His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman and Nicholas W right

Part 1 Act 2 Scenes 2 (pp. 96-101) and 5 (pp. 107-110)
These two interlinked scenes are very important because they contain explanations of several of the big ideas in the play. They also give us the chance to see the relationship between Lyra and Lord Asriel and, for the first time, the relationship between Lord Asriel and Mrs Coulter.

Scene 2 - from line 220 (Lyra goes into Asriel’s study)

How would you describe Lord Asriel’s behaviour towards Lyra in this scene?

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Note down two quotations which show examples of that behaviour.

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Look again at p.100. Earlier on in the scene, Lord Asriel tells Lyra that she had ‘brought me the key to a door that had never been opened’. What is that key, and what is the door? (If you find it difficult to answer this question, think carefully about what happens in scene 5.)

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At the conclusion of Scene 2, Lord Asriel agrees to Lyra asking him questions in the morning. Of course that scene doesn’t happen, but as Lord Asriel says, it might have done in another world! Write a 20 line script of what Lyra and Lord Asriel might have discussed over breakfast.

Things you might include:
• questions from Lyra about the relationship between her mother and father
• why Lord Asriel pretended to be her uncle
• where Lord Asriel has been on his travels
• questions about daemons
• stage directions which would be suitable for breakfast time (what they might be eating, what they might be doing…)
• questions of your own!

Remember to set the script out as it is in the play.
You might like to start your script with the lines below - or start it your own way.

LYRA (spreading her toast with bilberry jam) So why’d you leave me in Jordan College for so long?

LORD ASRIEL I had no choice, Lyra. I was far too busy carrying out experiments and going on expeditions…
Scene 5 - p. 107

What is Lord Asriel preparing to do? .................................................................
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Why is he doing it? (You might want to look back to scene 2.) .........................
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If you were staging the play, what forms would you have Lyra and Roger’s daemons take on during this scene? Why?
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Pantalaimon: ........................................................................................................
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Salcilia: ....................................................................................................................
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Nicholas Wright manages to make this scene exciting and tense. Look at the following page with key moments from the scene, decide which you think are the most tense, and plot them onto the tension graph using their letter. Are any of the moments as tense as each other? You might want to use a pencil so you can change things easily! When you have finished, you could try drawing a line of ‘best fit’ to see how the tension changes during the scene.

After you have completed your graph, look at the moments which you have chosen as the most tense and the least tense, and explain below why you chose to position them where you have on your graph.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td><em>Lord Asriel is preparing a hand-held blade.</em></td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>For a moment, Lyra, Pantalaimon, Roger and Salcilia are all together.</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| C | ROGER Feel funny.  
*He falls to the ground.* | 108 |
| D | *Mrs Coulter is heard approaching.* | 108 |
| E | ...a city appears in the Aurora. | 108 |
| F | Lord Asriel and Mrs Coulter kiss. | 109 |
| G | Lord Asriel’s and Mrs Coulter’s daemons move apart. | 109 |
| H | Lyra and Pantalaimon climb up, walk into the Aurora and go through it. | 110 |