# Step 1 - overview

What is the extract about? What happens and what themes are explored?

Who is the writer’s target audience and what is his purpose in writing?

# Step 2 – analyse

Find references and quotations to support the following statements:

1. The writer assesses each part of the descent carefully before undertaking it.
2. He is very experienced in his field of expertise.
3. He hints at the sense of the danger he is in before the boulder falls on him.
4. The falling boulder totally surprises him.
5. He is in great pain.
6. He shows great determination to survive.

# Step 4 - evaluate

Look at the text again. Then answer the following questions:

* What is the effect of the title?
* What is the effect of the writer using the present tense?
* Why does the writer spend half the text building up to the moment of the boulder falling?
* What is the effect of time references?
* How does the use of ‘as I dangle’ (line33) create tension?
* How does the writer use verbs to demonstrate the violence of the accident?
* Does the writer want us to feel pity for him? Explain your views.