

How could the purpose of this extract be considered differently from the perspective of the 4 themes?

How might the modulating sentence structures, at the beginning of paragraph two, affect the tone and pacing of the narrative?

Why might the writer seek to convey particularly distressing imagery in the final lines? Which linguistic and literary devices help to amplify this imagery?

The barbed wire lacerated my back. I was trembling uncontrollably. After long hours spent waiting for nightfall, to avoid attracting the attention of Turkish soldiers, I finally raised my head and gazed up at the distant sky, darkening to black. Under the wire fence marking the line of the border a tiny burrow had been dug out, just big enough for one person. My feet sank into the soil and the barbs mauled my back as I crawled along the lines of separation between the two countries.

I took a deep breath, arched my back and ran as fast as I could just as they had told me to do. Fast. Half an hour at a sprint- that's the distance you have to cover before you've safely crossed the border. I ran until we were out of the danger zone.

The ground was treacherous and rocky, but my feet felt light as I sprinted. The pounding of my heart carried, lifting me up. Panting, I murmured to myself I'm back! This isn't a scene from a film, this is real. I ran mouthing I'm back. I'm here. Behind us, we heard gunshots and military vehicles moving around on the Turkish side, but we'd done it: we were through and we were running.

Before crossing the border, I had visited a hospital in the Turkish town of Reyhanli where there was a special emergency floor dedicated to Syrians wounded by shelling. One room after another reeked of putrefying patients laid out on white sheets, with mutilated feet, amputated limbs, hazy eyes. I was accompanied by Mansara and his brother in law, Manhal, who was one of the first activists to embrace the revolution in Saraqeb.

How could some of the violent lexical choice help create an appropriate tone to convey the writer's emotional experience?

How does the writer's use of preposition and imagery impact the reader as they are guided through the recollection?

How does the brief movement towards an anecdotal tone through synthetic personalisation serve to impact on the reader?

Is the writer's stream of conscience narrative style here effective, if so, what purpose does it serve?