

Basic information

2024年1月6日 23:44

Title	Text type	Narrative voice
The Danger of a Single Story	Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Warning, advising, guiding• Retrospective
A Passage to Africa	Autobiography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innocent to experienced• Reflective• Investigative and exposing
Explorer's Daughter	Memoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experienced and knowledgeable• Retrospective and reflective
Explorers or boys	Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judgemental• Knowledgeable• Biased
127 Hours	Autobiography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledgeable and experienced• Confident at first and then surprised and worried
Young and Dyslexic	Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledgeable, reflective• Empowering, encouraging
A Game of Polo	Travelogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledgeable• Exciting
A Journey into Bhutan	Memoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inexperienced• Out of place• Curious
H is for Hawk	Memoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vulnerable• Confused
Chinese Cinderella	Memoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anxious• Deferential• Hopeful

The Danger of a Single Story

2023年12月21日 22:41

Stories

Problematic

- The Danger of a Single Story (Title)
 - Metaphor
 - Single story = symbolise one perspective
 - Story = fictional, incorrect
 - Danger = tone of threat → pathos

exactly the kinds of stories I was reading: all my characters were white and blue-eyed, they played in the snow, they ate apples, and they talked a lot about the weather, how lovely it was that the sun had come out.
- Now, this despite the fact that I lived in Nigeria. I had never been outside Nigeria. We didn't have snow, we ate mangoes, and we never talked about the weather, because there was no need to. ...
 - Asyndetic listing of western life → shows the limited perspective from the single story
 - Asyndetic listing of Nigerian life = contrasting parallelism to western life, highlight differences between western and Nigerian culture
 - They, we → contrast in pronouns, they = story, we = reality
 - Not reflecting the situation in Nigeria, unrealistic
- A single story of Africa: a single story of catastrophe
 - Parallelism
 - Africa has come to be equated with negative image (catastrophe) in the public (stereotype created)
- No possibility of Africans being similar to her in any way, no possibility of feelings more complex than pity, no possibility of a connection as human equals
 - Similar + human equals = (western people) accept others as being like you
 - Repetition of no possibility = single story prevents empathy and understanding, triggers discrimination
- One sentence paragraph "She assumed that I did not know how to use a stove"
 - Helps reflect limited view on Africans
- Anecdotes of Nigeria / US / Mexico
 - Nigeria + US + Mexico = multiple people doing it from multiple nationalities → universal experience → we can all be influenced by single story
 - Pathos: personal experience
 - Logos: shows evidence of single stories being wrong

Empowering

- They stirred my imagination. They opened up new worlds for me
 - Metaphors
 - Stirred: dynamic verb – shaping, stimulates
 - Imagination: connotes creativity, abstract noun – mental, mindset
 - → Story can change people's mindset
 - New worlds = symbolises other cultures / perspectives
 - → Story can lead to new journey and new opportunities
- Stories matter. Many stories matter.
 - Repetition with addition
 - Foreground the diversity of stories and their possibility of influencing people
- Highlights the paradoxical nature of "stories" as they can present "danger" but they have also "saved" her
 - It is important not to dismiss them completely
- Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign, but stories can also be used to empower and to humanize
 - Parallelism - stories have equally good and bad power

- Conclusion on how stories can shape how people see the world
- Metaphor for the power of literature
- Stories can break the dignity of a people, but stories can also repair that broken dignity
 - Antithesis of 'break' and 'repair' – destructive power vs. restorative power
 - Parallelism – both being equally possible
 - Stories can shape how a person is viewed by others

Thoughts and feelings about her own experience

Ashamed

- It saved me from having a single story of what books are
 - Saved: Pathos – metaphor for being rescued from difficulty (of having a single story / perspective)
 - Single story = allusion back to title
 - Suggesting that she has also experienced the danger
- Asyndetic listing of western + Nigerian life
 - Same as before
- Anecdote of Fide + Mexico
 - Show how she is affected
- Lexical field of pejorative verbs ("fleecing" "sneaking" "arrested") vs lexical field of laudatory verbs ("laughing" "overwhelmed" "rolling")
 - Juxtaposition show how the single stories have blinded her view

Enlightened

- They stirred my imagination. They opened up new worlds for me
 - Same as before
- But because of writers like Chinua Achebe and Camara Laye, I went through a mental shift in my perception of literature
 - Volta showing her changing perception
- It saved me from having a single story of what books are
 - Saved: Pathos – metaphor for being rescued from difficulty (of having a single story / perspective)
 - Single story = allusion back to title
 - Suggesting that she has also experienced the danger

A Passage to Africa

2023年12月21日 22:41

Thoughts and feelings about experiences in Somalia

Ugly

- I saw a thousand hungry, lean, scared and betrayed faces
 - Semantic field of suffering: hungry, lean, scared, betrayed
 - Thousand = mass amount
 - First sentence = foregrounds the suffering
 - Faces: might be suggesting that he has increasingly become callous/desensitised due to the large scale of suffering
- Like a ghost village
 - Simile
 - Ghost village = suggests being an abandoned area + image of a lot of deaths
 - This can emphasise the idea of Africa's vastness and the challenges faced by communities living in such isolated regions
- Simple, frictionless, motionless deliverance
 - Semantic field of lack of resistance
 - Implying how easily death comes, unable to do anything about it
- Quiet suffering and lonely death
 - Pre-modifying adjectives: quiet, lonely → connotes a lack of attention → suggests being unsupported in their death → ugly in lack of support
- Smell of decaying flesh + she was rotting
 - Gruesome imagery describing wounds and illness
 - Flesh = chremamorphism → dehumanising people in Somalia
 - Verbs: decaying, rotting → people have been butchered + suffering

Enlightening

- I saw a thousand hungry, lean, scared and betrayed faces as I criss-crossed Somalia between the end of 1991 and December 1992, but there is one I will never forget.
 - Thousand to one = macro to micro view
 - Signifying the impact, standing out from the crowd
- And then there was the face I will never forget
 - Volta
 - Highlighting a moment of enlightenment and change
 - Face = definite pronoun → identify the encounter with this particular Somali, showing how he stands out
- I saw that face for only a few seconds, a fleeting meeting of eyes / In those brief moments
 - Semantic field of short time duration: 'a few seconds', 'fleeting meeting of eyes', 'brief moments'
 - Time references that hyperbolise the dramatic impact → changing his mind immediately
- What was it about that smile?
 - Rhetorical questions
 - Show his confusion to why the man had such an effect on him
- - how could it be? -
 - Disjointed sentence structure
 - Reflects on his altered mindset
- The journalist is active, the subject is passive. But this smile had turned the tables on that tacit agreement.
 - 'Tacit agreement' = connotes this being a convention → the man changing the convention for Alagiah
 - 'Turned the tables' = reverse
- The search for the shocking is like the craving for a drug
 - Simile
 - Drug = addictiveness, harmful

- Craving = denotes powerful desire, connotes being reckless in searching for the 'drug'
- Himself being addicted to the shocking images, not realising the harms of it and the trauma of people
- Realising this because of the man
- "A passage"
 - Ambiguity - could suggest a dedication or journey, yearns to serve Africa in some way
- Oxymoron in "my nameless friend"
 - Feels a connection even though does not know him

Thoughts and feelings about people he meets

Ugly / sympathy

- Same as before

Enlightening

- Same as before

Thoughts and feelings about reporting on the war

Cold-blooded

- Pictures that stun the editors one day are written off as the same old stuff the next
 - Juxtaposition between impressing and not impressing them, 'stun' and 'same old stuff'
 - Contrasts the initial sympathetic perception and the subsequent desensitized perception of Somalians
 - Same old stuff: a dismissive tone, dehumanising the subject of the images, seen as disposable once they have achieved their purpose of appearing as striking
- It was, as I said at the time in my dispatch, a vision of 'famine away from the headlines, a famine of quiet suffering and lonely death'
 - Quotations from his dispatch
 - Showing how he only focused on reporting the news rather than noticing the suffering people are experiencing
- I saw a thousand hungry, lean, scared and betrayed faces
 - Faces = no longer sees the individuals as people
 - Thousand = mass amount → not showing sympathy to such a large disaster
- The ghoulish manner of journalists on the hunt for the most striking picture
 - Ghoulish = pejorative connotation of interested in deaths and suffering → willing to see others suffering instead of showing sympathy
 - Hunt connotes the predatory nature of journalists → losing humanity
 - Suggests reporters losing their humanity due to the search for the more shocking news
- Short sentences without overly emotive language at the start
 - Not feeling sympathetic to the Somalians, going through all these ugly experiences quickly
- It's how we collect and compile the images that so move people in the comfort of their sitting rooms back home
 - Comfort = contrasts with suffering
 - Can be seen as a wider metaphor for the western world and how people are quick to feel sympathy but do not go further or take any actions against such despair

Enlightening

- Same as before

Explorer's Daughter

2023年12月21日 17:27

Thoughts and feelings about narwhals

Majestic animals

- The plumes of spray from the narwhal catching the light in a spectral play of colour
 - Vivid natural imagery
 - Spectral play of colour = heavenly + majestic connotations
- Slowly, methodically passing each other by
 - Slowly, methodically = adverbs creating imagery of peaceful and calm
 - Methodically = connotes intelligence
- Glittering kingdom
 - Kingdom = connotations of unity, cohesion, magical, majesty → organised
- The evening light was turning butter-gold, glinting off man and whale
 - Turning butter-gold
 - Metaphorical allusion to Midas: a king who could turn everything into gold
 - May turn the Inughuit people's life rich
 - Glinting off man and whale
 - Juxtaposition: men and whales are equal
- Talk to one another under the water / their hearing is particularly developed
 - Personification
 - Showing the author's respect to the narwhals; show narwhals being intelligent
 - Adding to the dilemma of whether they should be hunted or not

Essential resource

- The mattak or blubber of the whales is rich in necessary minerals and vitamins / Its single ivory tusk, which can grow up to six feet in length
 - Declaratives with facts
 - 'Mattak', 'blubber', 'tusks' = field specific vocabulary
 - Illustrate that Herbert is knowledgeable → trustworthy in the presentation of narwhals
- Essential contributor / necessary minerals and vitamins / only source
 - Premodifiers / semantic field of importance
 - Connoting the absolute need of hunting the narwhals
- Semantic field of food: minerals and vitamins, vegetables or fruit, dark rich meat
 - Very basic food and nutrients
 - Making this relatable to the reader by materialising the need - better understand the need of hunting
- Semantic field of survival: light, heat, dwellings, staple diet
 - All essentials for life
 - Showing how narwhals are important for everyday life, useful for every aspect

Thoughts and feelings about Inughuit people / hunters

Resilient

- Semantic field of very long time duration: for centuries, ancient dwellings
 - Resilient in how long they have been living under difficult conditions
- He was miles from land in a flimsy kayak, and could easily be capsized and drowned
 - Semantic field of potential danger: flimsy, capsized, drowned → high risk, serious consequences for accidents
- No rifle, only one harpoon with two heads and one bladder vs. they were huge
 - Quantifiers with small amount: no, one, two → lack of equipment for hunting → weakness
 - They were huge → strength of the narwhals
 - Weakness juxtaposed with strength of the narwhals
- Still go ahead and hunt despite danger + weakness → resilient

Vulnerable

- Range of facts in paragraph 3 + field specific vocabulary (similar to presentation of narwhals)
→ trustworthy in the presentation of narwhals

- Illustrate that Herbert is knowledgeable → trustworthy in the presentation of narwhals
- Facts showing the hunters' dependency on narwhals → vulnerable in lack of alternatives
- It was crucial to her that her husband catch a narwhal — it was part of their staple diet, and some the mattak and meat could be sold to other hunters who hadn't been so lucky
 - Semantic field of necessity: staple diet, mattak, meat
 - Lucky: dependent on fate
 - Juxtaposition between semantic field of necessity + lucky → vulnerable because they need fate to be on their side to survive
- They use every part of the animals they kill
 - Every = absolute quantifier → fact that they have to utilize the entire Narwhal
- Imported goods can only ever account for part of the food supply; there is still only one annual supply ship that makes it through the ice to Qaanaaq, and the small twice-weekly plane from West Greenland can only carry a certain amount of goods
 - One + annual: very infrequent → lack of support from outer world
 - Part, certain amount of goods = connote incomplete support
- Not enough support + have to use the entire narwhal → lack of resources in Greenland → vulnerable due to scarcity

Thoughts and feelings about conflicts between the two

- Love for animal (narwhals being majestic) / understanding why they are hunted (narwhals as an essential resource) / misunderstood or not as cruel as thought
- **Hunting not as cruel as thought by the public / misunderstood**
- This dilemma stayed with me the whole time that I was in Greenland
 - Stayed = connotes strength + permanence
 - Shows the power of the conflict over her
- The images that bombarded us several years ago of men battering seals for their fur
 - Bombarded = widespread
 - Battering = cruelty
 - Fur = luxurious (used for coat / bags), unnecessary → killing seals without a good reason
- The Inughuit do not kill seals using this method, nor do they kill for sport. They use every part of the animals they kill
 - Facts
 - Show that she is knowledgeable + trustworthy
 - Every part = not wasteful, juxtaposed to 'for their fur'
- It was like watching a vast, waterborne game
 - Game = connotations of relaxation and fun → make hunting less cruel

Explorers or boys messing about?

2023年12月21日 22:41

Thoughts and feelings about the adventurers

Inexperienced / childish

- Title
 - Rhetorical question, juxtaposition between 'explorers' and 'boys' and their connotations
 - Colloquial language 'messing about' further highlights immaturity, offers audience to decide answer
- Semantic field of ridicule and silly: farce, plunged, plucked
 - Comical image → ridiculous image and situation
- Meanwhile, distress signals were being beamed from the ditched helicopter and from Mr Brooks' Breitling emergency watch, a wedding present
 - Juxtaposition between extreme situation (ditched helicopter) and everyday mundanity (wedding present) → not treating the situation seriously, not prepared enough
- Günter Endres, editor of Jane's Helicopter Markets and Systems, said: "I'm surprised they used the R44. I wouldn't use a helicopter like that to go so far over the sea. It sounds as if they were pushing it to the maximum"
 - Editor of Jane's Helicopter Markets and Systems = expert for helicopters
 - Expert opinion questioning the knowledge and experience of the adventurers → make it more trustworthy, undermining the explorers' experience
- "the four-seater Robinson R44" and "hostile environment"
 - Jargon and esoteric language (only understood by a few people who are experts in the field)
 - Juxtaposed with the decisions made by the adventurers
- Mr Brooks, 42, and 40-year-old Mr Smith
 - Age = connotes maturity, juxtaposed with farce imagery
- Scrambled into their liferaft
 - Scrambled = disorganised → ill-prepared
- Though the pair wore survival suits and the weather at the spot where they ditched was clear, one Antarctic explorer told Mr Brooks' wife it was "nothing short of a miracle" that they had survived.
 - Expert opinion + connotations of safety → should not have happened, avoidable situation
- Synecdoche "East and West"
 - Allusion politics + history (Cold War)
 - Establishing the travellers as naïve as they think they are able to create peace

Trouble causing

- Semantic field of nationalities: Russian, British, Chilean
 - Lots of country involved
 - Europe and South America = great distance
 - → Causing huge trouble, global scale
- The rescue involved the Royal Navy, the RAF and British coastguards
 - Triadic listing of departments involved in the UK
 - Big scale of trouble as many organisations have to be involved in the rescue
- Cost the taxpayers of Britain and Chile tens of thousands of pounds.
 - Hyperbole
 - Plural "taxpayers" - impacting everyone, relate to audience
 - Tens of thousands of pounds = large number but ambiguous → allow readers to imagine their own number → imagine a very high cost → frustration at the high cost
- They'll probably have their bottoms kicked and be sent home the long way
 - Colloquial, funny language → connote childishness
 - Bottoms kicked = unwelcomed → unwelcomed by the Royal Navy, negative opinion of him

Thoughts and feelings about rescuers

Experienced and resilient

- The signals from the aircraft were deciphered by Falmouth coastguard and passed on to the rescue

coordination centre at RAF Kinloss in Scotland. / The Royal Navy's ice patrol ship, HMS Endurance, which was 180 miles away surveying uncharted waters, began steaming towards the scene and dispatched its two Lynx helicopters, actions for rescue

- Semantic field of professional actions in rescue: deciphered, coordination centre, surveying, steaming, dispatched → shows the rescue team being organised in the rescue
- Lexical field of dynamic verbs → the rescues are actively attempting to search for the explorers
- Short sentences → efficient and competent
- One was driven back because of poor visibility but the second was on its way
 - Driven back = connotes extreme difficulty, unable to continue
 - Resilient in carrying on rescuing despite the difficulties

Costly and complex

- Semantic field of nationalities: Russian, British, Chilean
 - Same as before
- The rescue involved the Royal Navy, the RAF and British coastguards
 - Same as before
- Cost the taxpayers of Britain and Chile tens of thousands of pounds.
 - Same as before
- Either way, taxpayer gets rescue bill
 - Dismissive tone in title → foregrounds the harm to people
 - Taxpayer = singular, establish emotional connection to audience → feel like it is the audience themselves
 - Gets = present tense → in the moment
 - Rescue bill = metonymy to cost
 - Creates a feeling of reader paying for the adventurers → anger the audience

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127 Hours

2023年12月21日 22:41

How is tension created

Confident at first

- Chockstone, chimneying
 - Field specific lexis → shows his expertise in climbing
- If I can step onto it, then I'll have a nine-foot height to descend, less than that of the first overhang. I'll dangle off the chockstone, then take a short fall onto the rounded rocks piled on the canyon floor
 - Semantic field of mountaineering and measuring: nine-foot height, descend, dangle off, short fall
 - Suggesting that he has a clear plan of climbing → assuredness, everything going according to the plan
- First thoughts showed in "if I can step onto..."
 - Show confidence and assurance
 - Element of risk taking presented through the conditional "if" → building tension and suspense
- Semantic field of body parts 'body', 'feet', 'back', 'hands' + lexical field of dynamic verbs 'move', 'push', 'stemming', 'traverse', 'pass'
 - Creates high energy for his movement + in control of his different body parts
 - Shows himself being skilled
- Another refrigerator chockstone / chockstone the size of a large bus tire
 - Metaphor highlighting the size of climb he is attempting
 - Showing his confidence to conquer a climb with huge difficulty
- It supports me but teeters slightly
 - Teeter = connotes movement
 - Teeters slightly = foreshadowing the rock falling
- Creates a false sense of security → allowing a dramatic volta later
- Semantic field of constriction "wedged" "claustrophobic" "narrows"
 - Reader can interpret how uncomfortable it is slowly getting

Shocked and anxious later

- Describing the rock falling in hyperbolic detail
- Chronological order and now in present tense
 - Makes audience experience the immediacy of the moment, removing the security which may be associated with the past tense
- Time dilates
 - Juxtapose the speed of the chockstone → feeling of time slowing down
 - Show the intensity + pain (long lasting) of the danger → not experienced enough to defy nature
- Longer sentences + more details: crushes my right hand and ensnares my right arm at the wrist, palm in, thumb up, fingers extended
 - Slowing down the writing pace
 - Reinforce the feeling of slow motion
 - Exaggerating the danger by structurally zooming into the danger
 - Body parts being connected to prepositions instead of dynamic verbs → showing that nature has conquered him, losing control
- Lexical field of dynamic verbs: smashes, yank, crushes, tearing + semantic field of body parts: left hand, left arm, right hand, right arm, palm, thumb, fingers
 - Connote violence and pain + stressing many parts being injured → anxious about the damage on him
- Good God, my hand
 - Emotive language showing shock
 - Tension for reader: not knowing what happened to his hands
- But I'm stuck.
 - Short declarative sentence

- Certainty + finality → nothing that he can do, helplessness
- My desperate brain conjures up
 - Metaphor
 - Conjure = connotation of being magical
 - Magical imagery
 - Feeling not real → brain making up rather than using knowledge rationally

Difficult to climb

- A semantic field of constriction: 'wedged', 'claustrophobic', 'narrows'
 - Building tension and suspense by giving a risky and uncomfortable feeling
- Of a different geometry
 - Highlights how the area Ralston was in was a different environment → a new and tricky challenge

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Young and Dyslexic? You've got it going on

2023年12月21日 22:41

Thoughts and feelings about people with dyslexia

Misunderstood

- No compassion, no understanding and no humanity
 - Emotive language
 - Semantic field of insensitivity
 - Abstract nouns = treatment of dyslexic people being an institutional issue, subtly existing
 - Use of pathos, evoking a sense of injustice and cruelty
- Kind and thoughtful and listening
 - Semantic field of empathy
 - Juxtaposed with semantic field of insensitivity
 - Foregrounding the harsh atmosphere of education system
- Do I need an operation?
 - Question
 - Operation = connotes seriousness and a physical mental illness
 - Demonstrating how society perceives dyslexia as a disability
- Motif of stupid
 - Symbolises society's view of dyslexic people with a limited concept of intelligence
- A high percentage of the prison population are dyslexic, and a high percentage of the architect population. If you look at the statistics, I should be in prison ...
 - Prison population = connoting unworthy and low-level individuals
 - Architect population = high-level, worthy individuals
 - Juxtaposition = signifies how dyslexia is not the main issue
 - Statistics being wrong: dyslexia not the main issue, but how determined and proactive dyslexic people are
- Repeated anecdotes in school
 - Create a pattern of restrictive, prejudiced and harsh behaviours
 - Discrimination on multiple fronts → showing how people have low expectations of him
- Anecdote for first book
 - Simplicity of writing is popular
 - Contrast judgmental attitudes from the education system

Valuable and different thinking skills

- I had poems in my head even then
 - Poems = connotes craft, intellectual capacity, and deep thought
 - Juxtaposed to his lack of hard skills such as reading and writing due to dyslexia
 - Demonstrate how intellect is not defined by these hard skills
- We are the architects, we are the designers
 - We = first person plural → create a relationship with all dyslexic people → demonstrating how all dyslexic people are united in their advantages and their unique status + he is not the only one that can do that
 - Architects, designers = connotes prestigiousness, creativity, and innovation → he believes that all dyslexic people possess these attributes
- 'We are the architects, we are the designers' repeated at the end
 - Cyclical structure returning to lines from the beginning at the end.
 - All his story has served as evidence of this message
- This requires being creative and so your 'creativity muscle' gets bigger.
 - Analogy showing why dyslexia makes you more creative
 - Muscle = connotes strength and skill → strength of dyslexic people

Thoughts and feelings about his own experiences

Not restricted by dyslexia

- Similar to valuable and different thinking skills

Misunderstood

- Similar to before

Self-assured

- Young and dyslexic? You've got it going on (title)
 - Rhetorical questions = conversational tone
 - Colloquial language, declarative language → establishes a confident and celebratory tone
 - Establish immediate connection with the reader + persuading the reader
- If someone can't understand dyslexia it's their problem
 - Simple, declarative sentence → defiant tone
- Asyndetic listing "I wrote more poetry, novels for teenagers, other books and recorded music" + "still now"
 - Fast paced suggesting a fast creation, connotes diverse skill and creativity
 - Combined with the temporal adverbial phrase "still now" → further emphasising how his dyslexia has not limited him as he still has it
- In many ways being dyslexic is a natural way to be / What's unnatural is the way we read and write. If you look at a pictorial language like Chinese, you can see the word for a woman because the character looks like a woman. The word for a house looks like a house. It is a strange step to go from that to a squiggle that represents a sound
 - Contrasting languages: natural vs. unnatural
 - Pictorial, simple perception of Chinese (the word for a woman because the character looks like a woman. The word for a house looks like a house) juxtaposed to the complicated 'squiggles' of English
 - Flips the problem to the language
- But I think staying out of prison is about conquering your fears and finding your path in life. / But opportunities opened for me and they missed theirs, didn't notice them or didn't take them
 - Conquering your fears and finding your path in life = connotations of overcoming something and connotations of proactiveness → metaphors of confidence and tenacity
 - Juxtaposed with other people with dyslexia → others lack the soft skills such as self-assuredness → it is not about dyslexia but about your determination
- In the same way, if someone oppresses me because of my race I don't sit down and think, "How can I become white?" It's not my problem, it's theirs and they are the ones who have to come to terms with it.
 - Analogy of dyslexia to race → highlight dyslexia as normal and no need to change it
 - Both are innate abilities that an individual has no control over at all and has no need to be changed

Problem with the education system

Restrictive

- No compassion, no understanding and no humanity
 - Abstract nouns = treatment of dyslexic people being an institutional issue, subtly existing
- I thought that so long as you could read how much the banknote was worth, you knew enough or you could ask a mate
 - Banknote = symbolise basic necessities → low expectations on him → restricting his mindset
- When I was in borstal
 - Borstal = treated as a criminal
 - Shows the conflict between his creativity and the mainstream culture of Britain

A Game of Polo

2023年12月21日 22:41

Thoughts and feelings about the race

Thrilling from the audience

- We drove off to find the best viewing point
 - Extract begins in in medias res
 - We - collective group on a quest to donkey race
 - Adventurous tone = going to achieve something
- Wacky races
 - Allusion to American cartoon
 - Build the tension with anticipation and suspense
 - Foreground excitement and chaos of the race
- 'Coming, coming'
 - Ambiguity when asking about the race + present tense → tension + anticipation because we know it is coming but not when
- Just as I was assuming that the race had been cancelled, we spotted two approaching donkey-carts in front of a cloud of fumes and dust created by some fifty vehicles roaring up in their wake.
 - A cloud of fumes and dust = echo of Wacky race, symbolise fast speed
 - 50 vehicles = indicate scale of the vehicles, contrast with 2 donkeys → lots of spectator
 - Roaring = zoomorphism, spectator seems more powerful than the donkeys
- Macro of large scale image of 2 little donkeys + vehicles → a micro of the entourage → micro of author and Yaqoob
 - Enhance chaos and thrill → showing people' engagement in spectating the race, everyone taking part and feel excited

Chaotic

- Lads
 - Connotation of youth and inexperience → add to the chaotic feeling
- Formula One without rules
 - Formula One = thrilling but very organised, professional, sophisticated
 - Without = thrilling but without these
- City centre rush hour gone anarchic
 - Anarchic = no rules, lawless
- Complete flouting with every type of traffic rule an common sense
 - Traffic rule = analogy of cars
 - Common sense = western gaze of how traffic should be, subjective → disorganised + chaotic
- Men standing on top of their cars and vans, hanging out of taxis and perched on lorries, all cheered and shouted, while the vehicles jostled to get to the front of the convoy
 - Listing of dangerous actions e.g. standing on top of the cars → chaotic in people neglecting safety hazards
- It was survival of the fittest
 - Darwin allusion = primal → thrilling nature from danger
 - Western gaze of unsophisticated and unculturing, animal like, wild
- The finishing line, the hospital gate
 - Dangerous match juxtaposed with a place of safety = irony

Thoughts and feelings about the people

Used to the chaoticness

- Our young driver
 - Connotes inexperience → disorganised, part of the chaoticness
- Semantic field of boldness: shark flick, nerves of steel, quick reflexes
 - Imagery of car racing
 - Yaqoob enjoying this + excited, knowing how to drive effectively in these dangerous situations
- Language growing more colourful

- Euphemism of swearing → uncontrolled
- Chaotic thrilling rather than chaotic stress as Yaqoob finds it thrilling
- Yaqoob is underaged to drive
 - Comic relief
 - Revelation adds more drama to the chaoticness
 - Humour from people getting away from it

Different to western culture

- Title: A Game of Polo with a Headless Goat
 - Contrast between Game of Polo with Headless Goat
 - Polo = wealthy, high class
 - Headless Goat = primal / dangerous / reckless
 - Comparing to western culture, showing how the sport is unexpected
- Horns tooting, bells ringing, and the special rattles used just for this purpose
 - Lexical field of dynamic verbs: tooting, ringing, etc. = showing the high energy in the race
 - Noises = disorganised, lawless, different to western culture + creating excitement
- Complete flouting with every type of traffic rule an common sense
 - Traffic rule = analogy of cars
 - Common sense = western gaze of how traffic should be, subjective → disorganised + chaotic
- Survival of the fittest
 - Darwin allusion = primal → thrilling nature from danger
 - Western gaze of being unsophisticated

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A Journey into Bhutan

2023年12月21日 22:39

Thoughts and feelings about cultures of Bhutan

Isolated and traditional

- It took five different flights over four days to get here, from Toronto to Montreal to Amsterdam to New Delhi to Calcutta to Paro
 - Ninety minute, listing of five flights = difficulty to get there → showing isolation
- Packages of stale, soft cookies + from India
 - Stale, soft = connotation of wear and deterioration after an extended period of time → time taken to transport → lack of connection with outer world → isolation
- Teenagers in acid washed jeans, Willie Nelson's greatest hits after the news in English on the Bhutan Broadcasting Service, a Rambo poster in a bar
 - Listing of evidence of westernisation
 - Years behind the global trend → isolation, not following up the rest of the world
- The Bhutanese are a very handsome people, "the best built race of men I ever saw," wrote emissary George Bogle on his way to Tibet in 1774, and I find I agree
 - Agreeing with things written in 1774 → people remain unchanged for more than 200 years → traditional
- Without blueprints or nails
 - Blueprint, nail = symbolise modern building techniques
 - Still using traditional techniques → traditional in unwilling to adopt the modern techniques

Rich

- Dignity, unselfconsciousness, good humor and grace
 - List of admirable qualities → likes how people are educated in the culture
- Beautiful aristocratic faces
 - Aristocratic = connotes high status → insinuates something that is only achieved by a few in the western world is common in Bhutan
- The buildings all have the same pitched roof, trefoil windows and heavy beams painted with lotus flowers, jewels and clouds
 - List of Bhutanese decorations
 - Showing their uniqueness to the rest of the world, not seen elsewhere
- Vivid use of colours "red-roofed" "golden-tipped"
 - Heightens the exotic otherworldly portrayal of the city
 - Separate paragraph = separated from the rest of the world
- The Tibetans knew the country as the Southern Land of Medicinal Herbs and the South Sandalwood Country
 - List of earlier names of Bhutan
 - A range of unheard proper nouns → present Bhutan exotic and otherworldly
 - Changes in names → historical, underwent many different periods of time
- Explaining politely in impeccable English
 - Impeccable = connotations of capability and ability
 - Signifies how the Bhutanese people are not only limited to their culture
 - Demonstrates their insightfulness + knowledge and willingness to learn
- Great Game being played out in the north between the colonial powers, Bhutan's preservation of its independence was remarkable
 - Great game = historical allusion to various European countries building empires in Asia
 - Maintaining independence = not being colonised as for other Asian countries → uniqueness, wisdom in preserving independence
 - At the end = foregrounds the admiration

Thoughts and feelings about landscape of Bhutan

Intimidating

- Mountains all around, climbing up to peaks, rolling into valleys, again and again
 - Lexical field of dynamic verb – action / hard work needed to climb
 - In-media Res: feeling of in action climbing
 - First sentence – first perception of the land is quite overwhelming
- Paragraph 2 repetition of plosive consonants
 - Sound symbolise harshness
 - Intimidation in difficulty to climb
- From my simple, pine-paneled room at the Druk Sherig hotel
 - Juxtaposition of room + mountain: views herself so small → overwhelmed by the massive mountains
- Thimphu's altitude is about half of that but even here, the winter air is thin and dry and very cold
 - Semantic field of harshness of air: thin, dry, very cold
 - Shows how the environment is uncomfortable + harsh

Otherworldly

- On the other side of mountains are mountains, more mountains and mountains again
 - Repetition of mountain: something constant, sheer amount of mountains
- I watch mountains rise to meet the moon
 - Mystic imagery
 - Moon = typically associated with myths and fairy tales → mythicalness
 - Moon = high → height of the mountain
- It is easier to picture a giant child gathering earth in great armfuls, piling up rock, pinching mud into ridges and sharp peaks, knuckling out little valleys and gorges, poking holes for water to fall through.
 - Giant child: analogy associated with fairy tale → cannot imagine, doesn't exist in real life
 - Lexical field of dynamic verbs: gathering, piling, pinching, knuckling, poking = create the sense of playfulness and creativity → how unusual the terrain is
- Beyond the Sky and the Earth: A Journey into Bhutan (Title)
 - Beyond = connotations of exceeding
 - Sky + Earth = symbolizing the mortal plane of existence
 - Demonstrating how Bhutan is unique to anywhere else in the world
- I caught a glimpse of the Tibetan plateau, the edge of a frozen desert 4,500 meters above sea level
 - Frozen desert = deserts are typically hot and arid environments → juxtaposition between chilliness and hot desert → unusual

H is for Hawk

2023年12月21日 22:41

Thoughts and feelings

Excited about the hawk

- Foreshadowing: "don't want you going home with the wrong bird"
 - Wrong means incorrect, however can be interpreted as her having/not having a connection with the birds
- Listing and short sentences in "we stared down at the boxes, at their parcel-tape handles their doors..."
 - Emphasises her hyper fixation and close scrutiny of the detail, shows anticipation
- "dark interior"
 - Dark = connotes mystery and suspense, engaging the reader instantly
- Semantic field of power: "thump", analogy of "as if someone had punched it"
 - Building up anticipation as she builds up a gradual exposition of the bird
- Metaphor of "Daylight irrigating the box" + The air turned syrupy, slow, flecked with dust + great flood of sunlight drenches us
 - Represents growing power contrasts with the dark interior, therefore also represents the transition to the hawk being released
 - Combined with the metaphor "the air turned...": represents how the atmosphere is changing as the hawk is being released, further emphasising its power
 - Even more emphasised when "irrigating" turns to "drenches" continuing the water imagery, showing the escalation of the hawk's power
 - Drenches = more flow of water → more powerful

Likes the first hawk due to its prowess and vulnerability

- A reptile. A fallen angel. A griffon from the pages of an illuminated bestiary.
 - Metaphors
 - Reptile = something powerful + awesome e.g. dinosaurs
 - Fallen angel = Power, linked with sinister and darkness, linked to fearful imagery
 - Illuminated bestiary = medieval book of creatures, griffon = massive power, bestiary = unreal, magical
 - Angel + griffon = powerful, magical, unique, awe → prowess
- Amidst a whirring, chaotic clatter of wings and feet and talons
 - Sensory language of sounds + movement happening at once → high energy movement
 - Tricolon of body parts → all parts coming out all at once
 - Overwhelmed, amazed + a bit afraid
- My heart jumped sideways
 - Metaphor
 - Heart = symbolic of her feelings
 - Jump = could both represent fear and excitement
 - Fear + burst of energy and excitement from the dynamic verb of jumping
- There was a brief intimation of a thin, angular skull under her feathers, of an alien brain fizzing and fusing with terror
 - Thin = vulnerability
 - Angular = not yet well developed
 - Alien = things being unfamiliar
 - Fizzing and fusing = alliteration that emphasises the bird's confusion and vulnerability
- A broken marionette of wings, legs and light-splashed feathers
 - Semantic field of body parts: wings, legs, feathers = how the bird looks like
 - Broken = a sense of vulnerability
 - Marionette = tied down, restricted
- Desperate, crazy barrage of incoherent appeals
 - Almost echoing the birds description, she is similar to it, similar semantic field of instability
 - Show her affinity

- Sympathy to the bird because she has just lost her father → feeling the same as the bird
- **Disappointed by the second hawk**
- *This isn't my hawk / But this isn't my hawk*
 - Repetition
 - Internal narrative viewpoint
 - Not accepting the 'correct' hawk emotionally
- She came out like a Victorian melodrama: a sort of madwoman in the attack
 - Metaphor for uncontrolled power and violence
- Instead of twittering, she wailed; great, awful gouts of sound like a thing in pain
 - Twittering = connotes nervous reaction
 - Wailed = connotes scary emotional power
 - Power and violence in a less beautiful, more scary way
- Saw something blank and crazy, madness from a distant country
 - Distant country: connotes feeling disconnected to the hawk, from a different world
 - Blank and crazy: connotes insanity and pain
 - Less empathy compared to the last hawk, struggling to deal with it
 - Doesn't feel the emotional connection
- Seaside production of Medea
 - Echoes a mad woman in Victorian drama
 - Medea = viewed as a woman emotionally unstable → instability and insanity
 - Similar field of instability and insanity → similar to the second bird
 - Still struggling with her grief
- Something behind it that was very important
 - Vague language - why she need the other bird?
 - Express ideas tentatively: feeling like a carer, help with struggle, act like someone in control, power and majesty of the bird, the other bird = similarity in instability and insanity

Chinese Cinderella

2023年12月21日 22:41

Thoughts and feelings

Feeling scared and anxious at start

- Time went by relentlessly
 - A hyperbolic focus on time
 - Foregrounding a sense dread and building a sense of tension
 - Relentlessly = pejorative connotations of an adverse thing not stopping → doesn't want to return home
- Full of foreboding, I ran downstairs as in a nightmare, wondering who had died this time
 - Internal narrative → hear her thoughts and feelings
 - Indicates her confusion and distress
 - The only reason why her parents would contact her is because a relative has died → signifying how distant her family relationships are
 - Seeing her family brings the sense of dread → indicating the poor relationship Adeline has with her parents
- 'Sit down! Sit down!' He pointed to a chair
 - Imperative of 'sit down sit down', demonstrates how her father simply commands her → shows father's authority + Adeline being scared
- Timidly, I knocked on the door. Father was alone, looking relaxed in his slippers and bathrobe, reading a newspaper.
 - Timidly = connotes a fearful, deferential image
 - Slippers and bathrobe = calm and relaxed image of dad
 - Juxtaposition between the two images
- I wondered why he was being so nice, thinking, Is this a giant ruse on his part to trick me? Dare I let my guard down?
 - Internal narrative: 'wondered why he was being so nice': indicates distrust and anxiety to dad
 - 'Giant ruse on his part to trick me', lack of trust, afraid of her dad
- Is it possible? Am I dreaming? Me, the winner?
 - Interrogatives
 - Disbelief of something good happening to her

Feeling more pleased and confident at the end

- For once, he was proud of me
 - For once = connotes rarity of his support, not happening before → excited about being praised
- My whole being vibrated with all the joy in the world
 - Vibrates = connotes high energy, excitement
 - All the joy in the world = hyperbolic about the amount of joy Adeline experiences
- 'Please, Father,' I asked boldly, thinking it was now or never.
 - Boldly = connotes a high level of confidence
 - Now or never = signifies how she only has one opportunity, confident to catch the opportunity
 - Maintaining her deference for her father 'please father', despite her bold request
- Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive.
 - Foregrounds her happiness and bliss
 - A quote from people who were eager and anticipating for a successful revolution
 - The French revolution failed → foreshadowing her naivety and the potential bad events to come
- 'Father, I shall go to medical school in England and become a doctor. Thank you very, very much.'
 - Thank you = ends on a tone of a respect and deference, further foregrounding this tone
 - Could be indicating Adeline's joy of being able to study in England

Connection with her family

Disconnected from her family

- Title

- Allusion to a Fairy tale, connotes neglect and hardship, foreshadowing to her life
- 'How should I know?' he answered defensively, shrugging his shoulders. 'Your guess is as good as mine. They give the orders and I carry them out.'
 - Blunt tone of chauffeur: his lack of deference indicates Adeline's low status in the family
 - 'Replied rudely' → the brusque tone utilized by the Chauffeur, and how the Chauffeur knows even more than Adeline (the move of the parents), implies how she is a lower status than the Chauffeur
- During the short drive home, my heart was full of dread and I wondered what I have done wrong
 - Confusion and further signifies the distant familial relationships between the two
 - Juxtaposition between the 'short drive home' and the sense of dread the protagonist is feeling → signifying how the emotional distance between her family and her is large while the physical distance is short + distrust
- Family dynamic
 - 'Quiet and cool' sympathetic background signifying the distance of the family
 - 'Mother is out playing bridge', further exemplifies this by indicating how everyone is doing their own individual activities
 - The union of the children, further exemplifies this: Adeline is the only one left out, demonstrating her exclusion from the family, odd one out
 - Dynamic verb of 'summoned' highlights the power that the father holds over the child
- Wondered why he was being so nice
 - Internal narrative viewpoint
 - Indicates distrust and anxiety, 'giant ruse on his part', lack of trust

Strong social hierarchy

- We all stood up and greeted her
 - Highlighting the deference and respect they have for authority figures is normal in Chinese culture
- Image of dad
 - 'Slippers and bathrobe': juxtaposition between the actual calm and relaxed image of dad and the fearful and deferential image of Adeline, heightens the tension
 - Imperative of 'sit down sit down', demonstrates her fathers impact and control on her
 - 'Don't look so scared' demonstrate how the father is aware of the power that he wields over Adeline
- 'You're going to starve!'
 - Hyperbole, indicating the fathers opposition of the decision
 - Exclamatory sentences: highlights the father's shock at what she is saying
- What language are you going to write in and who is going to read your writing?
 - Interrogatives: contemptuous tone, the questions undermine the fathers respect for her daughter
- 'You will go to england' + 'you will go to medical school'
 - Imperatives
 - Modal verb of will = show the certainty of the father in executing the decision, no opposition allowed
 - The views he is expressing: medical school = focusing on a prestigious education, thereby the father imposes chinese culture on Adeline