

It is often necessary to interpret information from the different parts of a text. For example, if you are reading a newspaper article, you might learn the age of a fever victim at the beginning – then later that they are the youngest ever victim of that fever. The same could apply to a poem or a play.

Getting you thinking

Read the opening stanza of Sophie Hannah's poem *Symptoms*. What does the final line – when taken with the rest of the stanza – suggest about being in love?

Although you have given me a stomach upset,
Weak knees, a lurching heart, a fuzzy brain,
A high-pitched laugh, a monumental phone bill,
A feeling of unworthiness, sharp pain
When you are somewhere else, a guilty conscience,
A longing, and a dread of what's in store,
A pulse rate for the Guinness Book of Records –
Life now is better than it was before.

How does it work?

Here is an example of a Level 6 answer.

an answer:

The stanza lists lots of negatives about being in love, 'stomach upset ... a dread of what's in store', but the final line, 'Life now is better than it was before', turns the whole poem around. The final line suggests in relation to the rest that though there can be many difficult experiences when you are in love, life is better for it. It suggests that all the negatives are worth it.