1. A. The most important devices related to the story “One Rejection Too Many” that the related PPT lesson introduced and are unique only to this story are- “Epistolary Format, Parody, Time Travel Paradox, Cautionary Tale” (Boily, 2024, slide 5).

B. These devices specifically relate to the story’s title significance and speculative scenario by connecting their meaning with the happenings in the story. **Title Significance** refers to the significance or importance of the title to the story. It provides important information about the story, symbolics, and **Speculative scenarios** try to answer the question of what if anything fictional actually happened. **Epistolary Format**- is the way the story is presented. Using a series of letters, the writer gives the storyline its plot, often with parts left out for the readers to fill in (Nurse, 1978, p. 173). **Parody**- means “A very particular satire, making fun of, a specific person, art form, etc.” (Boily, 2024, slide 4). “One Rejection Too Many” is a parody of science fiction in general, and in particular, of the scientific/philosophical and SF concept of time travel paradox, and also of Isaac Asimov (the real person, especially in his role as editorial Director) of Isaac Asimov’s Science Fiction Magazine. (Boily, 2024, slide 4). The main irony here is that the story was published in Isaac Asimov’s magazine. Patricia Nurse must have had some similar experience as Vahl that she may have tried to convey through this story! these contribute to the title significance of the story. By connecting the meaning of the title with leading the story to it. **Time Travel Paradox** – The hypothetical traveling through time to the past or future and thus possibly changing events, which could have serious

consequences for people's lives in the present. This device relates to the speculative what-if scenario and is the most prevalent in the story. What if we could travel back to time, What we could have done that could change the present (that the time traveler knows) entirely? In the story, Vahl (the time traveler) changes the past in a way to suite his liking (Nurse, 1978, p. 171). The mention of George H.Scithers is the proof of that. **Cautionary Tale** – what consequences might one face after he/she angers a time traveler? This also contributes to the story’s speculative what-if scenario. After getting rejected from the original publisher multiple times, Vahl (the time traveler) is extremely frustrated and angry and he mentions that (through Miss Morrison’s letter), “he has finished making some long overdue improvements to their (Miss Morrison’s) time frame as a parting gift” (Nurse, 1978, p. 171). This was just a subtle hint and the reply from the new publisher just confirmed what he has done. The moral of the story, Never anger someone with the power to literally shape the future by manipulating the past! Who knows, you might not exist if you are on his bad side!

Overall, in this story all the mentioned devices above contribute to the story’s title significance and speculative scenario.

1. A. The most important devices related to the story “When We Went to See the End of the World” that the related PPT lesson introduced and are unique only to this story are-

“Allegory, In medias res” (Boily, 2024, slide 4).

B. These devices specifically relate to the story’s title significance and speculative scenario by connecting their meaning with the happenings in the story. **Title Significance** refers to the significance or importance of the title to the story. It provides important information about the story, symbolics, and **Speculative scenarios** try to answer the question of what if anything fictional actually happened. **Allegory** – Contributes to the story's title significance. The does use time traveling as an asset but it's not the main theme. Allegory is related to symbolism but at a much larger scale (Boily, 2024, slide 6). A story is allegorical when the entire story symbolizes a deeper issue present in the world outside (Boily, 2024, slide 6). For this story, it’s the current status of society as a whole. The entire society outside our main characters is disintegrating. And all they care about is to stay ahead of one another in terms of entertainment, or anything else for that matter! Ruby’s 12-year-old son comes into the conversation room and tells them about the outbreak of a species of virus and now everyone has to follow the guidelines, But they ignore him (Silverberg, 1972, p. 4). It totally evident that all the people here in the room are oblivious and callous to everything happening outside and why would they be? They are the elite in the society and untouchable. This kind of notion addresses the deeper issue of the rich in our society. They never care about the world around them, where everyone lives! They would rather gloat to their friends about something they have done and the pleasure of knowing that the others around them still haven’t done it is on a different scale of satisfaction to them! They go to the distant future to see the end of the world whereas it’s literally falling apart right now in front of their eyes. The story gives us a hint that the end of the world doesn’t necessarily mean a total destruction of planet Earth (by water, fire, mutation, radiation, or super nova), it may also mean humankind fighting themselves and wiping out their entire race alongside it. The main characters are again informed about a natural disaster that took place in California, and yet they never paid heed to it, except to mention slang! (Silverberg, 1972, p. 8). They are again informed about the president being assassinated and they reply that the assassin would get away just like the previous one! This means that this wasn’t a first incident and they take it so lightly! (Silverberg, 1972, p. 8). They just continue on with their conversation of the distant end of the world all while drinking and smoking. The allegory directly links to the story’s title significance by giving us an insight into the wealthy and how they spend their time. In medias res – is used to begin the story in the middle of things without much or any background. And thus, the reader is immediately thrown into the plot.

(Boily, 2024, p. 7). This device contributes to the speculative what-if scenario of the story. The story starts after Nick and Jane have already gone to see the end of the world and now they are at the middle of the party thrown by one of their friends. They are ready to wow the crowd with their amazing experience of the end of the world. The speculative scenario asks her what if we were put into their shoes? Will we also become just as careless about our surroundings because we have money and power? Money does have a proven record of changing a man. The what-if therefor is a self evaluation – what if I am the one in the room and my goal is to stay ahead of my friends in terms of power, knowledge, and experience, will I not ignore the world falling apart around me? The entire story gives off this condescending vibe against the main characters, I was always wondering how can they smoke weed and party all night all while the world is literally falling apart! The devices overall provide insights into the society we have today and the life of the elite.

“I am Sorry about this learning journal. It might not be up to the same standards as the previous ones, I did it in the last minute. But please do provide feedback, I would still like to see what improvements I can make, even if I am rushing through.”

References

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