

Communication  
theme in hills like  
white elephants



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Ernest Hemingway's writer of Hills Like White Elephants allows readers to learn about the communication between two people who both have two different opinions and decisions when it comes to a situation that can change their lives. The short story is about two people, a girl named Jig and a man who doesn't have a name so the reader just calls him man.

An literary device that plays a role in this short story is imagery throughout the story. The descriptions give the readers a clear understanding of what's going on. In the short story it states, "the hills across the valley of the Ebro long and white on this side there was no shade and no trees and the station was between two lines of the rails in the sun it stopped at this junction for two minutes and went to Madrid." In other words Hemingway compared Jig and the man's decision to two confused people. Readers can visualize Jig and the man sitting at the train station looking confused and frustrated about what they are going to do.

While reading the short story, you can notice that the phrase "Like White Elephant" occurs several times throughout the short story, which signifies that it is important. One can also agree that the color white symbolizes innocence. Therefore, white elephants can be used as a reference to a woman who is expecting a baby. The symbol of the word hill can also be a clue that Jig is pregnant because hills are round and when a person is pregnant their stomach is round.

The story gets more interesting when the man tries persuading Jig to have an abortion. He tells Jig that he will be there for her no matter what and he will stay with her throughout the whole process. Jig gets very annoyed and upset

and become not interested in holding a conversation with the Man. In the short story it states Jig states , please please please please please please please please stop talking Jig uses repetition to tell the man to stop talking. Her tone sounded as if she was very annoyed and frustrated with the man. Hemingway uses tone to make the reader understand the way Jig is feeling with the situation that she is going through. Both the man and the girl don't want to listen to each other point of view or opinion about the situation.

The man lives a carefree lifestyle he wants Jig to have an abortion, so he can be free and continue his life style. In the short story he told Jig it's the only thing that's made us unhappy not only is he trying to make Jig feel bad he always trying to tell her that the baby will bring sadness to both of their lives. The man is showing that he is selfish and irresponsible by showing lack of support when it comes to helping Jig if she was supposed to keep the baby.

Overall the story is a very good story to read. Readers have to read carefully to understand what is taking place. The story is filled with a lot of literary devices. Hills like A White Elephant also has a story that both Jig and the man must choose between life or death. Jig wants to keep the baby, but the man doesn't want to.