

Example of short quote analysis in an essay following MHRA style

The following quote, located in the homiletic section of the poem, is useful to explain the difference between life on earth and life after death present in *The Seafarer*: ‘Though a brother may wish to strew his brother’s | grave with *gold*, bury him among the dead | with myriad *treasures* to take with him, that *gold* will be *useless* before the *terror* of God’.¹ The poetic voice describes the importance of material things while humans are alive with the word ‘gold’, which is repeated twice in this quote, and with word ‘treasure’, both linked to the idea of wealth. However, the poet is clear about the loss of value of earthly wealth when confronted with spiritual matters by using the word ‘useless’, explaining that possessions will not be beneficial when God judges our actions in the afterlife (‘terror of God’). The use of the word ‘terror’ gives a sense of the fear and respect that the poetic voice has for God’s power.

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Example of long quote analysis in an essay following MHRA style

During the conclusion of *Lord of the Flies*, Ralph and the other boys realize the horror of their actions. Focusing on this moment is useful to analyse the way that the characters experience the events and establish a link between each other:

The *tears* began to flow and sobs shook him. He gave himself up to them now for the first time on the island; great, *shuddering spasms* of grief that seemed to *wrench* his whole *body*. His *voice rose* under the black smoke before the burning wreckage of the island; and infected by that *emotion*, the other little boys began to *shake* and *sob* too.²

The emotional reaction of the boys is clearly described through their physical response as we see them ‘shudder’, ‘shake’, and ‘sob’, all indications that their internal feelings are so strong that they

¹ *The Seafarer*, in *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: The Medieval Period*, ed. by Joseph Black and others (Peterborough, Ont.: Broadview Press, 2015), pp. 43-45, (97-100, p. 20). My emphasis.

² William Golding, *The Lord of the Flies*, (New York: Perigee, 2003), p. 186. My emphasis. Example taken from *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, ed. by The Modern Language Association of America (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2009), p. 93.

manifest themselves in the reaction of their bodies The shared awareness is evident from the similar attitude of the whole group, who respond to the elevated voice ('rose') of their friend.

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The emotional reaction of the boys is clearly described through their physical response as we see them “shudder”, “shake”, and “sob”, all indications that their internal feelings are so strong that they manifest themselves in the reaction of their bodies The shared awareness is evident from the similar attitude of the whole group, who respond to the elevated voice (“rose”) of their friend.