Lines 1-25 – what is Ian thinking and feeling in these lines? You need to **select appropriate examples** from the text to show how he **feels** and what he is **thinking**. This is one of the easier questions isn’t it? Where you are choosing information that just answers this question – no techniques or how you personally feel. Be methodical line by line and do not forget embedded quotes.

* He **feels** surprised by Ollie’s quick getaway
* He **thinks** his choice of stroke should have made him level with Ollie but….
* He **feels** consoled that Ollie had gone off too fast at the start of the race
* He admits to himself that Ollie is coping better with the waves against them
* He **thinks** Ollie might let up when he sees how far behind he is but…..
* He realises winning is not enough for Ollie and that he wanted to humiliate him
* He **thinks**  Ollie has the ‘perfect physique’ (remember embedded quotes) for swimming with his ‘big hands’ and ‘long legs’
* He contrasts their movements in the water, whilst he ‘fought’ to even stay afloat, Ollie moved ‘smoothly’. Do not miss things like this out – contrasts really helps with imagery.
* He **feels** he is having trouble staying afloat and then **feels** terror and panic as he begins to sink which is then followed with weariness as he resigns himself to a ‘doggy-paddle’.
* He feels ‘cold and exhausted and resigned to defeat’
* REMEMBER NOT REALLY TALKING A LOT HERE ABOUT HIS ACTIONS – so no need to mention that he closes his eyes from the sun or at the beginning that their hands were pressed against the buoys as these are not associated with thoughts or feelings.
* He **thinks** for a ‘crazy moment’ that he has caught him up but realises he is treading water and not racing and **thinks** Ollie might have proved his point.
* He then **feels** enraged by Ollie’s patronising behaviour and even though his arms and legs feel like ‘lead’, he is still proud and competitive and wants to carry on with the race.

So written up like this:

At first Ian feels surprised at Ollie’s quick getaway, thinking his choice of stroke should have made them level, but is consoled that Ollie went off too fast at the start of the race. He admits to himself that Ollie is coping better with the waves against them and thinks he might let up when he sees how far behind he is. He soon realises though that winning is not enough for Ollie and that he wants to humiliate him. Ian thinks that Ollie has the ‘perfect physique’ for swimming with his ‘big hands’ and ‘long legs’ and contrasts their movements in the water: whilst he ‘fought’ to even stay afloat, Ollie moved ‘smoothly’. He feels he is having trouble staying afloat and feels terror and panic as he begins to sink, which is then followed with weariness as he resigns himself to a ‘doggy-paddle’. He then feels ‘cold and exhausted and resigned to defeat’. For one ‘crazy moment’ he thinks that he has caught Ollie up, but realises it is because he is treading water and not racing, and thinks Ollie might have proved his point and the race had been abandoned. Ollie then enrages him with his patronising behaviour and even though his arms and legs feel like ‘lead’, Ian is still proud and competitive and wants to carry on with the race.

Do not always say ’he feels’ or ‘he thinks’, but try he realises –he is surprised – is consoled – admits to himself – he resigns himself etc. as it adds variety.

Lines 26-54 –how does the writer try to make these lines dramatic and exciting? 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 other techniques. Do not forget line by line and keep thinking beyond written word.

\*\*\*\*\* (really must look at choice or words) \*\*\*\*\*\*

* The race starts again with Ollie ‘desperate’ to stay head which implies that he is determined and perhaps will do something daring (try to think of alternate meanings for the words you know are important)
* Ollie was knocked back by a wave which perhaps he shouldn’t have been because it was not that big, and he looks tired which both seem unusual because he has been portrayed as a strong swimmer up until now (uncertainty is something that writers like to include as it adds drama)
* The race is then on again and they collide with a ‘violent thud’ which suggests a brutal nature which is intensified with the immediate ‘clutching’ of Ian’s arm by Ollie. ( can’t just mention these meaningful words have to explain feeling they give you i.e. the effect)
* There is a reversal of the lead as suddenly Ian is in the lead and shoves Ollie out of the way which sent him down which worries Ian and obviously also worries the reader (worry from character who is in the situation and should know best will worry reader)
* Ollie lunges upwards with his eyes ‘bright and eager’ and even though Ian says it is a trick, the reader is not sure as he grabs Ian’s arm again. (uncertainty again – you can really see him thrust out of the water can’t you with the word ‘lunge’)
* Ollie’s arms ‘snaked around’ Ian and he dragged them both down. The mention of a snake conjures up powerful and dangerous imagery as if they are being dragged underwater by an animal force(imagery is your friend, along with similes and metaphors as comparing things to other things reinforces their image in your head)
* Even though Ian is convinced Ollie is messing about, there is also the introduction of the word ‘death’ which immediately strengthens the change in atmosphere which is occurring (sudden introduction here and no going back now as the thought ‘death’ has been planted like a seed in your mind) sounds really good doesn’t it?
* Ian can’t shake Ollie off and they sink ‘like statues’ a simile conjuring up an image of motionless and heaviness
* They have been under water a long time as Ian wonders how long Ollie can hold his breath as they are still sinking ‘into the blackness’ and they seem ‘tied’ together (no release, no escape, only down aaaaagh)
* Ian’s actions are violent, punching him in the face and kneeing him in the stomach to get free and the action seems life or death
* The desperation is clear as ‘friendship no longer counted’-blunt and forceful
* Ian ‘treads’ Ollie down to save himself ‘trodden under, trodden down’. The battle to survive is horrifying like survival of the fittest
* Ian reaches the surface but is not in good shape and it takes him a while to recover and there is relief that Ian is safe
* Ollie is still missing and it crosses Ian’s mind that Ollie wasn’t fooling but still thinks he is playing a prank. The reader thinks he knows more than Ian at this point as it is becoming clear that Ollie is in trouble.

(Now try to address the point of the writer’s method 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 they do, what they say and what they think. His own choice of words will obviously be really important but you really should know this as choice of language really is everywhere in poems and fiction extracts.)**

**We have really done this as we have gone along haven’t we this time –**

1. **ACTION is life or death and battle to survive is horrifying**
2. **DIALOGUE none in this extract because underwater - his ‘mouth was shut against the water’- everything is very physical**
3. **THOUGHTS are of trying to stop Ollie messing about and then of survival and even at the end of the extract not really thinking anything was wrong**
4. **INTERACTION OF OTHERS only two characters present so no one to witness or help or diffuse an uncontrollable desperate situation**
5. **PHRASES such as ‘friendship no longer counted’ is blunt and forceful and shows situation as it really is**
6. **LANGUAGE such as ‘desperate’, ‘violent’ and ’lunged’ which are strong adjectives associated with struggles**
7. **IMAGERY such as ‘snaked around’ and ‘like statues’ conjuring up clear and powerful images**

Lines 55-73 what happens and how do you react to what happens? Slightly different question again. Keep it in mind. It is different from last question. We must show clearly now what happens and what your response is to that. Personal response is in red.

* Rufus emerges from the water and Ian has to help him.
* He gets the dog to safety (although Ollie seems forgotten about for the moment)
* There is surprise when the dog appears and I am glad that he is led to safety. Ollie is forgotten about for the moment and the saving of the dog creates an upturn in the mood but disregarding Ollie totally for the dog seems uncaring.
* There is no sign of Ollie and the search is in vain
* Ian still clings to hope and imagines Ollie appearing
* There is increasing concern for Ollie which seems to have been inevitable for a long time to the reader. I think Ian is incredibly ignorant to not have picked up on the obvious. How can he concentrate solely on the dog when his friend has probably drowned? Perhaps the extreme emotions that he has experienced on account of his friend have altered his friendship – which in his own words ‘no longer counted’ Is he a hero saving the dog or a villain leaving Ollie to drown?
* His description of events makes it clear Ollie has drowned
* He imagines a future in which it was Ollie who had survived
* The sad tragedy is realised at last at the end. Ian’s comments that he had ‘won’ and ‘lived to tell the story’ says it all I think. It was a life or death struggle which occurred during an innocent swimming race with his best friend, which he had won. The race however seemed to be more than innocent even from the beginning.