

## REMEMBER THAT:

- Exploration and development
- Sensitive and critical response
- Developed and analytical comment
- Evaluative comparison or contrast

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To explore and analyse how Harper Lee uses language and structure to develop the mood in the trial scene.

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## TASK:

To read and analyse the language used in an extract from *To Kill a Mockingbird* with a focus on how Harper Lee develops the mood in the trial scene.

### Extract – Tom Robinson's testimony

(Chapter 19, from, 'Tom Robinson had come to a dead stop' to, 'Mr. Finch, if you was a nigger like me, you'd be scared, too.')

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Tom Robinson had come to a dead stop. He glanced at Atticus, then at the jury, then at Mr. Underwood sitting across the room.

“dead stop” - suggests that he’s worried about what happens next – juxtaposed with the confidence of his previous testimony.

"Tom, you're sworn to tell the whole truth. Will you tell it?"

“glanced at ..” – nervousness. Was he worried about?

Tom ran his hand nervously over his mouth.

“Will you tell it?” – Atticus knows what he’s going to say, and what the response will be.

"What happened after that?"

“nervously” – he’s frightened. Why?

"Answer the question," said Judge Taylor. One-third of his cigar had vanished.

Short sentences – suggestive of fear; time moves slowly. Links with the cigar.

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Think

SMALL DETAILS and BIG  
IMPACTS

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You might wish to consider:

- Accent and dialect
- The social implications of what is revealed
- How the language is made to seem real
- Appearance and behaviour as well as what the characters say

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## Plenary:

Explain some of your findings to another pair – what methods are used and what is their effect?