**Narrative methods that need to be addressed in Handmaid’s Tale**

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| Narrative structure  Students will explore how the events in a story are organised. Exploration of different possible narrative structures might include: | * simple chronology, framed narratives, use of flashbacks, cyclical structure, shifts in time and place, use of multiple narrators, foreshadowing, analeptic/proleptic narrative, stream of consciousness * episodic novel, or diary form * organisation by, chapters or sections. * how authors privilege certain events by their position in the narrative * the privileged position of beginnings and endings in terms of narrative structure and their importance in introducing and concluding key aspects of setting, character, themes and context * development of an incident, an idea or the story, suspense, tension * contrast, twist, shift in tone, climax, anti-climax. |
| Time and Place  Students will consider the importance of the time in which the story is set to the detail of the narrative; how the narrative is structured around time; how the author creates meaning through the locations used in the narrative such as: | * ways of using time and sequence to add complexity to a narrative (eg use of flashback, different narrators for different time periods) * ways of describing settings through specific authorial methods * how choice of place(s) can symbolise aspects of characters and relationships. |
| Characterisation  Students will consider the range of strategies used by authors and readers to create and develop characters such as: | * how characters are presented: physical appearance; their actions and motives; what they say and think; how they interact with others; what others say and think about them; any direct or implicit revelation of author’s/narrator’s attitude to them * how realistic or unrealistic the presentation of character is * the effect of ‘gaps’ in the reader’s knowledge of a character * the focus given to different characters at particular points in the novel * use of symbolism * caricature * empathy or lack of towards a character * conflict associated with a character * pathos associated with a character * characters as a vehicle for the author’s views, through direct or indirect speech. |
| Point of View  Students will consider the perspectives (often shifting), through which the narrative is presented and the methods used by the author to present those perspectives such as: | * different types of narration eg first person, second person, third person; third person narrative that privileges the perspective of a given character; third person narrative with character as the centre of consciousness; singular or multiple narrators * events seen from different points of view (eg physical, ideological, perceptual); points of view which are privileged, those which are marginalised, those which create narrative gaps * categories of speech and thought (eg direct, indirect and narrator’s representation of speech/thought acts); the ambiguity created where indirect/free indirect speech/thought is not attributed to a particular character; patterns of or changes in a character’s speech/thought across or at certain points of the novel * reliable and unreliable narrators: self-reflexive narrator; the narrator who draws attention to the novel’s artifice; intrusive narrator; omniscient narrator; narrative intrusion; subjective and objective narrators. * different types of narration eg first person, second person, third person; third person narrative that privileges the perspective of a given character; third person narrative with character as the centre of consciousness; singular or multiple narrators * events seen from different points of view (eg physical, ideological, perceptual); points of view which are privileged, those which are marginalised, those which create narrative gaps * categories of speech and thought (eg direct, indirect and narrator’s representation of speech/thought acts); the ambiguity created where indirect/free indirect speech/thought is not attributed to a particular character; patterns of or changes in a character’s speech/thought across or at certain points of the novel * reliable and unreliable narrators: self-reflexive narrator; the narrator who draws attention to the novel’s artifice; intrusive narrator; omniscient narrator; narrative intrusion; subjective and objective narrators. |