Dessa shapiro

8/24/21

Period 1

The Box Man Essay

The Boxman is a short story written by Barbara Lazear Ascher. Throughout the story, we get to glimpse into different people's lives, from the view of someone we don't know. But the main topic of interest revolved around The Box Man. As the author compares and relates people throughout the story, I noticed similar themes surrounding each segment. That was confirmed by the concussion; to generalize what the author found in these people. I believe they were trying to show there can always be peace and contentment in what you do, who you are, and how you live. If you are able to accept your position and what you are.

In the beginning of the story, the author is looking at the story from a more observant viewpoint. They give the reader context to the story, majorly focused on The Box Man. They use similes and metaphors in their language to provide the reader with a way to vividly picture The Box Man. And we also kind of get a sense of the narrator's opinion on him with his use of language and how they occasionally question him. ¨ Who knows what The Box Man knows?¨ giving a tone of mystery and skepticism. The first passages portray that The Box Man is living an undesirable, but real life. He seems elusive in his mentality, detaching him from the reader.

As the story progresses the author shifted focus from The Box Man onto other characters we as readers don't know much about. First, the author is reflecting on their childhood and giving the example of The Boxcar Children. A story that seems the opposite of what they were just describing The Box Man. The author starts to bring in more opinions and makes a personal comparison with herself. The Boxcar Children, Thoreau, and the boxman. By doing that the author is connecting these separate aspects, and bringing them together. ¨Who is to say that The Box Man does not feel as Thoreau is in this doorway….Who is to say that his dawns don't bring back heroic ages?¨ I notice in this passage the author was using repetition and questioning to connect to subjects of her writing. Leading to me assuming the story is being used as a generalization for humanity or parts of society as a whole.

In the next part of the story, the author introduces an unnamed woman; We are told her story through the author's lens and assumptions. This person is provided to prove a point about the ¨lonely ones,¨ and someone to use to compare and relate The Box Man too. Leading to a show of purpose and conclusion of the story. ¨Her children, if there are any, live far away and prefer not to visit¨These people were built for us to pity, their lives are given to us painted in a monochrome light. They are used to demonstrate a contradiction in the author's point. By giving these peoples perspectives we are more easily able to understand when the author says ¨He is not to be confused with the lonely ones¨ And when the author speaks of his wish to stay where he is. This gave me the opinion that these people are much like The Box Man, but they dwell on the past and are not able to accept where they are.

Overall I think this is a very depressing, yet inspiring story that shows the everyday lives of those who most don't think of. It in itself is a contradiction, a new perspective on different people, and a new viewpoint available to us. In the end, the author writes ¨loneliness chosen loses its sting and claims no victims.¨ and that makes us question, what does the author consider a choice? And can that mentality truly be sustained?

**Diction/ tone practice paragraph:**

Barbara demonstrates the home and family The Box Man finds with his boxes. She shows the reader her interpretation of The Box Man's actions. She clarifies herself with the use of metaphor and compares a quintessential life with the life of The Box Man. “Then, as if dogged by luck, he set out again and discovered, behind the sign at the parking garage, a plastic Dellwood box, strong and clean, once used to deliver milk. Back in the doorway, the grand design was revealed as he pushed the Dellwood box against the door and set its cardboard cousin two feet in front— the usual distance between coffee table and couch."

With her use of diction, the author injects the text with a familial tone. The use of the word "grand" depicts his home with more splendor. Therefore giving the reader a familiar picture; They can relate to. Unlike The Box Man, the reader will most likely not be living in the same conditions. So, the author found a way to give the reader a picture they are familiar with. I noticed the same technique used further along as the author directly references, “usual distance between coffee table and couch.” The author provides a more direct example, personalizing the story to the reader. Referring to the boxes with the word “cousin '' implies a family held among and within these boxes. Furthering the comparison between a conventional life and that of The Box Man.

**Syntax Paragraph:**

The author changes the syntax from long descriptive sentences to rhetorical questions directed at the reader. The author first uses long descriptive sentences to show an observation of The Box Mans’s actions. By using a long continuous sentence with occasional pauses the author shows a more realistic scene through their text. It shows that the author wants The Box Man to be seen as an outside factor; something to be observed and interpreted. Someone who is the subject of the story, but not a direct part of it. With the transition from a longer more descriptive sentence to a rhetorical question, the author is able to separate the content of the story from the focus. They provide the reader with their own thought, built upon the observations from the previous sentence. This creates separation, by grouping the reader and author into the category of thinker and observers. Opposingly, grouping The Box Man as the subject and watched. Eventually forming a disconnect of the participant, from the audience throughout the story. This use of syntax overall contributes to the claim, showing the difference in societal positions, and mentality of us versus them.