

Brothers AQA

Student Response in black and tutor additions in red

Structure Q3

The writer uses a circular narrative by beginning and ending the story with descriptions of weather. At the start of the story Niall and Ciaran rowing to the centre of the Lough in a calm, beautiful day with a 'brilliant blue sky', and ends with only Niall rowing back during a 'downpour'. The use of the pathetic fallacy heightens the tension between the two brothers and indicates to the reader that something bad will happen between the brothers. **The change in weather matches the increasing anger building up in the character of Niall, targeted at his brother Ciaran. In this way, the storm is a metaphorical storm of anger in Niall, and it is released when he finally gets his revenge on his brother.**

The story is in third person, with the action moving between the lough, the court, the day of the crime and back to the lough. Third person allows the reader to see the thoughts and emotions of all the individual characters. However, we see the thoughts of Niall, rather than Ciaran, and it is Niall whose side we are on. **The story uses a flash back to when Niall was in prison and awaiting trial, and the narrator describes how he "sat in his cell and cried". This insight into Niall's life after the verdict, and the impact Ciaran's betrayal had on him, clearly makes Niall the protagonist, and the person who we support, and Ciaran the antagonist, and the person we are pleased that suffers.**