

Year 11 into 12 English Literature Transition Work

Unseen Crime Fiction Extract - 'The Talented Mr. Ripley' by Patricia Highsmith

As part of your A Level English Literature course you will need to analyse the ways crime is presented and how meanings are created in an unseen extract from a crime fiction novel.

Here is an extract from 'The Talented Mr. Ripley,' in an exam you would not need to know anything about the novel, but be able to analyse the way that the crime is presented in the given extract.

Here are some prompts and questions to get you started:

- What is the crime? How is it committed? Does the reader get lots of detail? If so, why do you think this is? What effect does it have?
- Where is the crime set? Is this typical for the type of crime?
- Who is the victim? Do they fit into the stereotype of a 'victim'?
- Who is the criminal? Is there an obvious motive? Do they fit into the stereotype of a criminal?
- Who is the narrative perspective from? What impact might this have on a reader?
- Is there a key moment in the extract? How does the reader feel about this moment?
- The structure of the extract? How does it open and close? Indeed, is this significant in any way?

Don't worry if you find this challenging - it is totally new and really we just want you to start thinking about crime in literature texts.

Task

Either:

1. Annotate the extract with notes and details in response to the prompts above.

Or

2. Write a short response to each of the prompts above.