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

* **1st one asks you to get to grips with Justo’s character and for you to choose information from the text that does this**
* **2nd one asks for insight into writer’s methods and use of language to show Maria’s thoughts and feelings**
* **3rd 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 1-34 we are learning about Justo – not just descriptions of appearance if they are there, but his personality and what sort of person he is. You may have to look deeper into what other people say, and the way he acts, and the way other people act towards him – you need to pick up on facts that may not be stated obviously but are there for their meaning. Look at every sentence as a source of information. Be methodical.

**Sometimes you will need to choose your own word(s)** to describe him based on what you are reading because you are getting a ‘feel’ for this person.

\* **using your own descriptive words shows you have understood what you are reading \***

Be methodical and use **imbedded quotes**.

THE FOLLOWING POINTS WOULD SHOW UNDERSTANDING -

* Justo is a well-known local character with a good reputation that has spread to neighbouring villages. (adding your own words)
* People called him ‘a defender of causes and a wit’ which means that he would stick up for others and also that he was entertaining and funny. Sticking up for others makes him seem commendable. (making assumptions that the words do not say – you must do this)
* Some people suggested that he was ‘too eager to create his own mythology’ which shows he

may be a little big-headed and is setting out to become famous and perhaps is a bit of a show-off. (you are seeing this on your own and it looks good – makes you look as if you have a little insight – looking beyond the written word)

* He was regarded as ‘the one to watch’ in the strength events, so people expected him to win. (again this is your own idea)
* The ‘ox story’ seems as if it may or may not have been true but Justo jokes about it anyway. The joke seems as if it may be false modesty. (hard to explain how this story and the way he fobs it off just makes it a little unbelievable – and even if it is true he is laughing about it making it seem only a little impressive but the way he does it seems a bit false)
* Justo was the largest man in the festival on the day Maria visited. This gives us a visual impression of his size and strength.
* He joked with the crowd which showed he liked the attention, and that he was not finding the competition too demanding. (again you are explaining this further)
* He went barefoot during the wood-chopping event because he valued his only pair of shoes over his toes, even though he has already lost one toe and seems proud of that. He cannot afford new boots so he is made to appear poor. (another inference you have picked up on)
* He is far better than anyone else at wood chopping but….
* He does not perform so well in the wine-drinking event, perhaps because this is not based on strength. It makes him seem more admirable that he is not a heavy drinker. (this could be thought about this – why not? - do not be afraid to show little extras like this – they cannot be wrong if you have thought it)
* In the ‘farmer’s walk’ he is unbeatable. He vastly out performed other competitors. Again he plays up to the crowd pretending at first he could not lift the weights at all and then carrying them without a struggle. This shows he is a bit of a joker and likes to build up a drama.
* He nodded to the crowd showing that he knew they were admiring him which again seems a little big-headed.
* He entertains and jokes with the children with a practical joke. It seems he is popular with everyone and he is fully aware that they admire him.

(So to summarise - He is very well known and popular, and seems liked and to get on well with people. He is physically very strong and large. He has a sense of humour. He is not wealthy. He likes being the centre of attention and comes across as a bit of a show-off. Even though he seems a little bit of a show-off, he is still likeable)

Lines 35-64 are showing Maria’s thoughts and feelings about Justo. The question is particularly asking you how the writer shows them – important to always think about this in every line as you methodically work your way through and even address it at the end.

* The background is that Maria has heard stories of Justo, and watches the strength competition at the festival even though she usually did not like them – her interest has been sparked.
* Maria seems to be attracted to Justo and creates opportunities to be noticed by him or speak with him.
* This is shown when she ‘discovered’ a need to visit friends near the finishing line, as if this need was not real but made up. She then tries to get herself noticed by unleashing her most feminine laugh which makes it seem she is using tricks to attract his attention that women use on men, making sure he sees ‘her broadest smile’, placed there for him to notice.
* All her efforts seem to be ignored by him, which makes her think he is ‘the most arrogant man in Guernica’.
* This only serves to make her more determined as she arranges to present him with his prize lamb. When she moves in for the ‘ceremonial kiss’ she is again ignored as he boasts to the crowd. She then deliberately walks around the crowd so he would have to pass her again where she asks him to dance. Asking him to dance is quite forward of her.
* She agrees with her sisters that he is not handsome.
* She thinks he is ‘frighteningly powerful’ and has little confidence when away from crowds with her so perhaps he is shy around girls.
* She still seems interested in him as she counters her sisters comments with more favourable ones such as ‘he has character’ when her sister called him ‘homely’.
* She is thoughtful when her mother reminds them that he has his own farm. **The writer adds in at this point why she may be so thoughtful. She has a reason to marry being the oldest of six girls and with a crippled father. (this is such good insight – watch for it in other examples where actions are explained subtly with extra information)**.
* She is silent and no longer joins in the conversation when her sisters are discussing Justo in an unfavourable light.

(Now try to address the point of the writer’s method in showing you Maria’s feelings and thoughts as you have had to piece this together for yourself – it is a recap of important points covered already.

**THINK - *ACTIONS, DIALOGUE, THOUGHTS AND USE OF LANGUAGE* – how else can he do it apart from what she does, what she says and what she thinks. His own choice of words will obviously be really important, but you know this as author’s choice of language is important everywhere in English Language and Literature exams.**

* **The writer uses her actions such as the opportunities she created to meet him and the way she acted around him to get herself noticed.**
* **He uses her dialogue e.g. when she asked him to dance and when she defended him from her sisters.**
* **The writer uses her thoughts such as when she thought him arrogant and when she considered the fact that he owned his own farm.**
* **The writer uses her interactions with Justo and her sisters to provide information on how she felt about him.**
* **The writer uses phrases such as ‘who could have imagined’ ‘It so happened’ which gives a knowing tone so that we know exactly what she is up to.**
* **The writer uses language such as ‘moved in’ and ‘unleashed’ which makes her efforts seem over the top and planned like a military operation.**

Lines 65-87 - what happens and what is your reaction. Slightly different question now again. Keep it in mind. It is different from the last question. We must show clearly now what happened and what your response is to that. Personal response is in red.

* Justo visited Maria’s home. He doesn’t bring flowers or sweets and turns up in his work clothes. This makes him seem unromantic.
* He gives the mother a ‘vigorous’ handshake and pats the father on the back. It seems funny to greet the parents in this awkward way.
* He asks what he can do to help which immediately wins over the mother and sisters as he offers to do work they find hard.
* He is formal and polite.
* He tells Maria to help (he doesn’t ask) taking her help for granted.
* They eat a relaxed meal after work and Justo is now part of the family. The sisters’ change of tune is amusing, now that he is taking work like repairing the roof away from them.
* A month later Maria is in the front row at another fair watching Justo and he leaves the contest and walks over to her – this seems a surprise to her.
* He holds both weights in one hand and takes a gold ring from his pocket and asks the ‘stunned’ Maria to marry him. He is a bit blunt with the proposal.
* She accepts and they kiss.
* When he goes back to the competition he is disqualified but finishes it anyway to show he could have won. The disqualification seems a bit unfair and it is satisfying when he shows he could have won.
* He apologises to Maria for not winning another lamb. He is quite charming when he apologises and even though he comes across as being a bit rough and ready, he is sensitive in other ways.