

Edexcel Paper 2 – Evaluate Model Answer

The writer cleverly suggests a sense of fear and confusion through contrast within the setting of the extract “a cloudless sky”, “shimmering leaves” and “sunlight” strongly contrast with the “dark... swirling dust” and “shadows” caused by the explosion. The metaphorical “cloudless sky” implies that the narrator has no worries, he is at peace and is relaxed, despite being tired after a hard night at work. The “swirling dust” on the other hand demonstrates how confusing and chaotic the scene has suddenly become. The powerfully effective verb “swirling” has connotations of rapid movement and a lack of focus. This foregrounds the confusion as it is so “suddenly” juxtaposed with the stillness and calmness as the narrator had previously been gazing “absently”, intensifying the sense of calm and peace at the start of the extract.

The writer further skillfully intensifies the sense of fear and confusion through the setting by personifying the destroyed building which leaned “crazily” and “sagged dangerously”. The explosion has completely destroyed the house, leaving it both dangerous and unpredictable. The reader is left worrying that it might fall at any moment, killing the inhabitants. The confusion of the narrator is shared by the reader who is also shocked by the sudden transformation of the building from a safe and peaceful space into one which has the potential to harm. This is further increased when the narrator describes his surrounding and injuries: “rubble”, “fallen timbers”, “a large splinter”. The “large splinter” in his “mangled wound” shows that he has in fact been injured by the house, further intensifying both the narrator’s and the reader’s fears.

Finally, the writer successfully strengthens the connotations of fear and confusion through the other people in the extract. The narrator’s fear about his wife’s safety are quickly assuaged when she emerges from the “ruins” and as they “run, stumble and fall” from the bomb site, the confusion, fear and horror are further developed when the writer “sprawls” in the street having tripped over a head. Both the narrator and the reader share a sense of horror at such a disgusting event and are shocked and repelled by the experience. The sense of confusion in this paragraph is heightened further by the writer’s choice of verbs, which all suggest confusion, chaos and panic.