

Big fish

Linguistics, English



Lecturer Big Fish - Series of Paragraph Topics Question Re-read the four (4) chapters and “ My Father’s Death Use two (2) examples from one of the chapters, to demonstrate how William Bloom is becoming a better story teller as the novel progresses. You may want to consider literary elements such as tone, metaphor, simile, symbol, allusion, personification and imagery (descriptive detail) to justify your argument.

Thesis

The Big Fish is a novel authored by Daniel Wallace in 1998. The novel Big Fish was used to make a film called Big Fish, in the year 2003 by Tim Burton. The novel revolves around a story of a young male character called William Bloom and his father the main character called Edward Bloom. At his father’s deathbed, William Bloom tries to understand who his father is through memories. He therefore tries to understand his father’s exaggerations and the impact in reality. The novel involve first person narration; and the chapters involving “ my father’s death” shows William planning his final discussion with his father, Edward Bloom, with a view of eventually understanding him.

In the novel, William Bloom using first person narration literary style and this has made the story telling capability very effective. In chapter one of the novel, William Bloom uses first person narration to explain the circumstances in which his father was born; his father was born during one of the worst summers, drought and famine was experienced in the land there was scarcity of food. The story is also mostly told in past tense, despite the first person narration style. He also says that the birth of his father was a blessing, because on that birth day clouds formed and it rained. William

Bloom also uses first person narration in the first chapter of the book to demonstrate the cordial relationship his father had with animals. He explains that cows and horses liked his father, and they followed him around; and chicken once laid a mysterious small brown egg on his lap.

William Bloom also uses a lot of symbolism as indicated in chapter one of Big Fish. For example he equates his father to a big fish in order to illustrate or symbolize his abundant knowledge. Edward Bloom read widely on Philosophy, Arts and History and other literary areas; and hence, his knowledge was more than the librarian or any other person (Wallace 137). The big fish representation of the father also illustrates his extra-ordinary ability of communicating with animals; for example birds rested on his shoulders as he worked with his father in the field. William Bloom says that his father is a myth in the story; this symbolizes and explains the mysterious nature of his father, because has never understood him. The adventures his father told him were unbelievable and confusing for example; claims that he found and lost a dinosaur egg one day, and the day his father was born clouds formed mysteriously and it rained.

Conclusion

William does not understand his father Edward because he mostly wasn't at home. The little he knows about his father was through the stories he heard over the years. As he watches his father die, William becomes desperate to know his father before death takes him but the he recalls his father's life through myths and legends he collected. Through these tales William starts to understand his father's great successes and failings. These tales enable William broom to reckon with his father, and he manages to say goodbye.

Works Cited

Wallace, Daniel. *Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions*. New York: Penguin, 1998. Print.