

Name:

Author's Toolbox

Class:

Author's Voice: Raising the Stakes

Definition:

Developing a strong voice by increasing the intensity level of the situation.

Example:

In Malcolm X, the author shows the reader that his mother is vulnerable because she is pregnant, then raises the stakes by describing her three small children, that her husband is away from home, and showing the KKK shatter the windows.

Author's Voice: Connecting Past and Present

Definition:

Taking the reader on a journey by connecting the past and the present.

Example:

In Malcolm X, the author connects past and present by using phrases such as “My image of Africa, at that time” (p. 7) and “I know now” (p. 14) to indicate that these early views of the world would change as he grew older.

Author's Voice: Style

Definition:

Deliberately choosing words to create a sense of a specific time or place.

Example:

In *Malcolm X*, the author says, “I met chicks who were fine as May wine, and cats who were hip to all happenings” to take the reader back to 1940s Harlem.

Characterization

Definition:

Describing someone's looks, actions, speech, thoughts, or what other people say about them to reveal their character.

Example:

The characterization of Malcolm's father as a strong man and “not frightened” (p. 3) reveals how terrifying the Ku Klux Klan's attack must have been, because even Malcolm's father decided to move away instead of fighting back.

Point of View

Definition:

An author's opinion or attitude towards a subject.

Example:

Malcolm describes being "mesmerized" by the "technicolor bazaar" of Harlem, but later describes how the experience "narcotized" him (p. 78), showing a shift in his point of view from one of wonder and appreciation to disenchantment with the street culture.

Author's Purpose

Definition:

An author's goal in writing a text for a specific audience.

Example:

Malcolm X reveals his criminal past to show how bad life on the streets was, and how critical his ultimate conversion to Islam was in saving his life.

Definition:

Example: