

Writing About Structure **Word Mat**

These are some of the structural features that a writer might use to establish, develop or change ideas/themes – try to track how they are used and how a reader might respond during the course of an extract.

Narrative perspective

Likely to be **first person** ('I', 'we') or **third person** ('he', 'she', 'they')

Character voice

Who's speaking and what is the **tone**?
Do we have **external** (said aloud) or **internal dialogue** (private thoughts)?

Paragraphing

Used to introduce a new **topic, person, time** or **place**

Narrative tense

Is the story being told in the **past, present** or **future tense**? Devices such as **flashbacks** and **flashforwards** might also be used to shift timeframe

Repetition

If words, phrases or ideas are repeated then consider why... what does the pattern reveal?

Contrast

Words, phrases or ideas might also be placed in **juxtaposition** with one another... again, consider why and what the writer might be showing by structuring them in this way

Narrative arc

How are events sequenced? They might not always be in the expected order! Is there **exposition** (explanation of what's happening), **rising action** (building towards something) or a **climax** (the peak or culmination of something)?