W6A, Lesson 11, Essay 6, Draft 1

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Analyzing Literature: Noticing Author’s Choices

**Analysis of “How the Leopard got His Spots” by Rudyard Kipling**

In the story “How the Leopard got His Spots,” the author Rudyard Kipling made many choices, such as using “weird” description, writing in the third person narrator and using personification. Kipling uses these choices to created a world with a talking Leopard who once had brown skin that was similar to the color of stone and land, so nobody could see him when he was quiet. Whenever Giraffe, Zebra, Eland, Koodo and Hartebeest were having a rest or eating food, the Leopard and his friend, Ethiopian, would stand beside them waiting for an opportunity to catch them for breakfast.

After a long time, Giraffe, Zebra and Eland had had enough. So they ran into the Great Forest to hide. Giraffe, Zebra, Koodo and Eland changed their skin to spots and stripes and became darker. After Leopard and Ethiopian found out their breakfast had run away, they chased them into the Great Forest, but they couldn’t find them because those animals had many different patterns on their skin, the same as different kinds of plant in the forest. Ethiopian told Leopard he should also have some patterns so he could hunt those animals faster. Then he changed his skin to black and painted Leopard spotty with his dark hand, and they lived happily ever after.

Firstly, Kipling chose to use “weird” description. His words are not actually weird, but he put them in funny ways, such as, “They were ‘sclusively sandy-yellow-brownish all over; but the Leopard, he was the 'sclusivist sandiest-yellowish-brownest of them all, a greyish-yellowish catty-shaped kind of beast.” He used many different kinds of adjectives to describe the animals, which was vivid and amusing to read. He had his own writing techniques and his own attitude towards writing. He didn’t write this story with curt boring words. Instead, he wrote this story audaciously. He didn’t think these words would make his story weird. He used them innovatively, and it worked!

He also chose to use the third person narrator. It’s a familiar writing technique, but it’s a good one. Using the third person can make narrating a story more clear because from “God’s view” the author can clearly describe the characters’ thoughts and actions, even when they aren’t together. Rudyard Kipling did a great job writing this story. He made good use of the benefits of the third person. He let the reader clearly understand each animals’ every move without a doubt.

Lastly, he choose to use personification. I think this is the most important part of his story. He undoubtedly used the personification method well. This vivid and interesting story also catches the reader’s attention, so they will want to know what happens next. He skillfully used personification to make his story better understood and more lifelike. I think he made the correct choice because if he didn’t used personification, this story would definitely read like the BBC, not a children’s book.

In conclusion, Rudyard Kipling’s story, “How the Leopard Got His Spots,” is totally interesting and full of imagination. The story has no unnecessary words. I think it’s short and clear enough for me to understand what the author is trying to tell me. Kipling was a wonderful writer; his book are vivid and interesting, yet also conspicuous. I was totally into this story.

Word Count:

*Note: Michelle, great job! Now please just correct the final paragraph. Thanks.*