Correction of the Exam of Stylistics (June 2014)

The student had to study what the text was about by doing the development of the scene (Walter Nash’s) pointing out the content and mode: in the first paragraph, Usher is in the grips of terror, and loses touch with reality; it shows his delirious mental breakdown; or you could also say that the first paragraph illustrates the first sentence or topic sentence. In the second paragraph, the link between the physique of the house and R.Usher (his morale) is made. The student then had to study the foregroundings in the text: their nature, effect linking each to the general meaning of the passage.

Foregroundings:

1. ‘I shall perish’

I *must* perish’ Parallelism

1. Thus, thus Repetition
2. Repetition of terror Repetition
3. Fear in capital letters graphological deviation
4. Physique and morale italics.

(N.B: students found even more foregroundings)

How did we grade your papers?

2pts for each foregrounding mentioned: 1pt for its nature, the kind of foregrounding it is, and then its effect, the purpose it is used for: 1 pt.

That adds up to 10 pts; the rest of the mark: 10pts will be according to your other personal comments on the text! If a student found 6 foregroundings, she or he will have 12 points on them!

This was to make it clear how the teachers of stylistics assessed your papers at the end of the academic year 2013/ 2014.

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