Text 1

It is at times difficult for the reader of a fiction novel to distinguish between truth and falsity when faced with the perspective of an unreliable narrator. Pamela Freeman represents Stephen Messenger as mentally ill and emotionally flawed in her essay about Gary Crew’s *Strange Objects*, to develop the idea that the modern protagonist is an unreliable narrator.

Freeman uses a representation of Stephen Messenger as mentally ill and emotionally disturbed to evolve the idea that he is an unreliable narrator whose perspective cannot be trusted by readers. Freeman highlights Stephen’s self-centred personality and recent experience of the death of his father regularly throughout her essay to display the reasons why Stephens’ perspective provides readers with uncertainty. Freeman describes how Stephen’s “understanding of other people is obviously flawed” and his tendency to be “breathtakingly self-centred.” She also states that his “problems with people are symptoms of an underlying mental illness” and that his unreliable perspective may be “exacerbated by grief at the death of his father.” By discussing Stephen’s emotional flaws and burdens as well as his issues with illness, Freeman is able to create a representation of him as troubled and disturbed, which therefore encourages the reader to view his perspective as untrustworthy and unreliable.

Freeman uses the generic convention of representations, in her essay about Gary Crew’s *Strange Objects*, to display Steven Messenger as mentally impaired and emotionally disturbed in order to develop the idea that he is an unreliable narrator that causes uncertainty to readers.

Text 2

*Strange Objects*, written by Gary Crew, has been received by the public and is a source of major controversy regarding the novel’s plot. Characters such as Stephen Messenger and Wouter Loos are categorised by several critics as unreliable, insane and mentally ill. Pamela Freeman’s essay on this novel utilises descriptive language as an element of style in order to position the reader to interpret the main idea of the text; that Crew’s characters, specifically Messenger, are unreliable narrators.

Freeman’s demonstration of descriptive language as a generic convention positions readers to respond to the text’s main idea that Loos and Messenger are untruthful characters. This is because as Freeman uses detailed and formal sentences as a stylistic choice, the reader is inclined to believe what she is suggesting in paragraph 2: that Crew’s Messenger does not tell the whole truth, otherwise known as ‘lying by omission.’ In paragraph 2, Freeman suggests that “there is only one truth,” and that “the lack a single authorial voice allows doubt.” These excerpts explain Freeman’s perspective on Messenger’s untruthfulness, and because of the nature that these words are written – a stylistic choice – readers are pushed to agree with her main idea in Text 1. This is also proven in paragraph 6, where Freeman describes that “the uncertainty is magnified by the fact that Messenger is an unreliable narrator,” which is another example of Freeman’s utilisation of descriptive language to position the essay’s reader to agree with her main idea. Freeman has employed the stylistic choice of descriptive language as an attempt to position the reader to agree with her main idea that Messenger is an unreliable narrator.