

QUESTION 2 Poetry – Douglas Stewart, *Selected Poems*

Through the use of distinctively visual in a range of different texts, the experiences people have are brought to life in a number of ways. Douglas Stewart's poetry explores a range of different language techniques in order to emphasise the different encounters people have. In the poem 'Lady Feeding the Cats' Stewart has told the story of a poverty stricken lady who seeks joy through feeding stray cats. In 'Wombat' the concept of an unusual encounter of coming across a wombat is explored. In the scene 'Cell Block Tango' from the movie 'Chicago', Rob Marshall has explored a range of visual and language techniques in order to tell the story of each individual woman in the act. These two texts both effectively show the ways in which distinctively visual helps to bring the different experiences of people to life.

In the poem 'Lady Feeding the Cats', Stewart has given precise images to the enjoyment the lady receives from feeding the cats. We are first introduced to the lady through the use of language techniques which highlights her poverty stricken lifestyle. 'Green and black like a pine in the rain'. This simile has informed the audience of the poor lifestyle this woman lives. It has also introduced us to a general concept that this woman's everyday encounters are not any she really enjoys. In addition, the metaphor 'She is a princess out of a tower' gives reference to the joy that both the lady and the cats experience when they interact with one another. This technique has brought to life the contentment this woman gets from her experience of feeding the cats. Stewart has used the onomatopoeia of 'hiss' and 'howl' to emphasise the feral nature of these cats. Through this technique it has been shown that there is a somewhat agreement between the lady and the cats as they are not wild and untameable around her. Therefore, showing that both the lady and cats find this experience pleasurable. This text has given great emphasis to the appreciation of the cats and the contentment of the lady through this encounter. 'Their tails are banners and fountains inside her head'. This metaphor shows the appreciation of each party involved and is used by Stewart to bring the encounter of both the lady and the cats to life. Through the use of distinctively visual techniques, Stewart has been successful in bringing this joyous occasion, for both lady and cats, to life.

The poem 'Wombat' has several language features which help to bring to life the experience of meeting a wombat in the wild. It is made evident that the initial meeting of this animal is a surprising and exciting encounter. The use of the quoted speech 'Ha there!' to begin the poem, immediately informs the audience that the meeting of a wombat is quite rare and a very exciting experience. The technique

QUESTION 2 Poetry – Douglas Stewart, Selected Poems

continued

also creates a great sense of realism amongst the audience, better helping it to come to life in the minds of the viewer. The movement of this animal is also greatly elaborated on. 'Rivers and rock, and ridges' not only describes the environment, this alliteration also highlights the clumsy nature of the animal through a tumbling effect helping to create more realism for the viewer in relation to this person's experience. The metaphor 'Poor lump of movable clay' helps the audience to develop a more distinct image of the wombat, and further adds to its movement. This technique has in turn allowed the audience to better grasp the concept of meeting a wombat, enabling the person's experience to better come to life. Onomatopoeia has also been used to further appeal to the senses. 'Snuffling' and 'Snorting' enable the audience to better grasp the overall distinctively crawl effect as the effect of sound has been effectively used. This has, therefore, better enabled the audience to fully understand this person's encounter as the poem has been 'brought to life'. Conclusively, Stewart has effectively used language techniques in order to create distinctively visual effects and bring the experience of meeting a wombat to life.

In the scene 'Cell Block Tango' from the movie 'Chicago', Rob Marshall has effectively utilised several difficult techniques in order to bring the 'merry murderesses' story to life. The use of the red and white lighting added symbolism to each woman's murder. For the guilty women, a combination of black and red lighting was used in order to express anger and domination, while for the other women, the constant use of a white light symbolised purity and innocence. The use of this lighting technique has developed a greater understanding of each woman's story and enabled the nature of the murder to come to life. Through the style of dance the 'merry murderess' use, the nature of the crime and dominance of the women is better revealed. For each guilty woman, their dance is very aggressive and they play the dominant role. For the remaining woman, her dance is very passionate and slow, indicating she committed no crime. This technique enabled the audience to get a firmer grasp of the attitude and level of innocence of each woman. It has also been effective in bringing each of their experiences to life. The use of varying camera angles and shots further enables the audience to be involved within the scene. Low camera angles are used for the guilty women while an eyelevel one is used for the one innocent woman. This has enabled the audience to better understand the musical scene and has successfully brought it to life. Marshall has effectively used a range of visual and symbolic techniques in order to help the personal experiences of these women come to life.

QUESTION 2 Poetry – Douglas Stewart, *Selected Poems**continued*

All of these texts are extremely effective in making the personal experiences of people come to life through a range of visual and language techniques. In Stewart's poems 'Lady Feeding the Cats' and 'Wombat', a range of poetic techniques have been used in order to appeal to all five senses and bring the peoples experiences to life. In the musical scene 'Cell Block Tango' Marshall has successfully used a number of visual and symbolic techniques in order to better portray the personal experiences of all these women.

Conclusively, there is a varying amount of ways in which distinctively visual can bring to life the personal experiences of individuals.

Comment

This is an effective and detailed that is strongly shaped to meet the requirements of the question. It is purposeful in demonstrating its understanding of the distinctively visual in Stewart's poetry, and identifies techniques used to further the discussion.

The related text is also effective in analysing the distinctively visual.