YEAR 10 READING

Close Reading

Analyse language choices at word and sentence level

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Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Score:** _____ / 9

The Flood

The river came in the night, the way thieves do.

By morning it had taken the lower paddock, the chook shed and the old red tractor, which now sat up to its steering wheel in brown water, looking faintly embarrassed. Fence posts poked through the surface like the fingers of drowning men.

Dad stood on the verandah in his work boots, coffee going cold in his hand. He had lived on this land for forty years. He had seen floods before. He did not say anything.

Mum was on the phone to the SES, her voice bright and steady in the way it only got when things were very bad.

I went down to the water's edge, where the lawn simply stopped and the river began, as if someone had drawn a line with a ruler. A plastic chair drifted past, upright, unbothered, as if it were waiting for a guest. Somewhere downstream a cow bellowed, long and low, and then didn't.

The rain had stopped. The sky was a hard, clean blue. That was the cruellest part.

Choose the best answer.

1. The first sentence uses a simile to suggest the flood was...
   (a) expected (b) sudden, secret and destructive (c) slow and gentle
2. 'looking faintly embarrassed' adds what to the scene?
   (a) dark humour (b) fear (c) suspense
3. Mum's voice is 'bright and steady' because...
   (a) the SES gave good news (b) she is hiding her fear to stay strong (c) she is happy
4. The phrase 'and then didn't' implies...
   (a) the cow walked away (b) the cow was rescued (c) the cow drowned
5. Why is the clear sky 'the cruellest part'?
   (a) the calm beauty contrasts with the destruction (b) it is too hot (c) it means more rain

Analyse the language.

6. Analyse the image 'Fence posts poked through the surface like the fingers of drowning men'.

7. What is the effect of the short sentences about Dad?

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Close Reading

Analyse language choices at word and sentence level (continued)

8. Explain the effect of 'upright, unbothered' to describe the chair.

9. Write a paragraph analysing how the writer conveys the family's response to the flood.

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Close Reading

Analyse language choices at word and sentence level

Choose the best answer.

1. b) sudden, secret and destructive
2. a) dark humour
3. b) she is hiding her fear to stay strong
4. c) the cow drowned
5. a) the calm beauty contrasts with the destruction

Analyse the language.

6. The simile is disturbing and creates a sense of death and helplessness, hinting at how much has been lost.
7. They show his stunned, silent grief. The rhythm feels heavy and controlled.
8. The calm chair contrasts with the disaster, which makes the scene feel strange and almost surreal.
9. Answers will vary. Example: Each family member reacts in a restrained way, which suggests deep shock. Dad's 'coffee going cold' and silence imply he is overwhelmed. Mum's voice is 'bright and steady', which suggests she is hiding her fear. This understatement makes the loss feel more powerful.

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