**Questions to Ask when Reading an Interpretive Text**

The text “Death in Brunswick” by Helen Garner has a purpose of linking Jill Meagher’s death to a level that has a greater sense of connection with the audience. She not only does this by giving a straight-up opinion of the matter, but she also makes it a sort of narrative in a first-person view. She also writes as if she was in a conversation with the reader for a considerable amount of the text. This works to create a sense of connection to the reader by giving her own perception on the matter. The text’s aim is also to characterize Bailey as immoral and animal-like, which works to build a negative view on him.

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To inform the reader about a social issue.

Not stereotyping men to combat a socially accepted idea.

The text is structured as:

1. First section – Sets the context and atmosphere of the text. This gives the reader a sense of ‘feeling’ whilst reading the text.
2. Second section – Gives the writer the opportunity to give her opinion on the matter. This makes the reader see the event through her eyes, thus trying to get them to understand.
3. Third section – Gets the reader to understand that not all men are like Bailey through the writer’s perspective. This works to communicate a message the writer wants to convey.

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Authorial voice – The authorial voice is mixed up because they represent all of society.

The audience of the text are the individuals who feel emotionally affected by the event. This can be known because the whole purpose of the text is to give a perspective on the matter. Garner wouldn’t give her own opinion regarding the matter to those who aren’t affected by it.

“How did the cops find the Brunswick guy? That hoodie was an unusual colour. I bet someone dobbed him in. What was he doing, wandering around at that hour?” – This clearly tries to communicate the writer’s opinion and thus it’s for readers who are affected by the event.

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For women.

“He must have just scraped some dirt over her and bolted. Do you think he thought it was worth it? Does a bloke like that think? Would he have been trying for years to keep a grip?” – This clearly tries to communicate the writer’s opinion and thus it’s for readers who are affected by the event.

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The fact that this text was set in bar with drunk men yelling works to get the reader to see men as individuals who lack self-control and act on impulse. This characterizes men as just that, and the language choice of the text describes men as just that as well (until the final section of the text).

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It looks at the change in perception of people after traumatic events have occurred.

The author has an overall negative viewpoint on the nature of men (up until the final section of the text). This encourages the reader to do the same. However, the final section of the text encourages the reader to not see all men as bad-natured people.

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She shows us the grey – it isn’t explicit as to which side of the coin she was on.

Until the final section:

“He must have just scraped some dirt over her and bolted. Do you think he thought it was worth it? Does a bloke like that think? Would he have been trying for years to keep a grip?”

During the final section:

“For 3 stations, heading out of the city, we hunched over his photos and talked wildly about parents and children and migration, and marriage and work and houses. When the train reached my stop we shook hands, and kissed each other on both cheeks, I stepped out into the spring dusk, and away he went, a stranger whose life had just been blown wide open…”.

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