At the end of "The Fog Horn" the change in the setting creates a peaceful and relieved mood. Earlier in the story a monster had risen from the sea and attacked the lighthouse, but now the ocean is described as "calm" and the "waves washed empty on the shore" (328). Nothing frightening is lurking in the ocean or washing up on the beach. This change in the ocean lets the reader know that the main characters are safe now and are not about to be attacked again. The change in the weather also further reinforces the sense of relief. Before the attack the weather was described as cold and foggy, but now "the sun was hot and yellow" and "the sky blue" (328). Earlier the fog hid the monster from view and made everything look mysterious, but the bright weather exposes everything in the area and makes it impossible for any dangers to hide in the shadows. The warmth from the sun also provides comfort after a cold, brutal night. The dramatic shift in the setting lets the reader know that the danger in the story is now over and everything will be peaceful again.

Main Idea:

Paragraph Diagram

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name in mood signals story is

In The Foghorn by Ray Bradbury the setting creates an eerie, lonely mood. In the very beginning of the story Bradbury describes the area around the lighthouse, writing that "there wasn't a town for a hundred miles down the coast, just a road which came lonely through dead country to the sea, with few cars on it, a stretch of two miles of cold water to our rock, and rare few ships" (325) This description makes it clear the two main characters are utterly alone and isolated out in the lighthouse. Using the word "dead" instead of "empty" to describe the country emphasizes that there is nothing living out here, which is a frightening thought since there would be no one to help if something went wrong. People also often fear death, so the word itself has a scary connotation and brings frightening imagery to mind. In addition to the isolation, the description of the fog adds to the eerie mood. The narrator says at one point that because of the fog, "You couldn't see far and you couldn't see plain." Since the narrator cannot see beyond the fog, he has no idea what might be lurking out in the sea, creating a sense that something frightening could be just out of sight. The sound of the fog horn itself further emphasizes the lonely, eerie mood. Bradbury describes the horn as "shuddering through the mist." Using the word "shuddering" rather than "sounding" or "calling" brings to mind a person shaking in pain or fear. In just the first few pages of this story the setting leaves the reader with a sense of foreboding and loneliness.

Which detail provides the strongest evidence of the mood? Why?

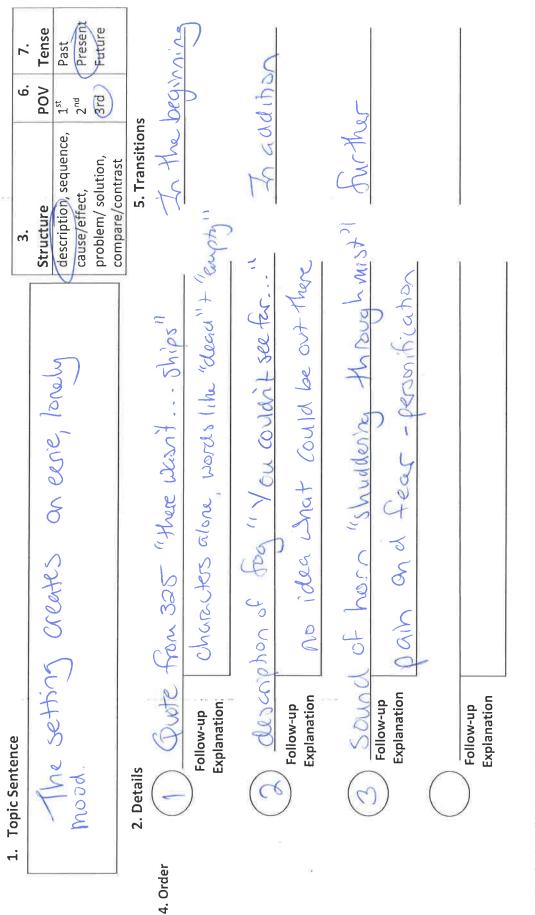
Could someone who hasn't read the story follow this paragraph? Why or why not?

How do you think the writer chose to organize his details?

Main Idea:

Name:

Paragraph Diagram



8. Concluding "So What" Sentence

Sense of foreboding and weliness