Midterm project

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Tone in “The Sniper”

The tone in the story “The Sniper” by Liam O’Flaherty expressed throughout is serious, highlighted through many details. Firstly,” The Beleaguered Four Courts” and “Heavy Guns Roared” describe the location of what the Republican sniper or any soldiers in general is witnessing, the background where the sniper stays is deadly. The heavy gunshots roared and “broke the silence of the night” and “Republicans and Free Staters were waging civil war”, which signifies the Civil War opening, the place is fatal as the guns were roaring all night long. Moreover, “his eyes had the cold gleam of a fanatic” This is due to viewing the dead frequently while battling, the sniper’s mental health becomes cold and dangerous. This detail tells the reader how serious and dangerous war can be. In this way, the author lets the reader understand the increasing tendency toward the seriousness of each situation which the sniper encounters and then gets out of it and the story's tone. Another example to consider is when a female informer is reporting the location of the sniper. He makes the first move and shoots the man and the female reporter, the phrases describe the death of the enemy “The head fell heavily on the turret wall”, and “The woman whirled around and fell with a shriek into the gutter” respectively  This shows how the life of a human being could be taken away quickly on the battleground, further explaining the severe tone of the story as dying in a war is just as easy as living in peace. Furthermore, after he shoots the opposite sniper, the tone is expressed by “the body turned over and over in space and hit the ground with a dull thud. Then it lay still” The phrase describes the seriousness and coldness of the war, and it helps the reader gain an insight into the story’s serious tone through a short phrase “hit the ground with a dull thud. Then it lay still”, the author uses onomatopoeia to describe further how cold and serious the situation is. Moreover, the author further details how insensible the war is, after the death rolls down and touches the ground, that it is, no sadness or emotions at all.  After all, the sniper is initially cold to the violence of the war, and finally, he stares into his sibling's face, facing his ultimate fear. His mood fluctuates between loneliness, violence, and tension, and lastly the pain of killing his brother. The author had successfully converted his mental state to construct the tone of the story, taking the time when the Republican sniper looks, by carefully describing his mental state through each situation and smoothly blending it into each scene of the story.

Tone in “Luck”

In "Luck" by Mark Twain, the predominant tone is one of humorous, highlighted by a smidgen of irony. Phrases like “his name suddenly shot to a zenith" and "to remain forever celebrated ‘emphasize the unfavorable from the author to his young Scoresby, which Twain presents in a problematic way. As all the actions which he is trying to do serve the purpose of easing his friend’s fall in the exams. His utilization of language, the words "forever celebrated" while alluding to a probably incompetent individual, is unobtrusively ridiculing as Twain’s conscience is torturing him “day and night” to achieve his “preposterous result”, to ruin his young Scoresby’s responsibilities. Articulations like "I was touched to the quick with pity" and "By some strangely lucky accident..." support the humorous tone, highlighting the hero's proceeding with progress notwithstanding his ineptitude. " He was gazette to a captaincy in a marching regiment!", and "they took his idiotic blunders for inspirations of genius" further underscore the subject of inappropriate achievement, presenting society's availability to confound ineptitude as a genius. Articulations, for example,” instead he fell forward and went over the hill to the left" further illustrate the character’s ridiculous way of behaving on the battleground, where mistakes are not tolerable. This supports the main tone of the story as a soldier cannot make mistakes on the field as their life is on thin ice, but Scoresby made a wrong decision when directing his troops; however, luck is still on his side." He has littered his military life with blunders" fills in as a closing comment on the hero's goof-filled vocation. Every one of these adds to a tone that blends incongruity, parody, and joke to break down the haphazardness of human destiny and the questionable idea of procuring a good outcome, typifying Twain's pessimistic editorial on cultural standards and values.

Reflection

#1 - Give an example of how your writing has changed since taking this course.

When taking this English 9 course, my writing when analyzing the characterization in the story “The Veldt” was pathetic, I did not include enough detail and explanation. The example. Moreover, my writing does not tell the reader what I’m trying to show. Now after taking the course, my writing becomes clearer as I’m being educated with quality literature knowledge, thanks Mizzou and Mr. [Stephen Graham Murdoch](mailto:stephen.murdoch@wellspring.edu.vn) for the knowledge you guys have been teaching and sharing for me this whole semester.

#2 - Explain the difference between tone and mood in literature.

Tone is an important element which refers to the author’s attitude towards the readers or subjects. The tone of the story is made up from the author’s word choice, viewpoints, or even the mental state of the author.

Mood is also an important element, but it refers to the overall emotions or feelings. It’s created through the setting, imagery devices and language expressed by the author through his/her description of the listed elements. The mood can be happy, sad, angry, creepy, cheerful, nostalgic, curious or any emotions created throughout the story.

#3 - How can you use tone and mood to create suspense?  You can include examples of literature in the answer to this question. Building Tension through Atmosphere: Describing the settings and the actions of the characters in mysterious or dark ways can create a great deal of suspense for the reader. For instance, in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart," the author develops the story through dark and scary words, also fast and hyped situations which active the curiosity of the reader and getting them into the dark theme of the story at the same time; therefore, further contributing to the mood and tone of the story, dark.