

IGCSE English - Emotion Nouns for Reader's Impression

Positive Emotions	Neutral / Mixed Emotions	Negative Emotions
calmness, peace, serenity	curiosity, interest	fear, anxiety, dread
admiration, respect	uncertainty, doubt	tension, suspense
hope, optimism	reflection, contemplation	sadness, sorrow, melancholy
affection, warmth	indifference, detachment	anger, frustration, resentment
joy, delight	surprise, hesitation	pity, sympathy, compassion
relief	anticipation	guilt, shame, remorse
awe, wonder	neutrality	shock, horror, disgust
gratitude, appreciation	scepticism	isolation, loneliness

Useful Phrases for Reader Response

- The reader feels [emotion]...
- This creates a sense of [emotion]...
- Dickens evokes [emotion] in the reader...
- The effect on the reader is [emotion]...
- This builds [emotion] as...
- The reader experiences [emotion] due to...

PEEL Paragraph Examples (Example from *Hard Times*, Charles Dickens) for EDEXCEL 4EA1

Edexcel International GCSE English Language A (4EA1) you must write about reader's impression + writer's methods on:

- Paper 1 (4EA1/01) Q4: "How does the writer use language and structure to...?" (AO2). This is the core analysis question—methods + effects expected. ☐

- Paper 2 (4EA1/02) Section A, the single Reading Q (Q1): typically worded “How does the writer present X / try to interest the reader?” and the rubric explicitly says write about language and structure. Methods + effects required

PEEL Paragraph Examples (Example from *Hard Times*, Charles Dickens) for EDEXCEL

You only need to write about **reader’s feelings (impressions) + language techniques** in one place: **Question 2 of Paper 1 and Paper 2.**

This is where your emotional vocabulary and technique vocabulary (metaphor, emotive language, verbs, contrast) are useful.

Example 1 – Emotion: Pity

Point:

Dickens creates a strong sense of **pity** in the reader for Stephen Blackpool by presenting him as powerless against an unjust system.

Evidence:

“I have no way to help myself,” Stephen says quietly when accused unfairly by Bounderby.

Explanation:

Dickens uses **emotive language** (“no way to help myself”) and a gentle, resigned manner of speech (“quietly”) to emphasise Stephen’s helplessness. This highlights how the industrial system crushes honest workers. The reader feels **sympathy and sadness**, recognising Stephen’s dignity despite his suffering.

Link:

Through this use of **emotive language**, Dickens evokes pity and criticises the harsh, uncaring values of industrial society.

Example 2 – Emotion: Tension

Point:

Dickens builds **tension** in the reader during the scene where Louisa confronts her father.

Evidence:

Her voice is described as “**suppressed**” and “**trembling**” when she says, “You have trained me from my cradle.”

Explanation:

The **adjectives** “suppressed” and “trembling” show Louisa holding back powerful emotions. Dickens uses **word choice and dialogue** to suggest she is reaching her emotional limit. This creates **suspense and anticipation**, as the reader senses that years of bottled-up pain are about to spill over.

Link:

By using **carefully chosen diction (word choice) and dramatic dialogue**, Dickens creates tension and reveals the consequences of a cold, fact-driven upbringing.