

'Climbing my Grandfather'

Andrew Waterhouse



OBJECTIVE:

1

Explore how Andrew Waterhouse uses imagery to help shape our understanding of the **relationship** presented to us in the poem.

OBJECTIVE:

What **happens** in the poem?

How is the **speaker** presented?

How is the **relationship** presented?

How do **form, structure** and **language** shape meaning?

Brogues

Refreshed

Traverse

Screed

Splintered

Summit

Traverse

Gasping

Glassy

Pulse

Andrew Waterhouse uses an extended metaphor to compare his grandfather to a mountain.



Climbing my Grandfather, by Andrew Waterhouse (1958 – 2001)

- Task 1: Find a supporting quote for each image below.



- Task 2: Write down two ideas of emotions that each image might symbolise.
- Task 3: Write down five words to describe the relationship that the speaker has with his grandfather.
- Task 4: Find one example of each poetic device and write down the effects that you think are achieved:
 - ✓ Enjambment
 - ✓ Metaphor
 - ✓ Simile
 - ✓ Parenthesis
- Task 5: Start annotating the poem on the other side of this sheet.

Work through
each of the tasks
independently.

We will feedback
in ten minutes.

I decide to do it free, without a rope or net.

First, the old brogues, dusty and cracked;

an easy scramble onto his trousers,

pushing into the weave, trying to get a grip.

By the overhanging shirt I change

direction, traverse along his belt
to an earth-stained hand. The nails
are splintered and give good purchase,
the skin of his finger is smooth and thick
like warm ice. On his arm I discover

the glassy ridge of a scar, place my feet
gently in the old stitches and move on.

At his still firm shoulder, I rest for a while
in the shade, not looking down,
for climbing has its dangers, then pull

myself up the loose skin of his neck

to a smiling mouth to drink among teeth.

Refreshed, I cross the screed cheek,

to stare into his brown eyes, watch a pupil

slowly open and close. Then up over

the forehead, the wrinkles well-spaced
and easy, to his thick hair (soft and white
at this altitude), reaching for the summit,
where gasping for breath I can only lie
watching clouds and birds circle,

feeling his heat, knowing

the slow pulse of his good heart

Academic Writing

Formal

Accurate

Precise

Logical

**By the overhanging shirt I change
direction, traverse along his belt**

Tone

Enjambment

Verb

Furthermore

Suggests

Highlights

**the skin of his finger is smooth
like warm ice.**

Tone


Simile

Paradox

However

Reveals

Emphasises

Code	Meaning
Sp.	Spelling mistake
P.	Punctuation mistake (incorrect usage or omission)
C.	Capitalisation mistake (incorrect usage or omission)
H.	Handwriting is unclear or messy
//	New paragraph required
^	Omission of word or phrase
	Unclear expression

1

Is each point supported and fully developed? Remember that it's important to write in-depth about carefully selected parts of the poem.

2

Is the written expression appropriately precise and formal? Make sure that informal language (e.g. slang or language that is vague) has not been used.

3

Is the writing technically accurate? Look carefully at the work and identify spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors; please also make the necessary corrections.

4

Have a range of reporting and analysing verbs been used to help express and develop the points? Remember that each verb has a subtly different meaning.

5

Are you impressed with the overall quality of the work? Think about whether you'd be happy to submit this as your own response.