

Written Task One: Rationale exemplar

Link between the content of the course and the task

Specific reference to text(s) or idea that prompted the task

Purpose of the task

How the task explores the aspect of the course

This was written in relation to Part III 'Texts and Contexts' after studying *All Quiet on the Western Front*. I wanted to explore the distance between those who went to war and those who remained behind by dramatising the relationship between Paul and his father, demonstrating the profound change that Paul experienced and how this isolated him from his previous life. As in the novel, the character in this monologue represents the WWI generation who felt things deeply but couldn't articulate their feelings. The play is for a contemporary audience. The impact of war, as seen with the PTSD of soldiers returning from Iraq is still relevant, however, the WWI generation was the first to be depicted in literature as suffering from the effects of war.

Intended audience and socio-historical context

Relationship between content and genre

As a monologue, it uses **first person narration** to convey Paul's perspective. This is a dramatic extension of the novel, which is told about rather than by Paul. To conform to genre conventions it needed a clear sense of motivation – Paul's desire to speak – as well as internal conflict – his inability to speak about what he had seen and done. By addressing his father (who does not hear him), I wanted to show Paul's powerlessness.

Purpose of the task

Narrative perspective

To create an authentic voice, I included **military jargon and colloquialism from the trenches**. I moved between past and present tense to show that he doesn't know where he belongs. Events are non-linear, reflecting fragmentation of memory and trauma of remembering. Repetition is used to show how some memories are unending.

Register

Structure and narrative devices

I use **concrete nouns and harsh, unflattering adjectives** to describe his brutal war experience. To communicate his feelings I use **abstract nouns**; **antithesis** creates juxtaposition showing contradictory feelings. The tone ranges from resignation of his fate to anger at the perceived betrayal towards his father's generation.

Grammar: tenses

Tone and brief explanation

298 words

Word classes and their intended purpose

Language features