

Nobel Lecture: Analysis Sheet

Information from the Slides:

Slide 1: Nobel Lecture by Mother Teresa

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Slide 2: Mother Teresa

Born in 1910 in Uskup, Ottoman Empire (known today as Skopje, Macedonia) Mother Teresa was raised in a Christian household. Throughout her entire childhood, she was surrounded by acts of altruism. Her mother would regularly offer the poor to dine with their family.

After committing herself to a religious life, Mother Teresa lived in many different places around the world, and always wanted to help further her religion and humanitarianism. She was awarded the Nobel prize for peace in 1979 for her display of Christian charity and her effort for peace. After her death, Mother Teresa was canonized as Saint Teresa of Calcutta in 2016.

Slide 3: Context for speech

The speech was given on December 11, 1979, one day after the Nobel Prize Ceremony. The audience of the speech was attended by high society including the royal family of Norway.

Slide 4: Synopsis

Overall, Mother Teresa emphasizes the importance of children and the next generation. She utilizes her credibility and reputation to establish ethos throughout the speech and pathos through many examples and metaphors. Mother Teresa expresses her values of charity and paints abortion in a very negative light comparing it to the inhumane nature of war.

Slide 5: Vocabulary Words and References

Her speech included many biblical and Christian references: Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, Holy Communion, the child in the womb of Elizabeth (John the Baptist), St. Johns, "I have carved you in the palm of my hand." (Isaiah 49: 15-16),)Passion of Christ.

Vocabulary: Temperature meter, a natural contraception method based on a woman's fertility cycle. Leprosy is an infection caused by slow-growing bacteria.

Slide 6: Thesis

In the context of receiving a peace prize, Mother Teresa claims that the greatest threat to peace in modern society is abortion. Above all other stereotypical actions that would break peace. In fact, she uses the words war, killing, and murder, to describe abortion. She even uses anaphora to emphasize the fact that these words are comparable to abortion.

Slides 7-9: Examples of Ethos, Logos, Pathos

Ethos: Mother Teresa's reputation and character help to leverage her argument throughout her speech. As an influential figure, her moral credibility allowed her words to carry much more weight. She also uses ethos through the established character of a mother. She defines abortion as the murder of a child, and argues that a mother should never kill her own child.

Pathos: Mother Teresa creates an emotional response from the audience by using her reputation and recounting her experience as a missionary. She uses many metaphors, stories and examples, such as the love children radiate, to emphasize her thesis on the importance of an unborn child. She then relates this to her passionate recounts of the bible.

Logos: Mother Teresa heavily uses the rights and wrongs of traditional Christian values. Her use of logos helps address the morality of the situation. She uses logos as a call to arms to help those in need. She uses this approach when addressing abortion as well, and how changes need to be made. She also uses logos to try and stop unwanted childbirth at its source and compares self-control and contraception from Calcutta to the rest of the world.

Devices used:

Anaphora, Alliteration, Polysyndeton, Anadiplosis, Biblical Allusions, Repetition, Rule of Three, Ploce, Metaphor, Rhetorical Question, Parallel Structure, Masculine Rhyme, Metaphor

Nobel Speech Compared to Martin Luther King's Speech:

Martin Luther King and Mother Teresa were both massively influential, having their words heard across the globe. Both speeches act as a call to action. Martin Luther King's speech is an uplifting one that highlights the injustice in the American system and demands a change in the treatment of African-Americans. Whereas Mother Teresa's speech is a proclamation of her dedication to god, and a call to action to end abortion, holding mothers accountable for the treatment of their unborn children. Both Mother Teresa and Martin Luther King use pathos heavily in their speeches. However, Martin Luther King's speech is much more powerful as it better uses rhetorical devices such as metaphors, imagery, and repetition.

Our Group's Opinions:

We believe that Mother Teresa has excellent points about the importance of the next generation. Her attitude about helping those in need is inspiring, and she makes a compelling speech by utilizing many rhetorical devices and biblical references to elevate her message. We find her take on abortion has good intentions of preserving innocent human life, but may not hold up today as it fails to address many situations in which abortion may be appropriate.