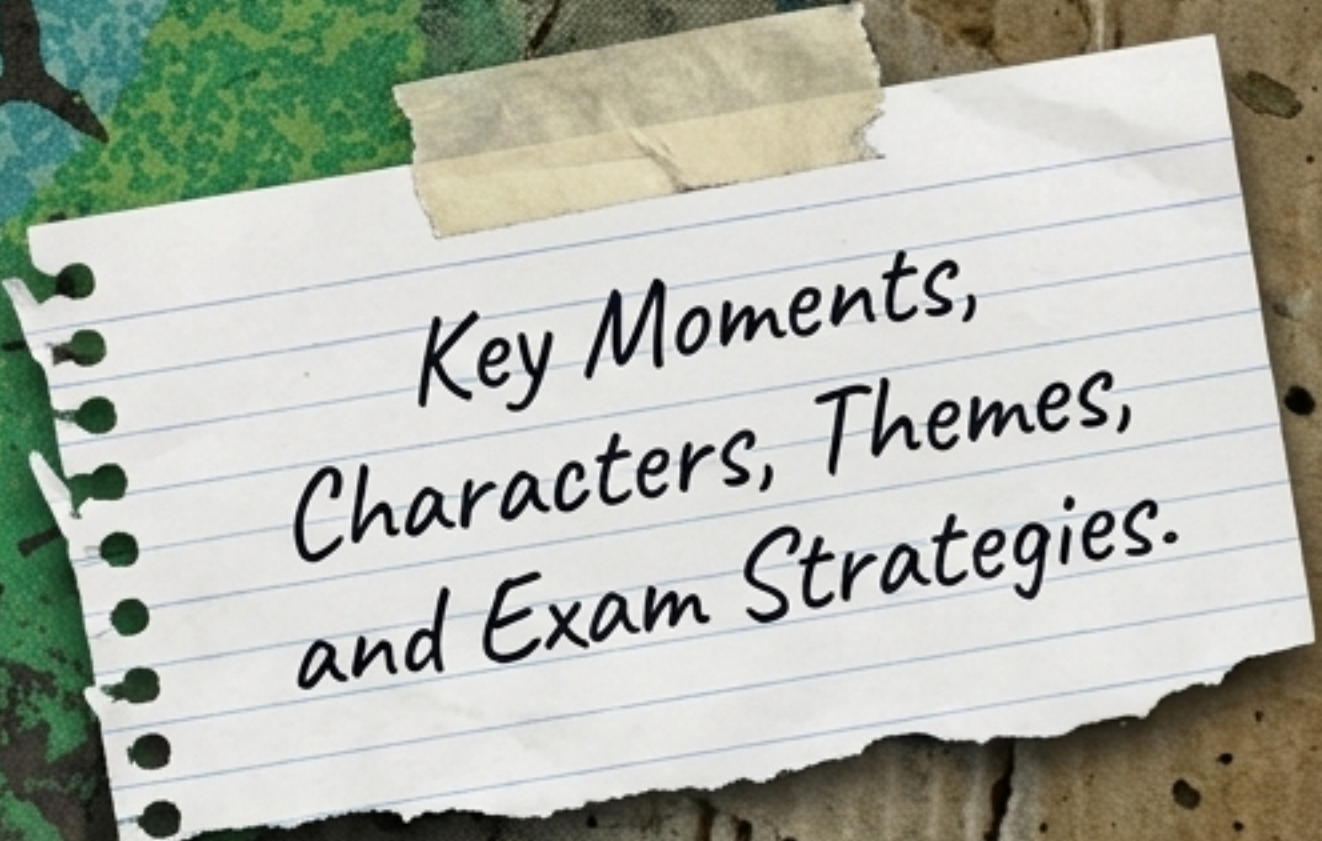


TRASH by Andy Mulligan

The Ultimate Junior Cycle Revision Guide



Key Moments,
Characters, Themes,
and Exam Strategies.

Two Worlds, One City



HARSH

UNEQUAL

DAY-TO-DAY SURVIVAL

- Life is dictated by the hook—picking through what the wealthy throw away.

HARSH

DAY-TO-DAY SURVIVAL

“It’s a place they call Behala, and it’s rubbish-town. [...] The mountains go right from the docks to the marshes, one whole long world of steaming trash.”

CORRUPT



The Find That Changed Everything

*Found by Raphael
and Gardo in the
steaming trash.*

**The ultimate catalyst.
The boys transform from
invisible scavengers to
hunted targets.**

"With the right key,
you can bust the door
wide open. Because
nobody's going to open
it for you."

The Dumpsite Boys



Raphael

Role: The Narrator / A dumpsite boy

Strength: Intuition

Weakness/Arc: Deeply fearful, but demonstrates immense bravery under pressure.



Gardo

Role: The Protector

Strength: Physical toughness and fierce loyalty

Weakness: Cynicism



Rat (Jun-Jun)

Role: The Outcast

Strength: Stealth and resourcefulness

Motivation: Escape (finding a way out of the city forever).

The Power Dynamics of Behala

Antagonists (The Corrupt)

Senator Zapanta: Stole from his own people.

The Police: Brutal enforcers of systemic inequality.

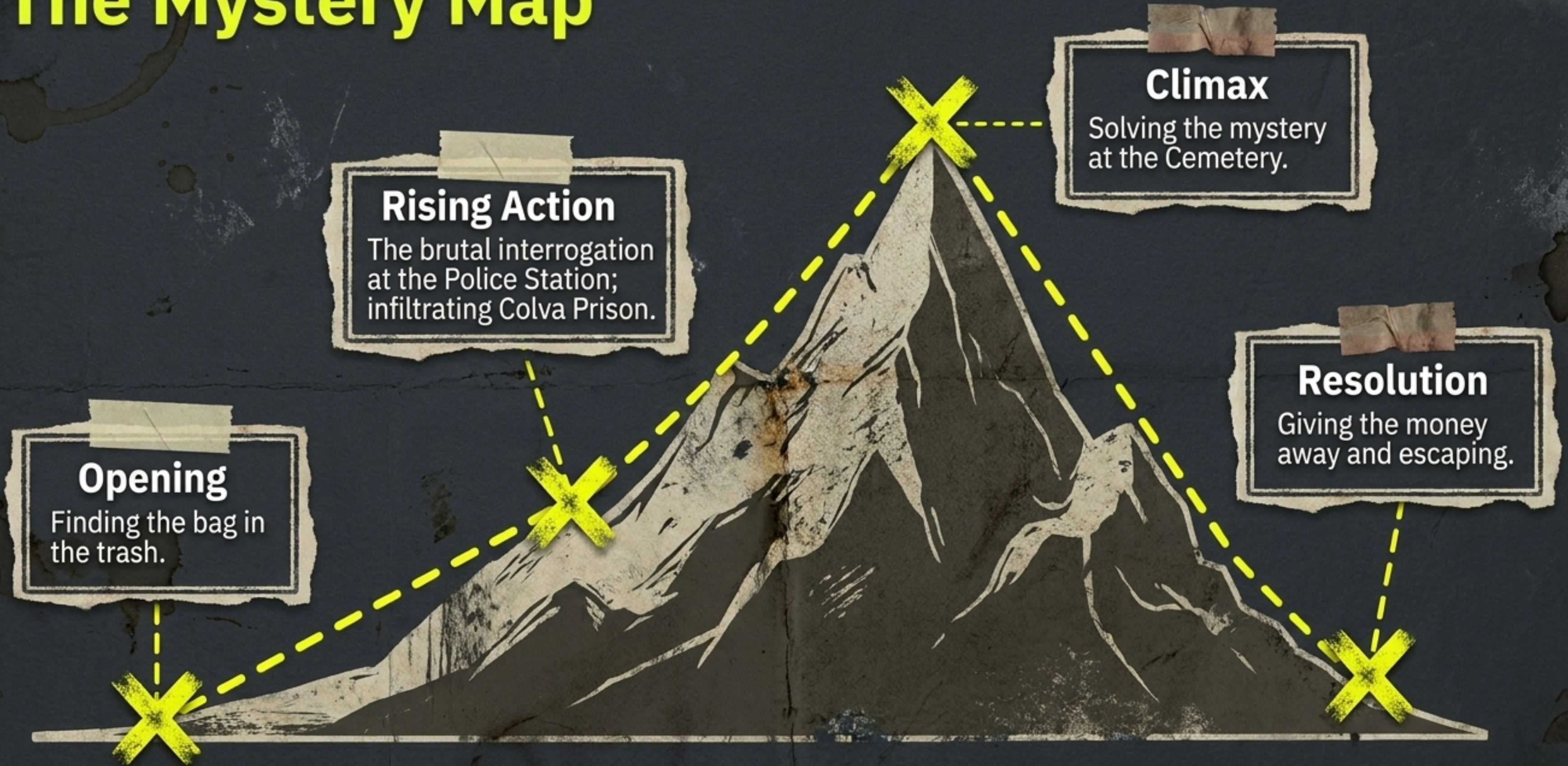
Allies (The Helpers)

Father Julliard & Olivia: Outsiders with resources.

Gabriel Olondriz & Jose Angelico: The catalysts for justice.

Exam Insight: The boys actively manipulate their allies for the greater good—Father Julliard admits they “deceived me beautifully,” and Olivia is used to access Colva prison.

The Mystery Map



Key Moment 1: The Interrogation



Exam Focus

Demonstrates the absolute lack of human rights for the poor. The police treat Raphael not as a child, but as disposable property.

Character Arc

Raphael's defining moment. Despite his paralyzing fear, he remains silent to protect his friends and the truth.

Key Moment 2: Inside Colva Prison

The Revelation

Meeting Gabriel Olondriz reveals the true crime. Senator Zapanta stole international seed money meant for the poor and framed Gabriel.

In this country
you pay for
being stupid,
just as you pay
for being poor.

Exam Focus

The boys realize they aren't just fighting for survival; they are fighting a systemic issue of extreme corruption.

Key Moment 3: The Cemetery Climax



The Divide: The rich quarter, buried in earth.

Exam Focus

This setting perfectly encapsulates Behala's inequality—even in death, the poor are marginalized.



The Divide: The poor quarter, stacked in boxes.

The Resolution

The discovery of Pia Dante and the six million pesos hidden among the dead.

Theme Analysis: Systemic Inequality

The Real Crime:
It wasn't Jose stealing from Zapanta; it was Zapanta stealing international aid meant to lift the base out of poverty.

The Peak
Senator Zapanta and the corrupt elite.

“Senator Zapanta stopped a nation in its tracks.”

The Enforcers
The police, who use violence to maintain the divide.

The Base
The people of Behala, trapped by poverty.

Theme Analysis: Survival Through Solidarity

Stage 1: Day-to-Day

Survival begins as an individual, physical act.

Your life is the hook you carry

Raphael

Gardo

Rat

Stage 2: The Shift

It becomes impossible for the boys to survive alone once the police target them.

Stage 3: Unity

The author's ultimate message—true survival against a corrupt system is only possible when the marginalized work together.

The Writer's Craft: Multiple Narrators

Why use changing perspectives?

1. **Character Insight:** Gives direct access to the differing personalities and fears of Raphael, Gardo, and Rat.

2. **Pacing:** Drives the mystery forward like a relay race, keeping the tension high.

3. **Broader Worldview:** Outsider perspectives (like Father Julliard and Olivia) provide context about Behala that the boys consider "normal."

The Resolution: A Storm of Money

Trash Yellow

The Choice: Why throw it away? It is the ultimate rejection of Zapanta's greed.

Trash Yellow

The Outcome: They take what they need to escape ('we will fish for ever'), but return the rest to the trash for the people of Behala to find.



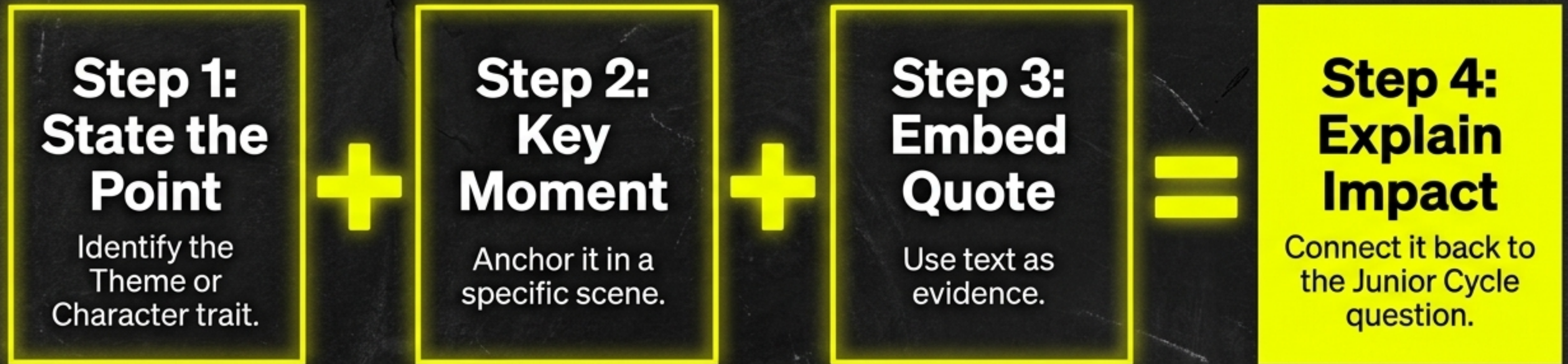
SHIPPING MANIFEST

SHIPMENT LIST

QUOTE COPY

"We took handfuls of the money then, and threw them up into the sky. The notes spilled out and whirled, and it was a storm of money."

Exam Synthesis: Building Your Paragraphs



Theme of Inequality

+

The Police Station Interrogation

+

"put you in the trash"

=

Proves that the system views the poor as disposable, forcing the boys to rely on each other.

The Essential Quote Vault

"One whole long world of steaming trash."

"Your life is the hook you carry, there in your hand, turning the trash."

"We could put you in the trash and nobody would care."

"In this country you pay for being stupid, just as you pay for being poor."

"With the right key, you can bust the door wide open."

"It was a storm of money."