

The article "The Internet is a Wasteland, So Give Kids Better Places to Go", which was written by Michelle Goldberg and published on the New York Times the 1st of March 2024, talks about the concerns on kids spending too much time on the Internet and possible solutions. The author has the intention of convincing the readers of the enormous effects the virtual world is causing to the young people and encouraging them to take action in order to find an answer to the problem. In ^{the} following we will be analyzing the language the author uses to get her message across.

First of all, ~~the author~~ ~~important~~ one should stress the importance of the notoriously large amount of metaphors Michelle Goldberg ^{includes} ~~uses~~ along his text. One of these ~~is~~ actually belongs to a ^{quote that} ~~statement~~ she uses in the first paragraph: "You have blood on your hands" (I.4). The fact that she implements this quote makes it clear that the author wants to tell the reader that CEO's and important persons of the big social media companies are causing an extreme damage to ^{the} majority of their users, mainly to kids. Using the term "to have blood in your hands" causes a very impactful image ~~to~~ on the reader's mind, that points out how these evil, powerful companies are destroying many people's lives. ~~Reader~~

Later on the text, we can find another metaphor: "should not to feed the notion that concerns over kids and phones is just a modern moral panic". (II. 21-22). With this stylistic device, Goldberg makes a very clear statement ~~about~~ ^{on these} ^{why}

the worries about the effects of the virtual world have to be taken serious and that the persons that don't believe in this matter have to rethink their opinion. By creating an image of the loose and not serious concerns being eradicated, she is able to convince more and more people to join her fight.

We can also ~~see~~ observe the use of a third metaphor in order to describe the current situation of the youth in relation to their ~~own~~ devices: "keeping them glued to their phones" (1.34). This particular description makes the reader ~~conscious~~ conscious of the catastrophical situation. The fact that she considers the phones to be glued to the kids bodies brings out how independent people nowadays are to their mobile phones. When the reader is able to make ^{himself} an image of the described scene, he automatically receives the message the author is trying to get across.

Metaphors are not the only stylistic device Goldberg uses to convince the reader. We can also agree that there are plenty of negative connotated words ~~scattered~~ on the different paragraphs of the article. For example, she uses the noun "supervillain" (1.2) when referring to Mark Zuckerberg. This characterisation, on one hand, is a very precise hint for the reader to understand the role of the CEO of Meta in the eyes of ~~the~~ Goldberg. On the other hand, it brings the reader to think that he should take care of how he lets this person influence in his life, since it is obvious that one should protect himself against the hazard of a supervillain. This means, people will probably start considering how much the Facebook influence their lives.

Two negative connotated adjectives can be found in the lines where the author is trying to explain the situation of young boys and girls. The first one is located in line 12, where ~~she~~ she describes the shift of focus from the physical world to the ^{virtual} one, which she ^{considers to be} ~~describes as~~ "catastrophic". The second adjective is implanted by Golding when describing the dangers of being faced to hours of contact with the ^(1.47) virtual world. She says kids remain "more vulnerable" to ~~being~~ being ~~psychologically~~ psychologically damaged. With these two negative connotations, the author creates an idea on the readers' ^{minds} ~~thoughts~~, that humans are highly affected by too much interaction with the Internet.

Finally, it is fundamental to point out ~~the~~ the most impactful stylistic device used by Michelle Golding in her article. This device is so relevant, that she decided to make use of it in the topic sentence: "The Internet is a Wasteland" (1.0). Comparing the Internet and characterizing the Internet as a Wasteland leaves a remarkable impact on the way the reader sees ~~it~~ it. As it might be obvious, a wasteland has nothing to offer but garbage, and is an extremely toxic place where one cannot ~~not~~ live and be healthy. This is the image the author wants to give from the Internet and the virtual world. She wants to let us know, that it has nothing good to offer to the kids, especially for parents, this statement is very likely to change the way they let their children interact with the Internet, as no ~~good~~ father and no mother in the world would like to let their kids spend so many hours in such a toxic place.

In conclusion, we can say that the author implements many well-used rhetorical devices in order to get her message across. As one can see in the previous analysis, Michelle Goldberg is successful in using an eloquent and impassioned language in order to convince the reader of the dangers of the virtual world and considering joining the cause of keeping kids away ~~from~~ the Internet.
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