Analyzing Writing Devices in Narrative Essays

1. Read TWO of the narrative essays listed below (you do NOT have to do the questions at the bottom of the essays):
   1. [Libraries-Cathedrals-of our Souls](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/libraries-cathedrals-of-o_b_2103362) *(Caitlin Moran’s essay begins as a reflection on her love of libraries but then it changes to more of an issue-based essay)*
   2. [*Huddling Together*](https://k12.thoughtfullearning.com/studentmodels/huddling-together) *(Written by a student about his relationship with his stepfather. Great example of how to use dialogue to enhance theme)*
   3. [*A Poet's Boyhood at the Burning Crossroads*](https://web.archive.org/web/20150120081844/https:/opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/01/19/a-poets-boyhood-at-the-burning-crossroads/) *check link (taken from the New York Times, this a beautifully written narrative about being on the margins of society based on one’s identity)*
2. Choose ONE essay to examine closer for rhetorical devices. Copy quotes and portions of the essay to this document to portray examples of these devices

*Eg. (Libraries) “Everything I am is based on this ugly building on its lonely, lawn-lit up during winter darkness” (descriptive detail, imagery, sound device- alliteration)*

I have listed the most common devices in the chart below. The list is not exhaustive so you may find more. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO FIND MORE THAN ONE EXAMPLE OF EACH UNLESS NOTED

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Huddling Together** | **A Poet’s Boyhood at the Burning Crossroads** | **Caitlin Moran’s “Libraries: Cathedrals of our Souls”** |
| *Anecdote*  *Contrast*  *Rule of 3’s (2 examples)*  *Rhetorical question*  *Poetic devices (2 examples such as similes, hyperboles, metaphors, or symbols)*  *Repetition*  *Sound patterns (devices such as alliteration or onomatopoeia)*  *Parallel structures*  *Emotive language*  *Imagery for descriptive language* | *Rule of 3’s (2 examples)*  *Rhetorical question*  *Poetic devices (3 examples- there are tons!)*  *Repetition*  *Sentence fluency (one long, one short combo)*  *Parallel structures*  *Imagery for descriptive language (2x)*  *Contrast*  *Allusions (3x)*  *Symbols*  *Extended metaphor* | *Rule of 3’s (2 examples)*  *Rhetorical question*  *Poetic devices (3 examples)*  *Repetition*  *Sound patterns (devices)*  *Sentence fluency (one long, one short combo)*  *Parallel structures*  *Descriptive language*  *Allusions (find two)*  *Tone changes from \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_?* |

# Put the quotes and devices here (5 marks based on accuracy of the whole):

*Eg.* *(from “Opposite of Loneliness”) “Our private insecurities follow us and will always follow us” (repetition and parallel structure)*

# Answer the following questions for the essay you chose:

* 1. In addition to telling a story, a narrative essay also communicates an insight into life, a lesson learned or a connection between experience and the larger world. What insight or message does this essay portray? (2 marks)
  2. What is the conflict in the essay? Explain. (2 marks)
  3. These essays “show, don’t tell”. Find a passage from the essay that shows the story, not tells it. Tell me what it “shows”. (2 marks) (I will go over this on Thursday/Friday)

**Hand in to TEAMS by June 11th.**