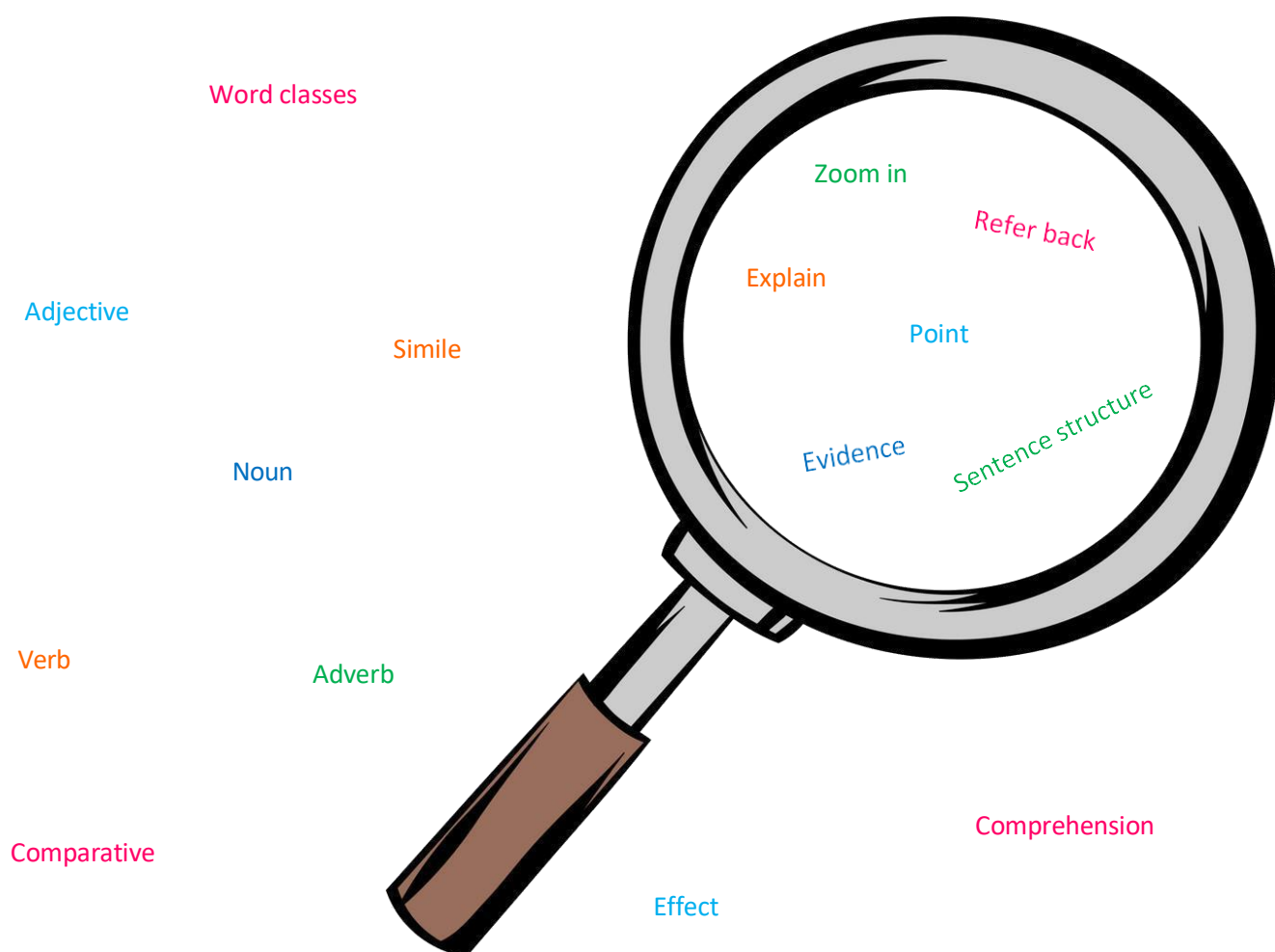




STUDY PLUS
A BRIGHTER FUTURE

KS3D: Reading Comprehension

Exam style questions



STUDENT NAME:.....

Read and annotate this poem with your thoughts.

'Jack fell as he'd have wished,' the Mother said,
And folded up the letter that she'd read.
'The Colonel writes so nicely.' Something broke
In the tired voice that quavered to a choke.
She half looked up. 'We mothers are so proud
Of our dead soldiers.' Then her face was bowed.

Quietly the Brother Officer went out.
He'd told the poor old dear some gallant lies
That she would nourish all her days, no doubt.
For while he coughed and mumbled, her weak eyes
Had shone with gentle triumph, brimmed with joy,
Because he'd been so brave, her glorious boy.

He thought how 'Jack', cold-footed, useless swine,
Had panicked down the trench that night the mine
Went up at Wicked Corner; how he'd tried
To get sent home, and how, at last, he died,
Blown to small bits. And no one seemed to care
Except that lonely woman with white hair.

Siegfried Sassoon

Read through the poem once. What is it about? Who are the characters featured?

	True	False
The Brother Officer is very sad about his friend's death.		
The mother says she's proud of her son's heroic death.		
The mother is devastated by the death of her son.		
The Brother Officer is relieved Jack died.		
Jack was scared and didn't want to be at war.		
Jack did not die as he'd have wished.		

Looking at the poem in more detail, answer the following questions.

1. Identify the mother's feelings about her son. Which words show this?

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2. Identify the Brother Officer's feelings about Jack. Which words show this?

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Reading Comprehension

3. Why has the writer chosen to put the mother's words in speech marks but not the Brother Officer's?

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4. Which words show how shameful rather than heroic the boy's death was?

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5. Look at the final line. Why has the poet chosen to finish the poem with a sad description of the mother?

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6. Select three of the words you think are most effective in the poem. Write an explanation of how that particular word added to your understanding.

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Reading Comprehension

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7. At the start we assume that the Officer liked Jack. When do we realise that this is not the case?

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8. What effect does this contrast have on the reader?

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9. What rhyme scheme does this poem follow? Are there any changes?

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10. Are the stanzas (paragraphs) the same length or different?

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If stanzas remain the same, we can usually link it to something in the poem that is continuing to happen.
What might we link this to in this poem?

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