

Q4: 'In these texts a hunt for a person is presented as an exciting and frightening experience.' How far do you agree?

Both texts agree with the statement to a certain extent; Text 1 focuses more on how frightening the experience can be whereas Text 2 provides a mixture of emotions. Whilst Richard Hannay is hiding in the dovecot, he notes that “for one horrid moment I fancied they were coming up.” The build-up of short and compound sentences in this paragraph increases the tension he was feeling and the threat of discovery, the adjective “horrid” underlining his intense fear here. The focus of his thoughts is on the men’s actions, which also implies how powerless he is and that they are in control, which further increases how frightening the experience is. However, in Text 2, there are elements of excitement as well as fear, as Watson describes the criminal as “springing over the stones in his way with the activity of a mountain goat.” Watson is almost complimenting the man’s agility, as verbs such as “springing” have a positive connotation and suggests how nimble he is, as if Watson is in awe of how easily he can move across the mountains and is recognising the man’s strengths. Nonetheless, he is using a metaphor to compare the criminal to a mountain goat, which is reinforcing how bestial he is, almost sub-human and not civilised: this reminds the reader that this is a man to be feared, as he is a violent criminal, not a civilised ‘gentleman’.

Q3: Explore how the writer presents the discovery of the man they were hunting. Refer to language and structure.

The discovery of the man they were hunting is presented as shocking, as “there was thrust out an evil yellow face, a terrible animal face” reinforces how sudden the reveal is. By repeating the description of the man’s face emphasises how the men are surprised

by its appearance: not only is it almost death-like, by being described as “yellow”, but it is sub-human and animalistic. This reflects the Victorian notion that criminals were physically different to other, ‘civilised’ individuals. **Adjectives** such as “evil” and “terrible” illustrate the threatening nature of this man and therefore how intimidating the discovery must have been for Watson and Sir Henry.