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**Therapy- Reading Passages (Extended)**

Question 2I

by

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***Question 2I– Answering the Question***

**I can explain WHAT effect the word has.**

Often students really struggle with what is meant by ‘effect’. Sometimes the answers are so vague the examiner isn’t really being told anything at all about the word/phrase OR the effect.

**Here is a BAD example:**

**Student 1:** The phrase “the menacing cold surrounded me” has an interesting effect because it is really memorable and makes me really want to read on. The effect of the sentence is that I know it is really cold.

**This is a bad example because:**

* It says ‘interesting’ effect – what does that actually mean? What is interesting?
* It says it is ‘memorable’ but HOW? Why? Which word?
* Where is the analysis of individual words? What about the word ‘menacing’?
* It doesn’t explain how the man in the sentence is affected by what’s happening to him.

**TOP TIPS**

* Always think about individual words
* Link your thoughts on the words to the context of the passage
* Be specific with your language, do not say general things like it is ‘good’

**Look at this extract from ‘Touching The Void’ then look at some of the things you could say about the effect of one of the phrases.**

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| **Passage A**  **Joe and Simon are mountain climbing in the Andes, when Joe has a terrible accident. Here is Joe’s account.**  I hit the slope at the base of the cliff before I saw it coming. I was facing into the slope and both knees locked as I struck it. I felt a shattering blow in my knee, felt bones splitting, and screamed. The impact catapulted me over backwards and down the slope of the East Face. I slid, head-first, on my back. The rushing speed of it confused me. I thought of the drop below but felt nothing. Simon would be ripped off the mountain. He couldn’t hold this. I screamed again as I jerked to a sudden violent stop. |

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| **The phrase** | **The effect** |
| “I felt a shattering blow in my knee, felt bones splitting, and screamed”. | The words “shattering blow” show the emotional implications of what has happened; it was devastating and his ambitions to go on were “shattered” but this could also refer to his bones actually breaking. He can feel his “bones splitting” which is a very painful image and also shows the seriousness of the impact. The effect of this graphic description is that we understand that this could be life-threatening and that he is in serious trouble. |

**WARNING:** Do not say it has ‘an interesting effect’ - ALWAYS think about the effect the words have on our understanding of the character and their situation.