english plans for ELaIC

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voice

|  | Oskar | Grandma | Thomas Snr. |
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| notes | * Answers a question in great detail after posing the question * Informal language * Slang expressions * Goes into detail about the small things * His imagination is very strong * 'no way jose' | * Confused * Asks rhetorical questions * Double spacing * Spaced out so you read it slower | * No punctuation and so you read it faster * urgency |
| detail | * Goes on tangents * Includes details that are assumed * Descriptive not emotive in the descriptions * “heavy boots” * Continuous flow of thoughts with no end | * No detail but more emotion * “I never once liked a photograph of myself, I couldn’t” * “because I love you so much it hurts me” (to Oskar) | * Lacks detail |
| imagery | * Things that happened to me |  |  |
| syntax |  | * Shorter sentences = read it slower * Illusion that she dwells on meaning before moving on * Double spacing (space in her life/missing piece) | * Longer sentences * No spacing * More fast paced |
| tone | * Inquisitive and intellectual * Naïve | * Explanative and cathartic | * Remorseful * Emotional relief * nostalgic |
| diction |  |  | * “do you know what time it is” – confused * Hand tattoos * writing in the book * writing letters |

imagery = verbal representation of sensory experience

syntax = sentence length, punctuation

tone = emotion or feeling you get when reading the words

perspective

Oskar

* Children’s perspective who lost a loved one and is struggling to cope and make sense of everything (contrasts with the rest of the book)
* Symbolic representation of all the children who lost a parent during 9/11 (innocent)
* Magic realism and the constant switch between notions of fantasy, searching for the lock, his classmates at school and him feeling angry, scared or afraid
* Finding the lock is a way to find closure and meaning in his life after the event
* His coping mechanisms are making up inventions (distracting from thinking about it)

Grandma

* Loss and loneliness (family in the Dresden bombings and son in 9/11) & loveless marriage
* Sections are called “My Feelings” and are letters to Oskar
* The spacing is much bigger, lines are indented more, and the structure adds emotion to the passage
* Stream of consciousness style of writing
* Fewer words per line = words have more impact, spacing = staccato which stops the reader as they read (emphasis of the meaning and weight of the words)

Thomas Snr.

* Grief, loss and guilt (lost family and pregnant gf to Dresden bombings)
* He never recovered from his loss and grief and was crippled in his whole life (survivor’s guilt)
* Structured as letters that he wrote to his son Thomas Jnr. (attempt to explain why he is the way he is and why he left his family)
* Minimal punctuation = stream of consciousness/brain dump/all thoughts at once
* He conveys a sense of urgency and he writes over his own words so that they become unreadable
* He is a good man, but he lost everything and cannot recover or hasn’t found a method to

ideas

the trauma narrative

* Magic realism
  + Oskar’s inventions - “birdseed shirt” “if you’re on the 95th floor and a plane hits below you, the building could take you to safety”
  + Something and nothing places in the apartment
* Images throughout the narrative
  + The falling man, keys, doors, birds (birdseed shirt), “things that happened to me”
* All the narrators who have trauma
  + Oskar – obsessions with the key and his dad’s death and his inventions
    - “what about digging up dad’s grave?”
  + Grandma – protection of Oskar “I’m ok”, self-depreciation “I wanted to lie down in my own waste, which was what I deserved. I wanted to be a pig in my own filth”, suicidal
  + Grandpa – mute, aphasia, dealing with the death of his baby and wife “100 years of joy can be erased in 1 second”, leaving grandma and his child

genre – postmodernism

* Analepsis/temporal distortion (grandpa’s letters are backwards in time and grandma is flashbacks
* Images in the book (door handles, the falling man)
* Multiple narrators