Talk For Learning Action Research Project – Year 6 St Mary's CE School Woodbridge.

Using a vertical relay activity to analyse a techniques used in a short fiction action extract.

The children worked collaboratively in groups of 4 to 6 to carry out an active relay activity to analyse a piece of text during the reading phase of our fiction unit.

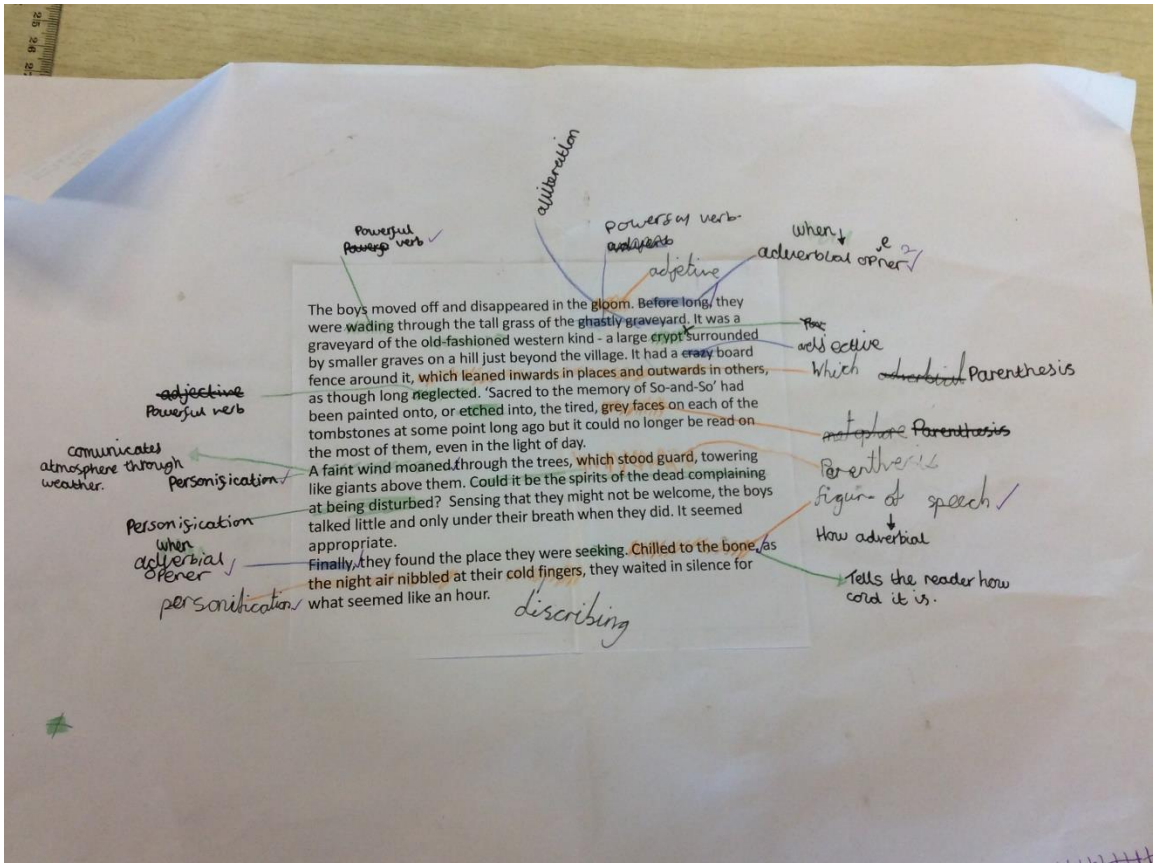
The extract was photocopied in the middle of a piece of A3 paper for each table so that the children had lots of space to annotate around the edge.

Each child chose a different colour to use and a quick key was drawn so that I could establish who was responsible for the different annotation form each group at the end.

They took turns in passing the sheet around and highlighting, annotating or explaining a feature.

We agreed on the following criteria for scoring points:

Task	1 point	2 points	3 points
Highlight and annotate a piece of text for specific features.	Highlight a feature.	Correctly label the feature.	Explain its purpose.

There was lots of peer coaching during the activity because every team was determined to win the most points but I also used a time period of silence to ensure that everybody had an opportunity where they could contribute individually without being influenced by team members and 30 seconds for them to 'magpie' ideas form other groups.

At the end we looked at the extract together and because everyone had felt supported by their group all learners were happy to contribute to the feedback. The children then tallied their points to establish the winning team.