



Step Up Unit 1: AQA GCSE English Language

Section A - Lesson Two **Quickfire Questions**

The following is an extract from the novel **Alone** by Angela Marston:

Kit put his shoulder against the slats and pushed hard. There was the sound of hinges squealing indignantly, and the rough noise of wood against stone. But slowly, slowly, the gate opened to reveal the garden beyond.

To say it was overgrown was an understatement. Brushing away the tendrils of ivy which grasped at his face, Kit stepped forward into the chaos. Weeds brushed at his waist as he made his way carefully along a cobbled path. Vines snaked at his feet, ready to trip him and send him headlong into patches of nettles. Branches from overhanging trees worked into his hair, snagging and pulling at it as he tried to force his way through. It was as if nature herself were holding him back, preventing him from disturbing the sleep of this forgotten wilderness.

He pushed on, wishing he had brought a stick or spade with him – something to help clear a path through the bushes. His clothes were already torn and tattered, and he could feel scratches on his face and arms from the vicious thorns of a rose bush which appeared to have insinuated itself on all sides of the path. He wiped sweat from his brow; although it was a cold day, he was sweating through his shirt. From exertion, or from fear? He couldn't tell. There was something about this strange, overgrown garden which made him nervous.

And then, he saw it. Nestled in the heart of a tangle of thorns and leaves, a blood-red rose rested. Cloying, its scent reached Kit's nostrils as he bent forward for a closer look. The soft, fragile petals shone through the dingy greens and greys like a beacon of light, illuminating this small patch of the garden with their beauty and colour.

Where is the extract set?

What happens in the extract?

What impression does the author give of the environment?

Find one thing you like about the extract. What is it?



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Indicative content (please credit any valid response):

Where is the extract set?

In an overgrown garden.

What happens in the extract?

The character Kit enters the garden and fights his way through the overgrowth to discover a blood-red rose.

What impression does the author give of the environment?

It is disordered and threatening; nature is personified as if it were an adversary, trying to thwart Kit.

Find one thing you like about the extract. What is it?

Personal response - accept any reasonable answer.