

# Bird's eye view: how to talk about the BIG PICTURE

## 1. The writer...



Writer's name... (spelled correctly and with a capital letter!)

2. ...says (or does)...

presents	reflects
suggests	alludes to
creates	challenges
evokes	questions
illustrates	explores
implies	echoes
gives the impression that	mirrors
highlights	
introduces	

## 3. ...something...

Theme  
Notion  
Idea  
Belief

(violence/ power/ conflict/  
mental stability / identity/  
gender/ age/ nature/ duality/  
relationships/ love/ death/  
pain/ greed/ supernatural...)

## 4. ...in the text...

...throughout the novel/play/poem...  
...across the text...  
...from the beginning...  
...by the end...



**Example: Shakespeare challenges notions of gender throughout the play....**

## Interesting BIG IDEAS

to talk about:

- ➔ Structure      Repetitive/ cyclical/ fragmented/ linear/ chronological...
- ➔ Character Journey      Rise/ ascend/ grow/ mature/ fall/ descend/ fail/ struggle/ change...
- ➔ Narrative arc      Moments of: tension/ stress/ calm/ resolution/ shift/ change/ conflict/ clarity...
- ➔ Change/shift      Tone/ atmosphere/ mood/ attitude...

## The author is trying to...

- ...make a point about...
- ...change our ideas about...
- ...share their own experiences of...
- ...teach us about...
- ...respond to (event or idea)...
- ...promote (idea)...
- ...challenge us to...
- ...entertain...
- ...express (emotion: anger/ fear/ love...)

human nature  
society  
human capabilities  
human behaviour  
echo/distort/mirror reality  
existence  
the purpose of life

*Shakespeare explores the Jacobean **belief** in the divine right of kings **throughout the play**. In the opening, the monarchy is seen as strong and unimpeachable because Macbeth is a powerful warrior on its side. However, there is a significant **shift** when Macbeth commits the sin of regicide; Shakespeare portrays the **descent** of society into chaos. The author is trying to **promote** the idea of divine kingship, and suggesting that without a monarchy, **society** will crumble.*

