

Identity



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Every individual's identities is different. This could be the result of different ideals and morals or by the environment people are brought up in. Even with these influences, they all link to the separate experiences every one of us go through which shapes our individual identities. This idea can be conveyed throughout Dawe's poems, "Enter Without so Much as Knocking" and "Homecoming" and also other external texts including "5cm per Second" and "Path of the Warrior". "Enter Without so Much as Knocking" is one of Dawe's many poems which show that one's identity is shaped from inevitable external factors such as commercialism.

One way Dawe shows this is through the repetition of "Blink, blink." This effectively conveys the idea of urgency in the individual from birth showing the child caught up by the fast pace material world which acts as an external influence challenging his individual identity. Another technique Dawe uses in this poem is satyr which is seen from, "NO BREATHING EXCEPT BY ORDER."

This successfully shows the state of conformity in the society in which people start to lose their identity and rights in an exaggerated situation. This therefore, states that authority takes away rights to think which challenges one's identity causing people to conform to what authority wishes society to be. Dawe also used contrast to prove his point from "Walk, don't walk, turn" to "A pure unadulterated fringe of sky, littered with stars."

This shows the different views between the adult community and the children. The hurrying, fast paced nature of the adults represents the loss of identity due to conformity and the calm, slow paced nature of the child's way of thinking. This in effect demonstrates that the children still have not

had external factors impacting their identities yet unlike the adults. Therefore, Dawe has effectively utilised techniques in his poem to convey the message that one's identity is formed from one's external environment. By highlighting notions of identity being influenced due to exterior influences, the movie *5cm per Second* by Makoto Shinkai 2007 puts forward the same concept as *Enter Without so Much as Knocking*. This movie shows the individual's continuous shaping of identity due to inevitable changes from external factors throughout stages of life.

Many techniques were used by the composer to show the protagonist going through the inevitable events that he encounters to his attempt to find his identity such as symbolism of a lone bird in the night sky. This was seen when the protagonist, knowing that this would be the last time, meets his female friend before he moves to a far away location. This portrays the loneliness and the weakening of the protagonist's past identity due to his knowledge that they may never see each other again. This was successful in conveying the idea that a person's identity is always changing shape as move on further in life. Another technique the composer uses was foreshadowing which could be seen from the launching of the rocket. This effectively shows the protagonist's loss of bond to his past due the rocket being all alone in the vastness of space providing responders with the message that one's identity will inevitably change and there is no use in holding onto previous ones.

Flashbacks were also used by the composer which is shown at the end of the film. It was used to show how the protagonist's childhood identity was created and destroyed causing empathy within responders as the story

moves on showing the loss of identity. The composer was then able to convey the idea that a person will eventually have to move on no matter what kind of past the individual wishes to hold onto. Shinkai was therefore, able to use these techniques in his film to express the message that identity is every changing from experiences and that one should move on to adapt to the situation.

Another of Dawe's poems, 'Homecoming', shows that one's identity can be lost easily from the conformity of war and therefore shapes individuals' identity against their true nature. A technique Dawe uses to convey this message includes irony which can be seen in the title, 'Homecoming'. 'Homecoming' usually mean something joyful and has a warm, nostalgic feeling but in this context, the soldiers are coming home, dead. Dawe successfully showed that people have lost their identity and their individuality through the conformity of war conveying a didactic warning to responders by announcing the consequences of war. The repetition of 'they're' also reinforces Dawe's idea. The body handlers are continuously mentioned as they're, showing a loss of identity.

These men of war are capably shown to have their identity challenged and stripped away because their names are not mention but only as a collective of people meaning no individuality and the disintegrating of identity. Another technique Dawe used in this poem is imagery which can be seen in 'wintering trees'. This is very effective in conveying his message because winter means death showing the unfortunate final result in the shaping of the people's identity. The whiteness of winter represents the loss of

identity due to white having no colour shown by the troops dying while conforming and not by their own accord. Dawe has therefore skilfully utilised techniques in his poem to convey his idea of the challenges in shaping identity in the pressure of conformity. Like ??? Homecoming???, Gav Thorpe??™s novel from 2010, Path of the Warrior, also expresses notions of the loss of identity from war. This novel announces that from war, people will lose their identity gradually and will shape into a hand for war; dying without any individuality.

The composer uses metaphor, ??? War-mask,??? to explain the unstable wrath like emotion the warriors from the book feels when at war. This shows that by putting on this war-mask, the warriors all conform and lose their individual emotions and therefore, their identity. This idea is similar to ??? Homecoming??? which shows the loss of identity through death in war. Thorpe also uses personification which can be seen from ??? The chainsword burred into life, fuelled by Korlandril??™s wrath to such a speed that they screamed.??? The screaming of the chainsword proved fruitful in expressing Korlandril??™s wrath and inner turmoil showing his confusion and randomness of his attempt to find his identity.

This negative emotion shapes Korlandril??™s identity and ends up causing him to lose himself within the identity of war. Symbolism was also used from ??? The serpent sank its fangs into Korlandril??™s heart.??? The serpent symbolises the protagonist??™s negative emotions which includes jealousy, sadness and rage. Through the decreasing mention of this snake, it can be seen that Korlandril loses his emotions and therefore, starts shaping his identity within the conformity of war. Thorpe was able to use these

techniques to convey the message that people will lose their identity through the conformity of war and cause an end to the never ending shaping of identity. Through these texts, we see many different types of identity formed from the experiences each individual encounters.

These experiences helped some individuals to find their identities true shape but also caused some individuals to lose it. The ideas on identity put forward by these composers however are only some of many ways identity can be shaped.