

Analysis of joe's account of the accident in touching the void essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

The writer uses a number of different writing techniques which suggests the whole climbing experience as torturous and damaging, he does this by including many action verbs such as 'hit' and 'catapulted' which shows the forceful impact which (which, which, which! I know this is a draft but when you write tomorrow read over your sentences to make sure they flow) emphasises the extreme pain Joe would have felt. The writer also uses audio visual imagery by the use of verbs such as 'shattering blow' and 'splitting' that helps to build an image of the physical pain in Joe as he felt a 'blow in' his 'knees. A 'Shattering blow' also represents a deathly explosion, The explosive imagery and the action verbs together attempt to transfer the disorientation, pace and pain involved in his fall. This would inspire fear and an appreciation of how suddenly and catastrophically things can go wrong. The short sentence 'I slid, head first, on my back' mirrors the fast paced action in Joe's account.

(What about the fact that he is on his back head first, picture it; disorientation maybe, dizziness? Vertigo (the fear of heights; the reason why most people don't climb) I think this change of pace is a deliberate choice by the writer to also show the climbing experience as an exhilarating challenge that might appeal to the reader. The sentence 'everything was still' is calm and very relaxed in comparison to the tone of the first paragraph. Depending on the reader's personal feeling, he/she may see this moment of calm as a beautiful thing away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life aside from the horror of the accident, someone else may feel fear at the isolation and helplessness of being so alone. However, the tone rapidly changes when Joe says his 'thoughts raced madly.' This makes the situation panicked and

some-what cluttered which is ironic as he is very much alone in a remote area which seems like there is no hope for Joe and the mountain has won the battle. My opinion changed of the climbing experience as exciting in the introduction of the extract to frightening and relentless while knowing Joe's struggles when facing the mountain.

The metaphorical phrase, ' then pain flooded' creates destructive image in the readers' minds which shows the mountain and the climbing experience as ruthless that Joe has no control over. The phrase ' fierce burning fire' is also a metaphorical phrase that forms hell-like images and is the complete opposite to the description of the ' flooding pan'. The water and fire imagery is caused by nature, and suggests nature is working against him. Its clear that nature is a huge part of the climbing experience, the writer shows this by using water and fire imagery to show Joe's battle against the mighty mountain of the Suila Grande. The ' grotesque distortion' in his knees is a graphic description that describes not only the physical state but also the emotional state of mind.

The ' twisting' of the leg into a ' strange zig-zag' creates rough and abstract imagery of pain. But Joe ' didn't connect it with the pain. ' This shows he was in a state of denial and was no longer associating his leg as a part of him. The kinetic verb ' kicked' shows his determination which is a vital trait needed in climbing experiences. This paragraph is full of long sentences that describe the pain he suffers such as ' I hung, head down, on my back.....

. ' However, he uses a short sentence ' the pain eased', which shows a glimmer of hope and his strength of character. Joe's struggles and

determination shows his climbing experience as a tough challenge. I feel in awe of his ability to push on regardless of what's thrown at him, the writer shows through abstract imagery of pain and change of emotion from helpless to hopeful that even though climbing is an external challenge that it has an equal effect internally. Repetition of the word 'if' is used in paragraph four to show how Joe is thinking of the worst case scenario. This is a deliberate writing structure by the writer to imply that the climbing experience is very frightening and agonizing when Joe mentions 'death sentences'.

He also uses first person, 'I've broken my leg' which makes his terror very personal to the reader. He uses short sentences such as 'I'm dead' and admits defeat which goes against his determination and courage earlier on in the passage. This evidently shows that Joe's climbing experience took him through a rollercoaster of emotions within short periods of time. Joe is arguing with himself, trying to convince himself that 'it doesn't hurt so much' the tonality of the sentence changes when an unrealistic glimmer of hope comes to Joe by saying 'maybe I've just ripped something.'