



What does the writer focus your attention on at the beginning of the text? Why? What effect does it create? Does the writer create any mystery or enigma? Why?

What senses are being presented most effectively in this opening and why?

When the bullets start flying, it's only a matter of time before fear catches up with a soldier.

There you are, steel death whizzing past in the air.

Distant shells thunder low and muddy, a hollow sound you feel more than hear.

What technique is being used here? What connotations does it create?

What techniques are being used here to describe the bombs?

The close ones ring high and clear. They scream with a voice that rattles your teeth, and you know they're the ones headed for you. They cut deep into the ground, throwing up a veil of dust that hangs there, waiting for the next round to come ripping through.

Thousands of shells, burning through the sky—slices of metal no bigger than your finger—and it only takes one to kill you. Only takes one to turn your best buddy into a steaming side of meat.

What techniques are being used here to describe the bombs?

What techniques are being used in this paragraph? What connotations does it create?



What does the writer shift focus to in this moment? Why do this?

Death comes quick, in the beat of a heart, and he ain't picky about who he takes.

The soldiers he takes quick—before they know what hit 'em—they're the lucky ones. Most die in agony, their

Why does the writer personify Death?

bones shattered, their organs shredded, leaking a sea of blood onto the ground. They wait alone in the mud for Death to steal up behind them and wring out the last drops of life with his icy hands.

Zoom in on powerful language being used in this paragraph and the effect they create. Remember to identify their word class.

What type of sentences are being used at the end? Why? What is the writer trying to convey/create?

If there's a heaven, it's a cold place. A dark place. A lonely place.



What does the writer focus your attention on at the beginning of the text? Why? What effect does it create? Does this link with anything else in the text?

Now it's your turn. Annotate and analyse this extract taken from the same novel:

I stood.

I screamed. I forced myself to keep going.

The red Jacket turned to me.

I heard some noise over my headphones, but I couldn't tell what she was trying to say.

One of the Mimics in the pack stood out from the rest. It wasn't that it looked different from the others. Just another drowned, bloated frog. But there was something about it that set it apart. Maybe proximity to death had sharpened my senses, but somehow I knew that was the one I was meant to fight.

So that's what I did. I leapt at the Mimic and it lashed out at me with its tail. I felt my body lighten. One of my

arms had been cut off. The right arm—leaving the pile driver on the left intact. Lucky me. I pulled the trigger.

The charge fired, a perfect ninety-degree angle.

One more shot. A hole opened in the thing's carapace.

One more shot. I blacked out.