

Exam Skill - Writing analytically about Poetry:

Interpret the poems – say what you think they mean (don't just retell the story or describe the poems).

Use **quotations** to show that you have interpreted them sensibly.

Explain how the quotation and your interpretation work together to understand the poems.

Compare the two poems in terms of their **language, tone** and **structure**.

Practising that skill:

a) How does Wordsworth portray the relationship between humans and nature in this extract from the **Prelude**?

Write about:

- the event and how he describes it
- how the reader gets a sense of the speaker in the poem
- how he makes the setting appear first familiar and then strange and frightening
- pick one image (personification or metaphor) and analyse in detail how each word contributes to the meaning of the poem

b) **Crossing the Loch** describes quite a similar experience. How does this poem portray that same relationship between humans and nature?

Write about:

- how the situation is described (the words used)
- how do we get a sense of the people in the poem
- how the poet gives us a sense of the setting
- pick one image and analyse it in detail how each word contributes to the meaning of the poem

Now **compare** the two poems. Write about:

1. how they are from different time periods – does this affect the relationship between man and nature – provide evidence from the poems
2. Do the poems see man or nature as the more powerful one?
3. How are the structures and attitudes (tones) of the two poems different or similar?
4. Decide which one you think is more powerful – and give a reason for your choice – with quotations from the poems.

