Read text in depth and do not skim read it ignoring important words.

Lines are numbered.

Questions following the text ask about certain groups of lines.

Why don’t you look at questions before you start reading?

It gives you an idea what you will be looking out for in different sections.

REALLY BIG HINT

Words that are interesting word choices are important.

Underline them as you go along.

If they make you think then underline them.

If you notice them then underline them.

Read the questions quickly first, and then read the whole text.

Read the specific question you are answering, and then read that text again methodically working through each line.

**\*\*\*\*\*READ QUESTION AS THEY ASK YOU TO DO DIFFERENT THINGS\*\*\*\*SO IMPORTANT\*\*\*\***

* **1st one asks for getting to grips with Arthur and Jake’s characters and their relationship - for you to choose information from the text that does this**
* **2nd one asks for insight into Arthur’s thoughts and feelings**
* **3rd one asks how writer makes lines dramatic – technique and use of language**
* **4th one asks you to show detailed understanding of the text and ‘what** happens’ and **a well-considered personal response**

**Remember always to look further beyond written word for extra information – what is implied?**

Lines 1-21 - First impressions of Arthur and Jake and their **relationship**. Remember line by line and methodical and looking for that hidden meaning. Remember embedded quotes.

* Jake seems fascinated by the ‘raging’ river.
* Arthur does not acknowledge what Jake has said and just seems to want to get on with the job ‘we’ll take yours first’. Arthur seems more grown up in his attitude.
* Arthur tries to coax the cow across the bridge whereas Jake is angry calling the animal a ‘stupid cow’
* On the way back Jake is into mischief and bounces on the bridge which makes Arthur angry. Arthur is more sensible and steps onto ‘firm ground’.
* Jake dares Arthur to cross the bridge hanging from a pole but Arthur doesn’t even bother to reply. He seems accustomed to his adventurous ways.
* Jake won’t let the challenge go but Arthur is only interested in getting the job done.
* Jake provokes Arthur calling him scared and wanting a bet that he could get across.
* Arthur thinks Jake turns everything into a competition that he knows he is going to win. He thinks he has to keep proving that he is better at everything.

We can see Arthur is responsible and sensible and perhaps a little intimidated by his brother because he has no answers when he provokes him. Arthur is more mature but we are not told if he is older.

Jake is adventurous and into mischief.

He provokes Arthur and is very competitive.

Arthur seems irritated by Jake.

Lines 22-45 Arthur’s thoughts and feelings. Remember embedded quotes.

* Arthur is thinking if he can get the second cow across the bridge by himself.
* He seems unconcerned at Jake’s dangerous stunt, not once telling him not to go ahead with it.
* Arthur is angry that Jake’s movements are scaring the cow ‘Damn you’ Damn you’
* He doesn’t believe that Jake is in trouble and ignores him, caring only about getting the cow across.
* Even when Jakes is screaming that he cannot hang on, Arthur does not believe him. When Jake has panic in his voice he still does not believe him.
* Arthur is thinking all this time how he hates his brother and how Jake is always pretending to be in trouble to make him look stupid.
* Arthur seems fed up with his brother and at how Jake ‘loves’ proving how stupid Arthur is.
* When Jake says he will fall Arthur says ‘Good’. It isn’t clear whether he actually wants him to fall at this moment because he is so angry with him.

Lines 46-69 - We are looking for **HOW** here ….how the writer makes it dramatic – do not just copy chunks of text. We are looking for use of language here obviously and any other techniques. Do not forget line by line and keep thinking for meaning beyond written word. Remember embedded quotes.

* Choice of the word ‘haunt’ which implies an impending tragedy.
* Arthur does not see his brother fall but feels him fall as his weight leaves the bridge. This seems to intensify the sense of loss as it has a physical component leaving him.
* There are a cluster of short blunt sentences for a powerful effect - such as ‘Just like that’ which in itself has a powerful matter of fact effect of finality.
* The focus is now on the effect this has on Arthur. He is ‘paralysed’ showing the effect shock or fear has taken over his movements. He cannot even breathe because he is so scared.
* When he eventually breathes it comes with a rush which gives the impression of fear and lack of control.
* Jake is wedged between rocks and is lying ‘motionless’. The fact that he is not moving is a bad sign and that he is allowing water to stream over his face without a reaction. It makes him appear already dead.
* Arthur cannot remember how he gets to Jake but has to enter the ‘icy surge’ which knocks his own breath away. The picture is one of desperation and panic and even of Arthur putting himself into danger at this point.
* Even at this moment he still wonders if Jake is ‘playing dead’ but he realises how ‘ridiculous’ this thought is, perhaps he is just wishing it could be true. The mention of the word ‘dead’ here is blunt and introduces death for the first time, even though it has been implied.
* The sight of Jake’s head rolling to the side and water streaming out of his nose and mouth makes Arthur cry out in fear. This is a powerful image and reinforces death.
* Arthur stumbles, his legs numb from the icy water trying to find a way out of the river. He is still not sure if his brother is alive or dead. He is desperate and afraid he is going to cause him further injury by slinging him over his shoulder, but there is nothing else he can do. The situation is beginning to seem hopeless even when he checks he is alive it seems no consolation.
* Arthur is then confronted with his mother’s face and becomes tormented by the image of himself carrying his brother’s body home to his mother. He prays desperately he will see his father first. He is sobbing out words pleading to see his father first which he does.

Lines 70-84 - What happens and your **personal reaction**

* The story moves to Arthur’s nightmares in years to come as he is haunted by Jake’s face underwater, laid out on the kitchen table and his mother’s sobbing wanting to know what happened.
* He feels he should have told her the truth but he couldn’t. He wasn’t truthful but was trying to make it true by repeating it.
* When Jake opens his eyes Arthur is afraid the truth is going to come out, and Jake will ‘damn him’ and accuse him of being responsible. He felt he wanted him to because he deserved it.
* After Jake was ‘taken’ away on a stretcher, Arthur is tormented by the final seconds on the bridge. He tries to change the past and ‘unsay’ that last terrible word. He realises that once said you cannot take it back

Although Arthur could be criticised for his actions, it is difficult to feel angry with him as he is truly suffering with guilt. It is clear that he never forgets that day and it haunts him. He blames himself, even though perhaps he really shouldn’t. Jake was reckless and determined to cross the bridge and kidded Arthur so much that he just thought it was another prank. I feel sympathy for Arthur rather than blame.