**Entry 1**

**Q: Discuss how the author of Text 1 uses language features to shape a reader’s response.**

Goal: Use language features instead of conventions of indirect characterization.

The text Was It Something I Said? by Ros Thomas positions the audience to view the main character as a woman who feels uncomfortable about her single childhood. Thomas uses the language features of narrational commentary and tone to shape the reader’s response. The fact that the main character forces a smile before she says “I’m an only child” implies through her narrational commentary that she feels uncomfortable about her childhood, as forcing yourself to smiles is typically an attempt to not raise concern. The fact that the character “said those 4 words with a shrug so they’ll appear weightless” further implies through her narrational commentary that she feels uncomfortable about her childhood since she was deliberately attempting to not place excessive attention on her single childhood. The fact that the character responds with “oh, fine!” when responding to the woman asking about her childhood shows a defensive tone of speech, implying through her tone that she feels uncomfortable about her single childhood. The fact that the character feels a familiar pang of alienation” when thinking about her childhood implies that she feels uncomfortable about her single childhood through her narrational commentary. The fact that the character’s parents divorced when she was 3 years old implies through her narrational commentary that she feels uncomfortable about her single childhood since she may have associated trauma and negative emotions with her childhood. The fact that the character had a “long suffering Siamese kitten” to fill the role of a younger sibling implies through her narrational commentary that she feels uncomfortable about her single childhood since having a cat as a sibling wouldn’t typically be something to feel comfortable talking about. The fact that the character doesn’t know what “lonely” felt like implies through her narrational commentary that she doesn’t feel comfortable about her single childhood because she feels alienated and abnormal about her single childhood – any “normal” child would’ve felt lonely as a single childhood, and not having that feeling makes the character feel uncomfortable about her single childhood. The text Was It Something I Said? by Ros Thomas positions the audience to respond to the character as a woman who feels uncomfortable about her single childhood and uses the language features of narrational commentary and tone to achieve this.

**Entry 2**

**Q: Explore how a multimodal text you’ve studied combines visual elements with written and/or spoken elements to present an idea.**

Goal: Name the visual conventions which I use.

In our modern era where people are trying to achieve equality in an increasingly integrated society, we’re constantly faced with the issues of racism which occurred in the past. Now, more than ever, this medium delves successfully into the issues we face today as a society, much of which is linked with racism and prejudice towards Aboriginal Australians. Samson and Delilah, a 2009 film by Warwick Thornton, deals with these issues. The film follows Samson, a young Aboriginal boy who lives in a remote Aboriginal community. He and Delilah run away to Alice Springs in a stolen truck to try to seek a better life. Some ideas presented throughout the film are 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. The film uses the film conventions of symbolism, lighting, colour and juxtaposition to present these ideas.

One of the ideas presented in the film is 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 that they associated with it. The idea is symbolised through the fact that the same thing would happen day by day with very little new things happening. The repetitive lifestyle caused Samson to believe there must be something more out there in the world. Delilah was mistreated by her community for “causing” the death of her grandmother, causing her to almost believe them and become miserable. She ran away from her home to escape the negative emotions she associated with it. The fact that Samson takes a long time to get up and that the first thing he does is sniff petrol symbolizes that he’s unhappy with his repetitive lifestyle. He ran away from his home to escape the negative emotions he associated with it.

Another idea presented in the film is the idea of being alone. Samson is often found alone with very little company. He often walks alone because he doesn’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 conversation is considered the norm and are valued. There was one scene where Samson was dancing outside in the dark night with loud music. This scene symbolises loneliness and satisfaction, and the dancing symbolizes joy and happiness. The fact that Samson’s bedroom has dark lighting symbolizes the fact that Samson often finds joy and satisfaction when he’s alone. Samson would often sniff petrol, symbolising the fact that Samson often find happiness when he’s alone and without company which contrasts greatly from his brothers. When Delilah was walking around Alice Spring, she appeared to be the only dark-skinned person in the scene. This juxtaposition symbolises the idea of being alone through colour and composition.

Another idea presented throughout the film is the idea of racism in a predominantly white society. The fact that Samson was followed by guards when he was wandering through the shops is a clear symbolism of racism. The fact that Delilah’s artwork was constantly turned down immediately by every white Australian she offered it to is also a clear symbolism of racism since they barely gave a glance before turning down the offer. While Delilah was looking around a white church, a white man caused her to leave. Although he didn’t directly tell Delilah to leave, he expressed concern towards why she was wandering around, therefore implying that he feared she came to cause trouble. Delilah was turned away and rejected by the place where she was supposed to be loved and cared for, which clearly symbolises racism. The fact that Samson and Delilah didn’t receive any help when they were clearly lost and homeless symbolises racism since no one even turned to them when they were clearly in need of guidance. When the police came to the Aboriginal community, the scene was captured using a long-shot, portraying the distance between the authorities and the Aboriginals. The police only stayed momentarily, which potentially conveys the idea of lack of authority in the area and a “tick the box” approach.

Films present ideas and they use film conventions to support the development of these ideas. The 2009 film Samson and Delilah presents 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 through the film conventions of symbolism, lighting, colour and juxtaposition. The development and representation of these ideas helps to portray a better understanding of Aboriginals, their culture and way of life.

**Entry 3**

**Q: Compare the manner in which family relationships are portrayed in the 2 texts.**

The text Shutterspeed by A.J. Betts portrays family relationships as people simply living under the same roof with no emotional connection or intimacy. Betts does this through the language conventions of foreshadowing and symbolism. When Dustin stands in front of the house contemplating whether or not to go inside, he feels a “familiar fist tightening in his chest”. This means he feels tension and uneasiness about entering because of his father. This foreshadows an awkward and uneasy experience when entering the house where his father is, which shows that he isn’t looking forward to being with his father, therefore portraying family relationships as lacking emotional connection and intimacy. When entering the house, Dustin mentions that other than small changes to the kitchen due to his father making dinner, nothing in the house is different. This symbolizes the idea that in the house things are repetitive and mundane. This implies that there’s no emotional connection or intimacy between them since the household lacks excitement and stimulation, therefore portraying family relationships as people simply living under the same roof.

In contrast to the text Shutterspeed, the text Perfect Chinese Children by Vanessa Woods portrays family relationships as competition against other families and a project to take pride in. Woods does this through the language conventions of juxtaposition and figurative language (simile). When her mother was comparing Woods’ and David’s maths results, she said “96 isn’t 100... David just got 99.9 on his HSC”. This juxtaposition shows that her mother sees family relationships as competition because it implies that her mother sees results as competition. When talking about David’s score, she said “He’s going to medical school. He’s going to be a heart surgeon, just like Victor Chang”. This simile implies that her mother admires Chang and as such wants David to become like him. This shows that she sees family relationships as a project to take pride in. She chose the future for her nephew and says it deterministically while sighing, which implies she’s prideful about tutoring David.

The text Shutterspeed portrays family relationships as people simply living under the same roof with no emotional connection or intimacy. In contrast, the text Perfect Chinese Children by Vanessa Woods portrays family relationships as competition against other families and a project to take pride in.

**Entry 4**

**Q: Examine how Text 4 represents attitudes to health supplements.**

The text Too Many Pills: On Lifestyle Diseases and Quick Fixes by Karen Hitchcock has a critical attitude towards health supplements and believes that they do more harm than good. She uses the structural device of recurring motif and the stylistic devices of diction and voice to represent this attitude. When outlining the negative effects of excessive consumption of various vitamins and supplements, Hitchcock outlines numerous risks between consecutive sentences. The negative symptoms are a recurring motif that shows the extremely critical attitude she has towards these health supplements as it shows how they can do great harm. When explaining the risks associated with overdosing supplements, Hitchcock outlines the risks with scholarly and learned diction relating to human anatomy. This scholarly and learned diction shows that the author is fairly knowledgeable in the topic of overdosing supplements and therefore feels strongly about the topic. This shows that she has a critical attitude towards supplements since people often research fairly extensively on topics that they feel strongly on. When explaining how many diseases in Australia can be prevented if people take simple measures to improve their health, Hitchcock uses phrases such as “We don’t have time to sleep or exercise or attend to out emotional needs. We want to drive, feast, drink and smoke”. This critical voice represents a critical attitude towards health supplements because it portrays the majority of individuals as lazy and careless in terms of health. The text Too Many Pills: On Lifestyle Diseases and Quick Fixes by Karen Hitchcock has a critical attitude towards health supplements and believes that they do more harm than good. She uses the structural device of recurring motif and the stylistic devices of diction and voice to represent this attitude.