1. How do you <u>respond</u> to the text?

What does it make you think about? How does it make you feel?
Don't worry about noticing or analysing language features. Read with your head, heart and gut!

Description
- Are there vivid descriptions, helping you picture the scene?
- What can you smell, see, taste, feel and hear?
- What is the setting or weather like?
- What is the atmosphere or tone?

Characters
- What do the characters do, think and feel?
- Which do you like or dislike?
- Do you understand their thoughts and feelings?
- Do you empathise/sympathise with them?

Suspense & Tension
- Has the writing grabbed your attention?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Is there a mystery you want to know about?
- Will there be conflict later?

Emotions
- How do you feel after reading this?
- Are you happy, sad, angry, curious…?
- How do you think the author <u>wanted</u> you to feel?

Escapism
- Do you feel immersed in the story?
- Do you 'lose yourself' while reading?
- Is this a historical, sci-fi, or fantasy world?
- Is the story entertaining, scary, unbelievable…?

Ideas
- Is the author expressing their perspective?
- Do the characters and actions represent something different?
- Is the writer trying to make a point about society?

Next steps…
- The author probably intended you to have several <u>responses or reactions</u> to the text.
- Don't worry if you don't have something to say for every box, but aim for at least two or three.
- Even if you didn't have a big response to the text, try to work out what the <u>author intended</u>.
- All the above are the <u>effects on the reader</u>. Later, you will have to explain <u>how the author created these effects.</u>
- Next, let's think about what <u>kind</u> of text we are reading, and what the <u>structure</u> is (**2.1**, **2.2**)

2.1 What <u>kind</u> of text are we reading?

What is the <u>genre</u>? What big decisions has the writer made about <u>how</u> to tell this story?
The writer might follow rules of how to write a story – or break them on purpose!

Genre
- Comedy, tragedy, drama…
- Romance, action, adventure…
- Horror, Sci-Fi, Fantasy…
- How many more can you think of?

Tone
- Serious/Humorous…
- Realistic/Fantastical…
- Tense, suspenseful, intriguing…
- Scary, comforting, exciting…

Characters
- Who is the main character (protagonist)?
- Is there an antagonist?
- Supporting characters
- Which character(s) tell the story?

Setting
- Where does the story take place?
- When does the story take place?
- What prior knowledge do you have about these contexts?

Narrative Viewpoint
- First-person perspective (I, my, mine)
- Third-person perspective (he, she, his, her)
- Single or multiple narrators?
- All knowing or unreliable narrator?

Structure
- Opening, middle, closing of story?
- Written as a letter etc. or direct experience?
- Present tense or past tense?
- Linear or non-linear story?

Next steps…
- The author might stick to the <u>conventions</u> of one genre… or, they might combine genres, and break the rules.
- The writer will think very carefully about all the above and the <u>effect on the reader</u>.
- Changing the way the story is told will result in a different experience for the audience – why did the author make these choices?
- Look back at **1** – how do you respond to the way this story is told?
- **2.1** and **2.2** can help you to analyse <u>structure</u>. After, we will zoom in, and analyse <u>language features</u> and the <u>effects</u> they create (**3**).

2.2 How does the text shift <u>focus</u>?

What does the author write about at the beginning, middle and end?

You should label every paragraph and see how the focus changes. (Hint: what is the <u>subject</u> of each sentence?)

Description
- The weather and setting
- Characters – protagonist and others
- Actions, events and objects
- Mood or feeling

Time
- Historical period
- Time of day, season, year…
- Pace
- Flashback and flashforward

Character (action)
- What is the protagonist doing?
- What are other characters doing?
- Do these actions tell us something about the character's background, beliefs, feelings, plans…?

Character (thoughts & feelings)
- Does one or more character have an internal monologue?
- What do they think or feel?
- Is it different to how they act or speak?

Events
- What is happening in the story?
- Is it a peaceful or action packed scene?
- What are other characters doing?
- What is happening in the background?

Dialogue
- Is there any conversation?
- Look for 'speech marks' and short paragraphs
- What is discussed? Does this contrast with thoughts?
- Who speaks a lot? Who speaks less?

Next steps…
- The author thinks very carefully about what to focus on – why are some things highlighted and others not mentioned?
- If something is described in detail or repeated, it is probably very important to the story (<u>foreshadowing</u> or <u>motifs</u>).
- The author might start at the setting or weather, and then <u>zoom in</u> to show objects, characters and feelings.
  Imagine what you could see on the screen if this was a TV programme or film.
- Look back at **1** – how do you respond to each change of focus?
- **2.1** and **2.2** can help you to analyse <u>structure</u>. Next, we will zoom in and analyse <u>language features</u> and the <u>effects</u> they create (**3**).