

Reading and analysing texts that describe
From *Whispers in the Graveyard* by Theresa Breslin

I'm running. My chest is tight and sore. Breath rasping and whistling in my lungs. Branches whip against my face. Brambles tear at my legs and arms. There is a voice screaming. Out loud. The sound ripping through the trees, screaming and screaming. It's my voice

'Amy! Amy!' 5

Now I'm back at the back stream and the solid wooden fencing has been torn aside. Blasted apart as if some careless giant had passed by and trodden on it. I stare at the wood, not splintered or broken, but melted. Dissolved and warped. Curled aside to make a small space. Space enough for a child to walk through. What could do that? What power is there that would leave that mark? I hesitate, feeling the first great lurch of fear for myself. 10

'Amy?' I cry out.

Nothing. Beyond me the gaping dark of the cemetery.

There is a soft shudder in my head. A strange flicker which fastens on my fear. Nothing calling for me this time. No whispers in my face tonight. Why? Because Amy is in there. With one child captive, there is no need for two. Desperate, I hurl myself at the open space and barbed wire comes up to meet me, scratching through my skin, dragging at my clothes to pull me back. The thick bristles are embedded in my jacket and I am caught fast, struggling on the ground. Frantically, I unzip the front of my jacket, and draw out my arms. I leave it there and Scramble forwards to the foot of the stream. 15
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Blood on my hands and fingernails, I scramble to the top. Then I leap over and sink down knee-deep on the other side, my legs heavy with clogged and slimy liquid. I raise one foot, looking down, expecting to see thick mud clinging there. Nothing. Then the next leg. Nothing. But I am sinking, the ground falling away beneath me. I am dropping down and it will close over my head and suffocate me. 25

Reading and analysing texts that describe

Read again the first part of the source, lines 1 to 4.

List **four** things from this part of the text that show running is difficult for the narrator.

A

B

C

D

[4 marks]

Q2 [AO2 - language]

Look in detail at this extract from lines 6 - 13 of the source:

Now I'm back at the back stream and the solid wooden fencing has been torn aside. Blasted apart as if some careless giant had passed by and trodden on it. I stare at the wood, not splintered or broken, but melted. Dissolved and warped. Curled aside to make a small space. Space enough for a child to walk through. What could do that? What power is there that would leave that mark? I hesitate, feeling the first great lurch of fear for myself.

'Amy?' I cry out.

Nothing. Beyond me the gaping dark of the cemetery.

How does the writer use language here to describe the fence?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms.

[8 marks]

Q3

You now need to think about the **whole** of the **source**.

This text is from the opening of a novel.

How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?

You could write about:

- what the writer focuses your attention on at the beginning
- how and why the writer changes this focus as the extract develops
- any other structural features that interest you.

[8 marks]

Q4 [AO4 - evaluate with reference]

Focus this part of your answer on the second half of the source, **from line 14 to the end**. A student, having read this section of the text said: "The writer skillfully conveys the terror felt by the narrator. It is as if you are actually there."

To what extent do you agree?

In your response, you should:

- write about your own impressions of the place
- evaluate how the writer has created these impressions
- support your opinions with quotations from the text.

[20 marks]