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ENG1121

Prof. Street

1. Post a reading response to one of the above readings. Below are the guidelines. For those of you wanting more of a prompt to chew on, try describing each of the three perspectives in Serpell’s text: who is writing—that is, what is the voice which tells—each of the three versions of the story here?  What do you notice about the style used to represent the perspective in each section?

Triptych depicts the events of a Texas pool party in 2015 that ended up as an example of a tragic encounter between a police officer and one of those who attended the pool party. There are three different perspectives in the piece. The first is told from the point of view of one of the party attendees. The second is told from the point of view of the police officer. The third is the dialogue that occurred between those at the party and the police officers that arrived at the scene. The first perspective, from one of the party attendees, uses the type of language that is a part of the normal culture of those at this specific party. You can tell that the language is more relaxed. There are more vulgar phrases being used. The language expresses the joys of summertime, and the good times that were being had at the pool party. By the end of this section, the style transitioned into a more serious tone, which demonstrated the concept of anaphora in which the section included repetitions of things important to the story like, “Joy”, “Sparkles” and “Own”. While I believe that this language was from the point of view of the party-goers, I also believe that this language was intended to represent the entire black community as a whole, and represent the plight that they have faced up to this point in American History.

The second section of Triptych is from the perspective of the police officer responding to the scene. He particularly discusses his background, and the sense of pride that he has in his training. He also expresses his fear when things got heated at the scene and he felt outnumbered. The language used in this second section is equally as dramatic as the first section, however, it is focused on the officer feeling attacked, not just physically, but personally. He feels a sense that his extensive training and background are under attack when things go awry.

The third section is a little more unique. It took me a little bit to figure out what was happening here, but this section is the literal script that was floating back and forth during the scene. In my eyes, this is the script that appears on the video recorded by the spectator across the street. Perhaps this could be the video evidence that is being used in the court of law. To say that it is a dialogue would be inaccurate, since it is a multi-logue, consisting of multiple voices at the scene. Specifically, the writer says, “What is she doing? What the fuck is she doing? On your face. On the ground” (Serpell, 2015). It is a less biased, more factual depiction of the encounter. This quote, however, knowing that it is a more factual depiction of the events, leads the reader to question that was in the wrong in this event. Were the partygoers in the wrong? Were the police in the wrong? Were both parties in the wrong? In this specific quote, “what is he doing?” refers to one of the partygoers asking what the girl was doing wrong to warrant a response from the police. “On your face. On the ground” can be defined as the orders that the police were giving to try to maintain control over the situation.

1. Write 2 paragraphs of anaphoric sentences. (See definition and example of *anaphora* above.) In your first paragraph, begin every sentence with the same phrase.  In your second paragraph, do the same thing, using a different phrase.  NOTE: It probably makes sense to try this using material from your Essay 1—however, this isn’t required.

At the end of the day how much do our differences really matter? At the end of the day we each just want to live our lives. At the end of the day protestors want a better world. At the end of the day police want a better world. At the end of the day we all just want a decent existence. At the end of the day we all want to return to our families. At the end of the day we all want to feel heard. At the end of the day we all enjoy eating the same foods. At the end of the day we all breathe the same air. At the end of the day the same sun sets for all of us. At the end of the day maybe we are not very different at all.

Maybe we have different backgrounds. Maybe we have different experiences. Maybe we have different values. Maybe we have different families. Maybe we have different feelings. Maybe we have different professions. Maybe we have different opinions. Maybe we enjoy different things. Maybe we have different priorities. But maybe we live on the same Earth. Maybe we share the same friends. Maybe we enjoy the same movies. Maybe we root for the same sports teams. Maybe we both love our families. Maybe we both love our cities. Maybe we both just want what is best.

3) See Emmanuel Pichardo and Jamal Taylor essays.