**Key Points For Writing a Text Response (based on the VCAA criteria)**

1. In each topic sentence, mention the author and how she / he is sending a particular message to readers. Some helpful verbs:
   1. Explores
   2. Shows
   3. Demonstrates
   4. Illustrates
   5. Creates an image of
   6. Suggests
   7. Describes
   8. Creates the impression that
   9. Depicts
   10. Portrays
   11. Sends the message that
   12. Presents
2. Make sure you keep mentioning the author’s views and values. How does the way the author presents his characters and the way they are treated or treat others affect the way the reader responds to these characters? Where do the author’s sympathies lie and why? Just as in a language analysis, how are readers positioned to accept or reject certain characters and their actions or attitudes?
3. Mention the historical and social context – dates, facts, events, attitudes. These factors influence the way characters respond to the variables in their lives. What ideas and attitudes have been inculcated in them by their own upbringing and how do they deal with changes in their situation that challenge or question these internalised values?
4. Make it clear that you understand that there can be different interpretations of events, characters’ decisions etc. There is not only one way to understand what is happening and, if you can show that you appreciate this, you will demonstrate a more sophisticated and thoughtful interpretation of the text and the author’s intentions.