

New Media - Notes from Class

March 9, 2020

Conclusion

- Clearly, Alice's interaction with drugs, new friends, and adversaries shows that the transition to teenagehood is, at the very least, a challenge. As literally billions of teenagers and former teenagers can attest: going through adolescence is hard, and having that represented in literature allows us to see that we're not the only ones who went down the rabbit hole.

Transition sentences:

- It's not only the negative, mind-altering nature of substances that relates to the difficulties of adolescence; the positive role of friendships also play a role.
- While friendships certainly help Alice along her path to growing up, she also comes across adversaries on her journey.
- Essay plan
 - Question: What might Alice in Wonderland be an allegory for?
 - Thesis: Alice in Wonderland is an allegory for the confusion and stress of adolescence.
 - Paragraph 1 Topic: Drugs
 - Example: The bottle that makes her small
 - Example: The hookah thing
 - Paragraph 2 Topic: Friendships
 - Example
 - Example
 - Paragraph 3 Topic: Conflict
 - Example
 - Example

Just how far does the rabbit hole go? At the turn of the 20th Century, Lewis Carol released his magnum opus, the children's novel *Alice in Wonderland*. Since its release, it has been studied thoroughly, as people have been baffled by its absurdist nature, and what it might represent. By examining the use of drugs, the nature of friendship, and the role of conflict in the novel, it is clear that the story is an allegory for the confusion and stress of adolescence. After all, people have been trying to alter their state of mind for centuries, in the search for who they are.

March 5, 2020

- Symbolism
 - A form of metaphor, when something represents a much larger idea. In symbolism, the “thing” is both literal and figurative
 - A dove is both a bird, and a representation of peace

March 3, 2020

- Clause
 - A group of words with a subject, verb, and object
 - I ate the cookie
- Independent clause
 - A clause that can stand on its own
 - I ate the cookie
- Subordinate clause
 - A clause that cannot stand on its own
 - When I ate the cookie
- Comma ,
 - Joins an independent clause to one or more subordinate clauses
- Semi-colon
 - Joins two independent clauses, implying a connection
 - See: [In a Station of the Metro](#)
 - Example
 - The dog ate three pineapples; There seems to be vomit on the floor.
 - I took my cat for ice cream, because I was hungry; I need more socks.
- Period
 - Separates two sentences.

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Feb 28, 2020

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Feb 26, 2020

- Euphemism
 - A metaphor for something we don't want to talk about
 - Pass away, instead of die
- Jargon
 - The use of words that only one group of people would understand
 - A teacher might know the word "scaffolding"
 - Teenagers know many words that the elderly don't.
- Slang/Colloquialism
 - A form of jargon, it's informal language
 - Cool and kid are old slang
- Oxymoron
 - When two words, put together, contradict each other
 - Hot ice
 - Jumbo shrimp
- Paradox
 - An impossible situation
 - Penrose stairs
 - The sentence: "I'm lying right now."
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Feb 24, 2020

- Imagery
 - The use of the senses to create a vivid “picture”. Can be related to sight, sound, touch, taste, and/or smell
- Tone
 - The emotion conveyed by the writing

Feb 13, 2020

Types of quote integration:

1. Before their fight, Scar offers a confession: “I killed Mufasa.”
2. As they begin to fight, Scar confesses that he “killed Mufasa.”
3. Scar tries to anger Simba, when he says, “I killed Mufasa.”
4. Scar offers a “little secret,” that “[he] killed Mufasa.”
5. Scar notes that they should “listen to teacher... [and] be prepared.”

Tip: Make an argument that is debatable. The riskier the statement, the greater chance for a higher mark (though, of course, it is risky). For example:

- “Mr. McLean has a great sense of fashion” is an argument, but it is difficult to debate.
- “Mr. McLean’s obsession with talking about his fashion demonstrates an unhealthy arrogance” is a much, much stronger argument. It can be pushed back against, and you can build a case.

Feb 10, 2020

Types of questions for the In-class paragraph:

- Characterization: Describe Simba from The Lion King
 - Simba is a foolish, entitled brat.

- Literary Terms: Discuss the use of symbolism in The Lion King
 - The use of symbolism relating to land demonstrates that hierarchy is the best way to govern.
- Literary Terms: Discuss the use of metaphor in the song “Be Prepared”
 - The use of metaphor demonstrates that sometimes, justice isn’t universal.
- Morality: Was Simba right to return to Pride Rock?
 - No, he should have stayed in that place.
- Thematic Statement: What does Lion King tell us about family?
 - In The Lion King, ~~it shows that sometimes,~~ family can be a burden.

Feb 6, 2020

In the summer of 2009, the world was graced with one of the greatest animated movies of all time: *Up*. The movie was accoladed for its mature take on grief and its dynamic characters; however, it does not get enough attention for one key fact: Carl is selfish and is responsible for a great deal of damage. At the beginning of the movie, there is a moving sequence that shows the life of Carl and his wife. It is meant to elicit sadness and compassion in the viewer, but it overlooks an important element of Carl’s development: He did not contribute to the household income. Throughout the sequence, they struggle with cash, and cannot achieve their dream. Meanwhile, he keeps a job as a seller of balloons. He makes no effort to improve his career through education or additional work, keeping the pressure of household finances, selfishly, on his wife. Secondly, when the developers arrive in an attempt to buy out his lot, he tells them to “go away.” The scene clearly shows that his lot is giant, and is a terrible use of resources for one person - the land nearby is much more densified. Hundreds of people could live there instead of him, but he decides to stay. Clearly, while the viewer is meant to sympathize with him, Carl is a selfish character who makes people’s lives worse.

In 2013, Disney released the blockbuster hit *Frozen*, and since then, children have asked over and over again to listen to “Let it Go.” While the movie’s success is well deserved in terms of its messaging around shame and identity, as well as in its music, its depiction of magic demonstrates that the writers did not create a story that makes sense. First off, the character Olaf is, at best, problematic. When Elsa first sees him, she says, “You’re alive?” This lack of awareness of her own abilities demonstrates that the writers didn’t think about its importance. Furthermore, this is not a relevant plot point for the rest of the movie. Secondly, the plot largely hinges on Kristoff’s close relationship with rocks that turn into trolls. These trolls provide important advice, including telling Elsa’s parents to essentially repress all her abilities. However, their powers are never explained, and their advice leads to the main problem of the story. Despite this, they are never held accountable by the end of the movie. Clearly, the magical elements of *Frozen* show that the writers put little effort into logic and consistency, and instead relied on the supernatural to bail them out.

Feb 4, 2020

- Theme
 - An idea or motif that pops up frequently during a text. If you had to describe the text in one word.
 - A theme of Romeo and Juliet is fate
 - A theme of Game of Thrones is loyalty
 - A theme of the Titanic is greed
- Thematic Statement
 - A statement specifying a message about the theme. It’s a sentence about life, which the text would agree with. (Important)
 - Tip: Use this sentence
 - Sometimes, (a theme, single word) can/is/will (complete the sentence)
 - Try to avoid metaphors and cliches. When you’re ready, drop the “sometimes”
 - Examples:
 - Sometimes, relationships can end
 - Sometimes, moving on can open up new relationships
 - Moving on can open new relationships

- Moving on creates new relationships
 - Moving on strengthens new relationships
 - Sometimes, moving on can hurt
 - Sometimes, family can betray you
 - Sometimes, betrayal can be shocking
 - Sometimes, identity can bring shame
 - Sometimes, love can bring family together
 - Love can bring family together
 - Love brings families together
 - Love brings siblings together
 - Love heals siblings.
- Onomatopoeia
 - A word that represents a sound
 - Examples
 - Buzz
 - Snap
 - Chop
 - Boom
 - Drip drop
 - Crack
 - Squeak
 - Baaaah
- Pun
 - A play on words, where one word has more than one meaning. Also known as dad jokes
 - Examples
 - Burr you disgust me. Ah, so you've discussed me
 - When you go, I'll go mad
 - We should get a wooden bear. Yeah, if you could bear it.
- Character foil
 - A character who is set up to be the opposite of the main character. This provides contrast
 - Captain America and Iron Man

Jan 31, 2020

- Connotation
 - The inferred meaning below the surface. As opposed to denotation, which is the surface level meaning. Imagine an ice berg: 90% is below the surface
 - Sarcasm: Nice tie!
 - Positive or negative meaning: Childish vs. Childlike
 - Symbolism: A dove
- Characterization - what we know about the type of person a character is

- Direct - the writer tells us who they are (not as good writing)
 - *She was the type of woman who would blow a gasket if demeaned.*
 - *He gave off the appearance of being slow, but was in fact quite bright.*
 - *They didn't much care what others thought.*
- Indirect - the writer gives hints about who they are, and the reader needs to infer (much better writing)
 - There are a few ways to do this:
 - A character's looks
 - Dirt on the face often implies that they don't care about their appearance.
 - A character's words
 - Elevated words often imply a higher education.
 - A character's actions
 - A character who walks quickly might be nervous.
- Dramatic Irony
 - When the audience knows something that a character doesn't. This creates a tension that needs to be resolved.
 - Think of a horror movie, where the killer is right behind the character, but they don't know it.
- Situational Irony (also just referred to as "irony")
 - The hardest literary term to understand. It's when the end result of an event is the opposite of what you'd expect. Often leading to something humorous or devastating.
 - A police headquarters is robbed.
 - A fire station burns down
 - An English teacher can't read
 - Trick:
 - Finish this sentence: You would think that _____, but actually _____.

Jan 23, 2020

- Alliteration
 - The repetition of a consonant sound in a sentence.
 - Mr. McLean: Tyler spilled the tea: He was bitter at Tim for tempting Tara.
 - Student examples:
 - Pablo painted a picture of a person.
 - Sandy sells sea shells by the sea shore.
 - Ryan ran around the roundhouse in the rain.
 - Peter Parker picked a packet of palatable pickled peppers.
- Assonance
 - The repetition of vowel sounds in a sentence

- Mr. McLean: Adam adopted a similar assumption as Sara: awkwardly ask anything.
- Student samples:
 - Oh! Observe the obviously obtuse orangutan!
 - The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plane.
 - Byron, my xylophone is spying on me.
- Allusion
 - A reference to something outside the text that would be understood, usually a historical or popular person, thing, or event.
 - The teacher noted that Romeo over there was feeling the feels.
 - Today/Yesterday/Tomorrow is like
 - Tomorrow is like Independence Day
 - Today is like Star Wars
 - Today is like the storyline from the movie Groundhog Day
 - Tomorrow is like Dancing Pennywise
 -
- Metaphor
 - A direct comparison between two unlike things, to clarify meaning
 - Tip: Ask yourself, “is it actually _____?”
 - Student examples:
 - Mr. McLean is a parrot
 - Mr. McLean is a wise turtle
 - Mr. McLean is a chameleon
- Simile
 - An indirect comparison between two unlike things, using like or as
 - Student examples:
 - Kits is like a smelly skunk
 - Kits is as busy as a beehive
 - Kits is like capitalism: only the one percent benefits
 - Kits smells like an accident in an Axe Body Spray factory
 - Kits is like an enclosed barnyard.
 - Kits is like a road after a car crash
 - Kits is like heaven.

(2-4)

- Alliteration
 - The repetition of consonant sounds in a sentence
 - Mr. McLean's example: A prickly pear pondered the preposterousness of life on planet Pluto.
 - Student samples:
 - Christopher carelessly cuts cucumbers.
 - Beautiful Beatrice the bear was backed by a bountiful battalion of beaming beavers as Beyonce boomed in the background.
 - The snake snuck sneakily selling sneakers at the shoe shack.
- Assonance
 - The repetition of vowel sounds in a sentence
 - Mr. McLean: I'm interested in interrogating Iris on their impending internment.
 - Student samples:
 - Apples are amazing
 - Sammy the swashbuckling sea otter, swam sulkily into the serene sea.
 - An iguana eerily interrogated the irritating insect, intensely.
- Metaphor
 - A direct comparison between two unlike things, to provide clarity
 - Tip: ask yourself, "is it actually _____?"
 - Student samples:
 - Mr. McLean is a rabbit
 - Mr. McLean is a meerkat
 - Mr. McLean is a tortoise
 - Mr. McLean is a peacock
 - Mr. McLean is a deer
- Simile
 - An indirect comparison between two unlike things, using like or as
 - Student samples:
 - Kits is like a nightmare
 - Kits is like a beehive
 - Kits is like Darth Vader's space ship
 - Kits is like a smoking section
 - Kits is like a family reunion
 - Kits is like the McDonald's play area
 - Kits is like a dystopian government testing thing
 - Kits is like a dark room
- Allusion
 - A reference to something outside the text that the reader will understand
 - Mr. McLean's example: Romeo over here is feeling the feels.

- Student examples:
 - Today/Yesterday/Tomorrow is like
 - Tomorrow is like Independence Day
 - Today is like an unskippable youtube ad
 - Tomorrow is like the London Blackout

Jan 21, 2020

- Alliteration
 - The repetition of consonant sounds in a sentence
 - Mr. McLean's example: Ludicrous ladies lunch lazily in a library.
 - Student examples:
 - Kindergarten kids kill kindness
 - Zen zebras zip their zippers.
 - Beautiful bumblebees buzz blindly being bratty
 - Kyle can't cut out creatine
 - Connor killed cowboy Cerrone
- Assonance
 - The repetition of vowel sounds in a sentence
 - Mr. McLean's example: An alligator ate an audacious apple.
 - Student examples:
 - Bats rattle a carved cage
 - Eagles eat endangered elephants
 - Oliver outlived all other octopi.
 - Elephants eat endangered eagles.
- Allusion
 - A reference to a person, event, or thing outside of the text, to clarify meaning
 - Student examples
 - Today is like the Crash of '29
 - Real cool people move in silence like Giannis
 - Today is like the traffic jam from the movie Up.
 - Today is like Fortnite, it just needs to end.
 - His visit was like Eminem's new album: nobody expected and it was still bad.
- Simile

- A comparison between two unlike things, to clarify meaning, using like or as.
Waters down a metaphor a bit.
- Student examples:
 - Kitsilano is like purgatory
 - Kitsilano is like a roller coaster
 - Kitsilano is like the Warriors
 - Kitsilano is like a circus
- Metaphor
 - A direct comparison between two unlike things, to clarify meaning
 - Trick: Ask, "Is it actually _____?"
 - Student examples:
 - Mr. McLean is a peacock
 - Mr. McLean is a zebra
 - Mr. McLean is an owl
 -