Chiastic structure in John 11:45-12:11

A   Witnesses and opponents of Jesus (11:45-47a)
    a   **Many Jews saw** what Jesus did (i.e., raise **Lazarus**): "Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done." (11:45-46). *Jews, come, see*
    b   **Chief priests considered action** against Jesus: "Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin" (11:47a).

B   Question and answer (11:47b-50)
    c   **Sanhedrin wondered** what they were accomplishing: "'What are we accomplishing?' they asked. 'Here is this man performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation'" (11:47b-48).
    d   Caiaphas **scolded them** and suggested **Jesus' death**: "Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, 'You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish'" (11:49-50)
    e   **Explanation of motive**: "He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one." (11:51-52).

  C   **Sanhedrin decided to kill Jesus** (11:53): "So from that day on they plotted to take his life."

    D   **Jesus withdrew and stayed with disciples** (11:54): "Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the people of Judea. Instead he withdrew to a region near the wilderness, to a village called Ephraim, where he stayed with his disciples."

      E   **Pilgrims prepared** for Passover (11:55): "When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover."

        F   **People wondered what Jesus would do** (11:56): "They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple courts they asked one another, 'What do you think? Isn't he coming to the festival at all?'"

E' **Sanhedrin prepared** to arrest Jesus (11:57): "But the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who found out where Jesus was should report it so that they might arrest him."

D' **Jesus returned and was welcomed by friends** (12:1-2): "Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him."

C' **Mary decided to honor Jesus** (12:3): "Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume."

B' Question and answer (12:4-8)
c' **Judas wondered** what Mary accomplished: "But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 'Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages'" (12:4-5).
e' **Explanation of motive**: "He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it" (12:6).
d' Jesus **scolded** him and predicted **his own death**: "'Leave her alone,' Jesus replied. 'It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me'" (12:7-8).

A' Witnesses and opponents of Lazarus (12:9-10)
a' **Many Jews came** to see **Lazarus**: "Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead" (12:9). *Jews, come, see*
b' **Chief priests planned action** against Lazarus: "So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him." (12:10-11)