

Comparative Textual Analysis

Text A

Silver Lining by Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy. This poem was written in 2010 in response to the eruption of a volcano in Iceland that proceeded to cause mass disruption to world wide air travel.

Text B

An extract from a report by Pravada, a Russian newspaper, describing the consequences of the 2010 Icelandic volcano's previous eruptions.

Text C

An eyewitness account of an Icelandic resident, describing the 2010 eruption and its impact. This was published on the BBC News website.

Using integrated approaches, compare and contrast how the 2010 Icelandic volcanic eruption is presented in Texts A-C.

In your response, you must analyse and evaluate how the different contexts and purposes of the texts influence linguistic choice. You must also consider how effective each text is in developing its ideas.

TEXT A *Silver Lining* (2010): Carol Ann Duffy

Five miles up the hush and shush of ash,
Yet the sky is as clean as a white slate -
I could write my childhood there.
Selfish to sit in this garden listening to the past
(A gentleman bee wooing its flower, a lawnmower)
When the grounded planes mean ruined plans,
Holidays on hold, sore absences at weddings, funerals... wingless commerce.
But Britain's birds sing in this spring
From Inverness to Liverpool, from Crieff to Cardiff
Oxford, Londontown, Land's End to John O' Groats.
The music's silent summons,
That Shakespeare heard and Edward Thomas, briefly, us.

Carol Ann Duffy

**TEXT B Icelandic Ash Cloud: Is This the Beginning of an Ecological Disaster? (2010):
Timothy Bancroft-Hinchey**

Icelandic Ash Cloud: Is This the Beginning of an Ecological Disaster?

In just one day, volcanic ash spewing forth from Iceland's Eyjafjallajokull has brought airports to a halt in the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland and is expected to spread over other areas of Europe by Thursday evening. The last time this volcano blew, it was deadly, emitting large quantities of toxic fluoride gas.

Horrific history

The last time Eyjafjallajokull had an episode was in 1821, pouring tonnes of ash containing toxic fluoride gas into the atmosphere. It lasted not 24 hours, but until 1823, causing the deaths of many cattle and sheep through fluor poisoning. Eyjafjallajokull has had four eruptions in the last thousand years: in 920, 1612, 1821-1823 and now in 2010. All of the previous eruptions were precursors to more massive activity from the neighbouring Katla volcano but as yet geologists have not registered any seismic activity.

Eyjafjallajokull, a glacier covering a volcano of 1,600 metres in height and with a crater of 3 to 4 km in diameter, started becoming unstable at the end of 2009, when a number of small earthquakes fuelled by building pressure seven kilometres beneath the volcano gave rise to a peak in activity – 3,000 earthquakes were registered between March 3 and 5 this year. This in turn was followed by an eruption on March 20.

There were two further eruptions on April 13 and 14, under the glacier causing meltwater floods to force the evacuation of 800 people from the slopes. From Wednesday to Thursday a huge cloud of ash, which continues to billow from the volcano, spread eastwards, causing flights to be cancelled across Western and Northern Europe.

Timothy Bancroft-Hinchey

TEXT C Eyewitness: Icelandic Volcano: Gina Christie (2010)

I woke up on Friday with a weird feeling that something just wasn't right. It wasn't light as it normally is - we don't really have night-time at this time of year.

I looked outside and there was a thick, black cloud of ash directly above us. It was exactly like the middle of winter. What is even more surreal was the absolute bright daylight on either side of our village.

The wind changed and it rained ash. Everything, absolutely everything is coated in a thick, black gloop. All my beautiful flowers and rhubarb are soaked in it. I have no idea if any of them will survive or not.

Today, we have had a little more ash fall but tomorrow the wind is meant to change again and it will be directly over our village again.

We have spent the last three days vacuuming, mopping and watering down the walls and roof of our house.

We have also been trying to water the grass, the surrounding deck and the car park to try and dampen the ash - once it dries, it is very, very nasty and blows everywhere with the smallest puff of air.

The roads have all become very dusty despite being tarmac and it is now like driving on the dirt roads in Africa.

The poor farmers to the east of us have been horribly affected. Many of them have either had to send their horses, sheep and cattle to the slaughterhouse early or try desperately to get their livestock moved to other grazing lands.

Another big impact has been on tourism which makes up nearly 40% of our GDP. My husband manages a very large, popular salmon fishing river and although there is no threat to tourists, unfortunately many have cancelled.

Gina Christie