

Identifying and Analyzing Literary Elements

Title: THE PIGMAN Author: PAUL ZINDEL

What is the point of view of the narrator? FIRST-PERSON (x2)

Describe the setting: NEW YORK, LATE 1960S

Name the protagonist(s): JOHN CONLAN + LORRAINE JENSEN

Briefly explain the main conflict in the story: JOHN, LORRAINE, AND THE PIGMAN EACH HAVE SOMETHING MISSING IN THEIR LIVES THAT CAUSES LONELINESS. THEY BATTLE THEIR LONELINESS WITH THEIR UNUSUAL FRIENDSHIP.

Cite an example (and page number) of each of these external conflicts.

character vs. character: LORRAINE VS. HER MOTHER (9, 43-45, 41-42, 70-71, 134-35); JOHN VS. HIS FATHER (16, 17, 58-59); JOHN VS. LORRAINE (29, 30-31, 4-7, 113-14, 147); JOHN VS. NORTON (19, 81-85, 126-7)

character vs. group: JOHN VS. SCHOOL (1-4); JOHN VS. SOCIAL CONVENTIONS (5, 46)

character vs. natural force/nonhuman: MR PIGNATI VS. DEATH (CHAP. 7); JOHN VS. DEATH (102); JOHN + LORRAINE VS. COLD

Cite an example (and page number) of an internal conflict

character vs. self: LORRAINE VS. GUILT (138); HER OWN GUILT; JOHN VS. HIS OWN GUILT (136, 148); LORRAINE VS. JOHN'S DESIRES (78 - (SHE FEELS BAD TAKING PIGNATI'S))

What is the exposition in this story? IN THE FIRST FOUR CHAPTERS WE LEARN JOHN + LORRAINE'S NARRATIVE STYLES + WE LEARN THEIR BACKGROUNDS

Explain the complication: WHILE PLAYING A PHONE GAME, LORRAINE CALLS MR. PIGNATI, WHICH SETS THE PLOT IN MOTION; THE FACT THAT ALL THE CHARACTERS HAVE "HOLES" IN THEIR EMOTIONAL LIVES, WHICH ALLOWS THEIR ODD FRIENDSHIP TO DEVELOP

What is the climax of the story? MR. PIGNATI DIES AT THE MONKEY HOUSE WHEN HE LEARNS BUBO DIED.

Explain the resolution: CHAPTER 15 IS JOHN'S ATTEMPT TO MAKE SENSE OF AND ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE STUPID THINGS THEY DID; NOT ACTUAL RESOLUTION, BUT A HOPEFUL LESSON

Identify two examples (and page numbers) of flashback and/or flash-forward in the story:

FLASHBACK: JOHN RECALLS AUNT AHRA (29); LORRAINE REMEMBERS HER ALMOST-PET (47); THE BUM ON THE FERRY (71-72); LORRAINE RECALLS THE PLAYING CAT (134); FLASH FORWARD: JOHN ENVISIONS HIS TOMB - "MOVING FORWARD" (146)

Cite an example (and page number) of foreshadowing in the story: "...EVER SINCE THE PIGMAN DIED" (4); "NORTON" IS THE ONE WHO FINALLY CAUSES THE TROUBLE (20); HE LOOKED AS THOUGH HE WAS GOING TO CRY (33); "I FORGOT HE WAS SO OLD..." (98); "RIGHT AWAY I NOTICED SOMETHING WAS WRONG..." (140); BUBO'S DEATH FORESHADOWS MR. PIGNATI'S

Quote a passage (and page number) that illustrates tone: "BUT I DID CARE. SHE THINKS SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING THAT GOES ON INSIDE ME, AND SHE DOESN'T KNOW A THING." (144). ANGER

Quote a passage (and page number) that illustrates the mood of the story: "HER HANDS LINGERED NEAR MINE... WITHOUT A WORD, I THINK WE BOTH UNDERSTOOD" (148). POIGNANT

Identify and explain the methods of characterization that were used most often: WE LEARN A LOT ABOUT JOHN + LORRAINE BY WHAT THEY SAY + DO, THEIR THOUGHTS ABOUT EACH OTHER, AND THEIR OWN INNER THOUGHTS - THESE ARE ALL PRODUCTS OF FIRST-PERSON NARRATION

Cite an example (and page number) for at least two of the types of irony:

Verbal Irony: (SARCASM) "Yeah... I'm sure you're going to run around talking LATIN" (44). "Delicious items..." (73).

Situational Irony: (MAYBE) (3) JOHN, WHO DOESN'T SEEM TO BE SYMPATHETIC, DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO ORDER THE FRUIT PULL ON THE POSTMAN

Dramatic Irony: (91-92) AUDIENCE ALREADY KNOWS MR. PIGNATI'S WIFE IS DEAD WHEN HE ADMITS IT.

Identify a motif that recurred in the story: PIGS, DEATH, CALLED ANIMALS, LYING, SMILING FACES

Identify a symbol from the story and explain what it represents: EXOTIC FOOD + ROLLER SKATES

REPRESENT FUN + SHARING BETWEEN JOHN, LORRAINE, + MR. PIGNATI; SMILING FACES SYMBOLIZE DEATH

State a theme of the story: A LASTING, MATURE FRIENDSHIP REQUIRES ALL

PARTIES TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RELATIONSHIP.

Use examples from the story to explain how the story develops that theme: Throughout the novel, John and Lorraine evade their responsibilities for making their friendship with Mr. Pignati last. He invites them over, buys them snacks, gives them roller skates, lets them treat his house like it is their own, and he never asks for anything in return until he asks them to visit Bubo while he is in the hospital. They don't, and this is a betrayal of the friendship that maybe causes Mr. Pignati to die sooner than he otherwise would have.