

The Signalman

How does Dickens create an atmosphere of suspense?

Think about what the title is asking you to do first:

Think of different ways that Dickens makes the story tense and explain them; don't just write a long list.

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How does Dickens create an atmosphere of suspense?
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This means all the different ways the story is frightening – so, think about the way it is told; the look of the characters; their personalities; how the story unfolds etc.

The question is only to do with the way Dickens makes the story tense so don't write about his life and works or what you think of him as a person.

The Narrator

- The way he tells the story;
- His attempts to reason/rationalise;
- His horror at the end.

The Signalman

- His appearance;
- His personality;
- His work and workplace;
- The things that have happened to him.

A summary of the ways in which Dickens makes the story tense.

The environment.

The time of day.

The structure of the story.

Look at the quotations on the next six slides and think about how they will help you answer the question.

‘... saw that he was a dark sallow man, with a dark beard and rather heavy eyebrows.’

‘His post was in as solitary and
dismal a place as ever I saw.’

‘... there was something in the man that daunted me.’

**‘His manner seemed to make the
place strike colder to me.’**

““I ran out again faster than I had run in (for I had a mortal abhorrence of the place upon me), and I looked all round the red light with my own red light.””

‘Resisting the slow touch of a
frozen finger tracing out my
spine.’