

Analyse the methods used by the writer of this text to convey a message.



Text A is a satirical cartoon by Gary Jarvel titled “Children Playing” which depicts a group of children staring at their devices in front of an empty playground. It attempts to criticise the obsessive use of technology by newer generations and is broadly aimed at parents who give their children unrestricted time online. **In particular, through the use of irony and symbolism, colour in conjunction with caricatures, and humorous and satirical tone,** the text effectively conveys the message of the overuse of technology by children.

First, **via the use of irony and symbolism which humorously depicts the issue by addressing the audience,** the text is able to convey the message of the overuse of technology by children. This is evident in the bright yellow caution sign which reads “Caution, Children Playing” that contradicts the empty playground in the background, and instead refers to the five children all staring down at their electronic devices. Here the ironic juxtaposition of the signpost, that generally signals a mood of community and childhood, against the empty playground, subverts the anticipated scene and is thus able to highlight the relationship between evolving technology and childhood experiences. Specifically, through the contrast between the emptiness of the playground and its absence of children playing on it, the irony is able to

underscore the impact of technology, emphasising that, despite traditional expectations, the children are not playing but are instead immersed in their electronic devices. *As a result of the irony, a humorous tone is first achieved in addition to a pathetic appeal, engaging the audience's sense of worry about children's interactions with technology. This message is further emphasised by the ironic setting that conveys the impact of technology on the traditional setting associated with childhood activities.* Furthermore, this is further emphasised by the significance of the caution sign which reads "Caution, Children Playing." Here, the caution sign, whilst also contributing to the irony of the cartoon, is conventionally a symbol of warning that is able to directly engage the audience. Specifically, the direct address of the caution sign not only warns the audience about the broader implications of technology on childhood, but also serves as a call to action for those observing the scene. *As a result, the text is able to achieve a pathetic appeal that engages the audience's sense of worry, encouraging them to feel a sense of worry regarding the impact of technology on children.* **Thus, the text is able to effectively convey the message of the overuse of technology by children through ironic juxtaposition and symbolism. Specifically, the ironic juxtaposition of the empty playground and children using their devices is able to highlight the evolving relationship between technology and childhood experiences. Furthermore, the symbolism of the sign that directly addresses the audience emphasises the larger societal implications of technology on childhood, encouraging the reader to consider the overuse of technology by children by appealing to the audience's sense of worry.**

Second, the text is able to convey the message of children obsessively using technology through the use of colour in conjunction with caricatures, which appeals to the audience's concern for their children's well being. For example, there is a clear separation between the green grass of the playground and the white pavement that the children, on their devices, stand on. The choice for the children to only be standing on white pavements that juxtaposes the natural green grass of the playground, emphasises the industrialised nature of their surroundings. Specifically, the children's lack of interactions with nature is able to underscore how electronic devices have begun to replace childhood outdoor experiences. *As a result, a sense of detachment from the real world is developed, which is further emphasised by the*

industrialised setting. Thus, the text is able to critique how technology disconnects children from the natural world and contemporary childhood experiences. In addition, the author portrays the children in caricature with heads down, drooping eyes fixated on screens, and fingers pointing at them, all while wearing vibrant colours. Here, the use of vibrant artificial-looking colours underscores the lack of individuality and conveys the artificial nature of the digital world. Specifically, despite the lively colours, portrayal of the children all staring at their screens with droopy eyes, making the same hand gestures, further evokes a lack of individuality and emphasises their collective surrender to their electronic devices. As a result, the use of vivid colours, conventionally associated with joy, contributes to an overall artificial atmosphere. This reinforces the critique of technology's impact on children, emphasising their detachment from genuine interactions and the loss of individuality, developing a pathetic appeal that engages the audience's sense of concern. Thus, the text is able to successfully convey the message of the overuse of technology by children; in particular, through the lack of natural colours and the juxtaposition of nature and artificial environments, the text is able to appeal to the audience's sense of concern for children using devices.

Finally, by utilising a humorous and satirical tone that encourages the audience to recognize the issue themselves, the text is able to effectively convey the message of the overuse of technology by children. For instance, the caution sign's ironic placement signalling to two children drawn as if they are about to walk into each other humorously underscores the text's satirical tone. Here, irony is achieved by cautioning others to be wary of children playing who are immediately in danger of bumping into each other by not looking where they are going as they stare at their phones. As a result, a humorous and satirical tone is achieved in addition to a pathetic appeal, engaging the audience's sense of anxiety about children's interactions with technology. Here, the use of a satirical tone allows the text to humorously convey its message to the audience by indirectly guiding the audience to recognize the negative implications of the overuse of technology by children. This further highlights the blatancy of the issue, as the audience have the ability to recognize the problem without explicitly being told. On top of this, the text lacks a directly critical tone and instead employs satire. Here, the lack of critical tone,

which directly criticises the issue, allows the text to criticise the overuse of technology by children without being overly confrontational, and thus reaching a wider audience. Furthermore, the presentation of the issue in a humorous and exaggerated manner encourages the audience to draw their own conclusion and reflect on the issue themselves, which to an audience of parents subsequently achieves a pathetic appeal as it engages the audience's sense of anxiety towards their children whilst avoiding directly confronting them. **Therefore, the text is able to effectively convey the message of the overuse of technology by children; to be more specific, by engaging the audience's desire to protect their children through a humorous message, the text is able to encourage parents to limit their children's screen time.**

In sum, the text is able to effectively convey the message of the overuse of technology by children, through the use of irony and symbolism, colour in conjunction with caricatures, and humorous and satirical tone. In particular, by using ironic juxtaposition and symbolism the text directly addresses the audience and emphasises the larger societal implications of technology on childhood, encouraging the reader to consider the overuse of technology by children by appealing to the audience's sense of worry. Furthermore, the use of colour, specifically the lack of natural colours and the juxtaposition of nature and artificial environments, the text is able to appeal to the audience's sense of concern for children using devices. Also, by engaging the audience's desire to protect their children through a humorous message, the text is able to encourage parents to limit their children's screen time.