Text: The Longest Memory

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|  | Definition: |
| Values ✅ | Principles of significant importance or worth; things and qualities which we consider to be of worth. |
| Attitudes ✅ | An outlook or a specific feeling about something. Our values underlie our attitudes. Attitudes can be expressed by what we say, do and wear. |
| Ideas ✅ | In this course the word has an open meaning and can be interpreted as understandings, thoughts, notions, opinions, views or beliefs. |
| Perspectives | A position from which things may be viewed or considered. People may have different perspectives on events or issues due to (for example) their age, gender, social position and beliefs and values. A perspective is more than an opinion; it is a viewpoint informed by one or more contexts. While a pregnant woman, a homeless man and a police officer, for example, view the world from different perspectives, they may still share the same opinion about something. Texts through an embedded ideology can also present a particular perspective. |
| Style | The selection of stylistic features to achieve a particular effect. |
| Context | The environment in which a text is responded to or created. Context can include the general social, historical and cultural conditions in which a text is responded to and created (the context of culture) or the specific features of its immediate environment (context of situation). The term is also used to refer to the wording surrounding an unfamiliar word that a reader or listener uses to understand its meaning. |
| Voice ✅ | Voice, in a literary sense, is the distinct personality of a piece of writing. Voice can be created through the use of syntax, punctuation, vocabulary choices, persona and dialogue. Texts often contain ‘multiple voices’. These are the views, positions, ideas and perspectives of individuals or groups. It is important to recognise the various voices in a text, how they relate to one another, and how the creator of a text uses these to shape audience response. |
| Tone | Tone describes the way the ‘voice’ is delivered. For example, the tone of a voice or the tone in a passage of writing could be friendly or angry or persuasive. |

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| **Subject**: | **Example**: | **What this does**: |
| Voice/tone | Diction: When Whitechapel narrates the novel, he quite often uses pessimistic words such as “bloodhounds”, “punishment”, “death” and “nightmare” with very few optimistic words. | Whitechapel represents a depressed, brittle and miserable voice since these words are commonly connotated with feelings of depression, brittleness and misery, and the lack of optimistic diction implies that he doesn’t have happiness in his life. |
|  | Syntax: Throughout the text, Whitechapel often writes in short phrases which don’t continue for very long. | Whitechapel represents a depressed, brittle and miserable voice since it implies that his pain and misery hinders him from continuing a sentence for longer than a short phrase, likely representing the perspectives of the majority of slaves at the time. |
|  | Enjambed syntax: Chapel narrates only one chapter in the novel and does this in a poetic style with rhyming couplets. He uses enjambment – continuation of a sentence without a pause beyond the end of a line – to imply the message of an idea or rhythm being continued beyond the restrictions of a single line. | Chapel represents a hopeful and optimistic voice since it implies that Chapel’s willingness and desire for love and freedom won’t be stopped by the plantation owners or his father and therefore signifies hopefulness and optimism |
|  | Dialogue through anecdote: When describing how he learned to read and write from Lydia, he said “it was a mighty waste of a good head”. | Chapel represents a hopeful and optimistic voice as it indicates through the anecdote that he sees being literate as a universal human right and that by learning to read and write, he’s striving for more than a slave’s life. |
|  | Anecdote: When Lydia’s brother returns from the North and tells her stories of free blacks associating with white women, she “covered her mouth to disguise what might very well break out as a smile”. | Lydia represents a hopeful and optimistic voice as it indicates that she experiences feelings of joy and excitement when thinking about free blacks associating with white women, and the fact that she immediately tells Chapel of her discovery indicates that she feels hopeful and optimistic about their future marriage. |
|  | Metaphor: When describing this place to Chapel, she describes it as “heaven on Earth”. | Lydia represents a hopeful and optimistic voice as it indicates that she sees this place where black men associated with white women as a paradise, therefore portraying a hopeful and optimistic voice since she has hope that she and Chapel would be able to marry each other safely, therefore implying that she has hope that she and Chapel would be able to marry each other safely. |
|  | Anecdote: After explaining her plan to get her and Chapel to the North, they “became excited, they hugged, looked at each other and hugged again”. | Lydia represents a hopeful and optimistic voice as it shows that they both feel hopeful that they’d be able to marry each other. |
| Values | Diction: When Whitechapel narrates the novel, he quite often uses pessimistic words such as “bloodhounds”, “punishment”, “death” and “nightmare” with very few optimistic words. | Whitechapel presents a depressed, brittle and miserable attitude since these words are commonly connotated with feelings of depression, brittleness and misery, and the lack of optimistic diction implies that he doesn’t have happiness in his life. |
|  | Syntax: Throughout the text, Whitechapel often writes in short phrases which don’t continue for very long. | Whitechapel presents a depressed, brittle and miserable attitude since it implies that his pain and misery hinders him from continuing a sentence for longer than a short phrase, likely representing the perspectives of the majority of slaves at the time. |
|  | Enjambed syntax: Chapel narrates only one chapter in the novel and does this in a poetic style with rhyming couplets. He uses enjambment – continuation of a sentence without a pause beyond the end of a line – to imply the message of an idea or rhythm being continued beyond the restrictions of a single line. | Chapel presents a hopeful and optimistic attitude since it implies that Chapel’s willingness and desire for love and freedom won’t be stopped by the plantation owners or his father and therefore signifies hopefulness and optimism |
|  | Dialogue through anecdote: When describing how he learned to read and write from Lydia, he said “it was a mighty waste of a good head”. | Chapel presents a hopeful and optimistic attitude as it indicates through the anecdote that he sees being literate as a universal human right and that by learning to read and write, he’s striving for more than a slave’s life. |
|  | Anecdote: When Lydia’s brother returns from the North and tells her stories of free blacks associating with white women, she “covered her mouth to disguise what might very well break out as a smile”. | Lydia presents a hopeful and optimistic attitude as it indicates that she experiences feelings of joy and excitement when thinking about free blacks associating with white women, and the fact that she immediately tells Chapel of her discovery indicates that she feels hopeful and optimistic about their future marriage. |
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**Q: Explain how the voice of a narrator has influenced your response to a text you’ve studied?**

Only until fairly recently did we begin to notice the unfair treatment towards people of dark skin colour. The novel The Longest Memory by Fred D’Aguiar delves into the issues that we face today as a society that’s constantly focused on fixing the wrongs of the past. It represents numerous voices throughout the novel with different characters narrating the text, shaping the reader’s response towards the topic of slavery towards black people. Whitechapel represents a depressed, brittle and miserable voice through the stylistic device of syntax and the structural device of connotation. Chapel represents a hopeful and optimistic voice through the stylistic device of syntax and the structural device of anecdote. Lydia represents a hopeful and optimistic voice through the structural device of anecdote and language feature of metaphor.

Whitechapel represents a depressed, brittle and miserable voice. He does this through the stylistic device of diction and syntax. When Whitechapel narrates the novel, he quite often uses pessimistic words such as “bloodhounds”, “punishment”, “death” and “nightmare” with very few optimistic words. This negative and pessimistic diction represents a depressed, brittle and miserable voice since these words are commonly connotated with feelings of depression, brittleness and misery, and the lack of optimistic diction implies that he doesn’t have happiness in his life. Throughout the text, Whitechapel often writes in short phrases which don’t continue for very long. This chopped syntax indicates a depressed, brittle and miserable voice since it implies that his pain and misery hinders him from continuing a sentence for longer than a short phrase, likely representing the perspectives of the majority of slaves at the time. This voice has shaped my personal response to the novel by causing me to be more aware of the trauma and misery experienced by slaves and makes me feel that their treatment is unfair and unjust. This has caused me to feel that society takes simple things such as freedom for granted and that we’re unaware of how fortunate we are.

Chapel represents a hopeful and optimistic voice. He does this through the stylistic device of syntax and the structural device of anecdote. Chapel narrates only one chapter in the novel and does this in a poetic style with rhyming couplets. He uses enjambment – continuation of a sentence without a pause beyond the end of a line – to imply the message of an idea or rhythm being continued beyond the restrictions of a single line. This enjambed syntax represents a hopeful and optimistic voice since it implies that Chapel’s willingness and desire for love and freedom won’t be stopped by the plantation owners or his father and therefore signifies hopefulness and optimism. When describing how he learned to read and write from Lydia, he said “it was a mighty waste of a good head”. This dialogue indicates through the anecdote that he sees being literate as a universal human right and that by learning to read and write, he’s striving for more than a slave’s life, therefore portraying a hopeful and optimistic voice. This voice has shaped my personal response by making me more aware of the universality of the right to be literate and how unfair it was for slaves in the past. In modern society we treat reading and writing more as a chore, making me feel that we’re fortunate as a society to have the right to read and write.

Lydia represents a hopeful and optimistic voice. She does this through the structural device of anecdote and language feature of metaphor. When Lydia’s brother returns from the North and tells her stories of free blacks associating with white women, she “covered her mouth to disguise what might very well break out as a smile”. This anecdote indicates that she experiences feelings of joy and excitement when thinking about free blacks associating with white women, and the fact that she immediately tells Chapel of her discovery indicates that she feels hopeful and optimistic about their future marriage. When describing this place to Chapel, she describes it as “heaven on Earth”. This metaphor indicates that she sees this place where black men associated with white women as a paradise, therefore portraying a hopeful and optimistic voice since she has hope that she and Chapel would be able to marry each other safely. After explaining her plan to get her and Chapel to the North, they “became excited, they hugged, looked at each other and hugged again”. This anecdote shows that they both feel hopeful that they’d be able to marry each other, therefore portraying a hopeful and optimistic voice. This has shaped my personal response by making me feel sympathetic towards slaves as in modern society, being able to converse with each other freely is often seen as a universal human right and anyone deserves to marry who they wish to marry regardless of characteristics or heritage. In a society where freedom and choice is often the number one priority, I feel that we’ve become less aware of the lack of rights of slaves in the past.

Novels represent voice through language conventions to shape the personal response of the reader towards a particular topic. The novel The Longest Memory by Fred D’Aguiar represents numerous voices throughout the novel with different characters narrating the text, shaping the reader’s response to the topic of slavery towards black people. Whitechapel represents a depressed, brittle and miserable voice through the stylistic device of diction and the structural device of connotation. Chapel represents a hopeful and optimistic voice through the stylistic device of syntax and the structural device of anecdote. Lydia represents a hopeful and optimistic voice through the structural device of anecdote and language feature of metaphor.

**Q: What ideas are represented in a multimodal text you’ve studied?**

In our modern era where people are constantly trying to achieve equality in an increasingly integrated society, we’re constantly faced with issues of racism which occurred in the past. Now, more than ever, this medium delves successfully into the issues that we face today as a society, much of which is linked with issues such as discrimination against Aboriginals and prejudice towards Aboriginals. Samson and Delilah, a 2009 film by Warwick Thornton, deals with these issues. Set in the context of the Australian outback, the film follows Samson, a young Aboriginal boy who lives in a remote Indigenous community and lives a boring, repetitive life but yearns for something more. He and Delilah run away from their home by stealing a truck and escape to Alice Springs. Some ideas represented throughout the film would be the idea of redemption – the act of being saved from sin or evil, the idea of being alone and the idea of racism in a predominantly white society.

One of the ideas shown through the film would be the idea of redemption – the act of being saved from sin or evil. Samson and Delilah ran away from their home to save themselves from the negative emotions associated with it and to try to find a better place. Samson was angry about Delilah being mistreated by her peers, but he also believed that there was more to life than what he was experiencing every day. Delilah was being mistreated by her community since her grandmother had passed away, causing her to almost believe them and think that she was responsible for her grandmother’s death. The two escaped together in order to find some sort of redemption outside of their home where they knew they couldn’t find it. This idea was symbolized through the fact that the same thing would happen day by day with very little new things happening. This very repetitive lifestyle caused Samson to think that there must be something more out there in the world. Samson running away supports this idea of redemption because he ran away to seek redemption – to escape his repetitive, unhappy lifestyle and the negative emotions. This was also symbolized through the fact that it took a long time for Samson to get up and that the first thing he did when he woke up was sniff his can of petrol. This idea is further shown when Delilah is mistreated by her community for ‘causing’ the death of her grandmother. She went through grief and sadness since she started to have doubts about being able to care for her grandmother and almost believed them. She ran away to escape the negative emotions associated with her home.

Another idea shown through the film is the idea of being alone and isolated. Samson is often found alone and isolated with very little company. Samson would often walk alone because he didn’t have anyone to walk with, but also because of his culture and personality. In Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, extended periods of silence during conversations are considered the 'norm' and are valued. It’s because of this idea of silence being part of Aboriginal culture that Samson is often found alone. At one point in the movie, Samson was dancing to music outside his house alone in the dark. The dark lighting symbolises the fact that he’s alone in life, and the music symbolises that he finds joy and happiness by himself and without interaction with people. Samson would also always sniff his can of petrol, symbolising the fact that he finds satisfaction and happiness by himself since he’s not the type of person to interact with others a lot, which greatly contrasts from his brothers. The fact that his bedroom is dark also symbolises quite a bit about his personality. It says that he appreciates his time alone, since darkness is often associated with loneliness and a bedroom is often associated with feelings of comfort, therefore symbolising that Samson often finds comfort when he’s alone. This helps to give a better understanding of the association between Aboriginal culture and loneliness/isolation.

The idea of racism is shown throughout the film when Samson and Delilah travel through the modern society. The security guards followed Samson as he walked through the shops, and Delilah’s offer of artwork was constantly turned down immediately by the white Australians she offered it to. This idea is shown through a scene where Delilah appears to be the only dark-skinned person in the scene. It clearly shows the contrast of the skin colour, and she is contrasted even further with her weak, fragile-looking body. The idea is also shown through the scene where Delilah is turned away from a white church when she looks around. Although the man didn’t directly tell her to leave, he expressed concern towards what she was doing in the church, therefore implying that he felt worried that she might cause trouble. The fact that Samson and Delilah didn’t get any care when they were clearly homeless is symbolizing racism, since no one even turned to them when they were clearly lost. The fact that the police coming to the community being captured using a long shot represents the distance between authorities and Aboriginal communities. The police also only stay momentarily, which also conveys lack of police protection in these areas, potentially also representing a lack of care by authorities and a ‘tick the box’ approach. This clearly symbolises racism since the police clearly show disfavour towards the Aboriginal communities. This helps to give a better understanding of the racist nature of white Australians and the way they tend to treat Aboriginal Australians.

Movies represent ideas and utilise film language to support the development of these ideas. In the film Samson and Delilah, the idea of redemption – the act of being saved from sin or evil, the idea of being alone and the idea of racism in a predominantly white society are shown throughout the film in a variety of film conventions such as symbolism, lighting and colour. These film conventions help to present these ideas and help to portray a better understanding of Indigenous Australians, their culture and way of life.

**Q: Contrast the authors’ attitudes towards childhood and how these attitudes are established in these texts.**

The text Ugly by Robert Hoge shows that Hoge has a positive attitude towards childhood and he believes that childhood can only be as difficult and negative as one makes it. He shows this through the language features of narrational commentary and colloquial language. The fact that Hoge describes the breaks at school as “little lunch and big lunch” indicates that he’s part of the community. It shows that he can’t possibly avoid being part of the community and that it’s up to him as to how he can deal with the situation. He describes being teased as making him feel “weak” and “useless” because of hoe he couldn’t “summon up the energy to combat it”. This narrational commentary shows that despite not being able to control how he looked, he’s responsible for how he deals with other people’s teasing and whether he perceives his childhood optimistically or pessimistically.

The text Land’s Edge: A Coastal Memoir by Tim Winton shows that Winton has a nostalgic attitude towards childhood and he believes that children perceive the world as a bright and beautiful place. He shows this through the language features of juxtaposition and shift in time. He describes the ocean as “deep and shallow, black and turquoise, reef and sand, dark and light”. This juxtaposition shows that children are capable of perceiving the world as bright and beautiful. Between the 2 consecutive paragraphs it transitions from the 60’s to the 80’s. This shift in time indicates that time passes by quickly and so gives off a nostalgic tone.

The text Ugly by Robert Hoge establishes a positive attitude towards childhood and indicates that childhood can only be as difficult and negative as one makes it, but in contrast the text Land’s Edge: A Coastal Memoir by Tim Winton establishes a nostalgic attitude towards childhood and indicates that children perceive the world as a bright and beautiful place.

**Phone Addiction in Modern Society – A Persuasive Essay on the Negative Implications of Excessive Phone Usage**

Phone addiction is becoming an increasingly prevalent issue in modern society. We’re all **products** of our environment, and we’re living in a **rapidly changing society** with an **exponential growth** of technological advancement. Because of this, we need to be **careful** as to not fall into compulsive phone usage, but **not all people** see their large quantity of time on their phones as an issue, as they **don’t see its effects** on their physical and mental wellbeing.

People who are addicted to their phone are so connected to it that they feel **unsettled and best** and **violent at worst** when they’re out of reach from it. When people who are addicted to their phone don’t have access to their phone, they experience unreasonable feelings of **anger, tension, depression, irritability and restlessness**. These are clear symptoms of phone addiction and can have **negative implications on your peers** when they interact with you. This is obviously a **reason** to try to stay clear of phone addiction.

Phone addiction can lead to **unnecessary sacrifices**. Spending excessive amounts of time on a phone causes both **tangible losses** such as a job or relationship, as well as **intangible losses** such as time or self-esteem, and addiction to social media can extend to the point where **virtual, online friends** become **more important than real-life relationships**. Online relationships **aren’t a healthy substitute** for real-life interactions. Online friendships can be **detrimental** to your life and is another clear **reason** to avoid phone addiction.

Phone addiction can also negatively affect **mental health**. Phone addiction can negatively impact your life by increasing **loneliness and depression, fuelling anxiety, increasing stress, exacerbating attention deficit disorders, diminishing your ability to concentrate and think deeply or creatively, disturbing sleep patterns and encouraging self-absorption**. This can lead to **harmful behaviours and consequences**, taking up your **time and energy** for something that ultimately **won’t have benefit** for your future. These are **more reasons** to avoid steering towards phone addiction.

**Simply using** your phone won’t lead to these consequences. It’s **excessive time** on your phone that causes these harmful consequences, so the key is a **balance**. Most things aren’t harmful in **moderation**, and phone usage is definitely included. I’m not saying that if you use your phone you’re ruining your lives and future from the **inside out**. Phones have the **potential to save lives** and help you avoid making **impulsive decisions**, but **too much** is what will cause **more harm than good**.

Phone addiction is becoming an increasingly prevalent issue in modern society. It can lead to irritability when out of contact with a phone, unnecessary sacrifices and negative effects on mental health. These are reasons to stay clear of phone addiction. People do and put everything on their phones. Their contacts, social media, GPS and many more are all put into the device, and quite often it’s the only source of communication they have with emergency services. You can imagine why having access to a phone is perceived to be an integral part of safety, but our increasing connectedness to our devices has contributed to various mental disorders such as anxiety and depression as well as compulsive behaviour. It’s up to your self-control to avoid these implications.