

# The life and crimes of harry lavender essay



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Composers create distinctive voices in their texts to help shape, challenge or even support perceptions we have about the world we live in. Composers use distinctive voices in their texts to help us think about the significant issues involved in the world around us. Marele Day, in “ the Life and Crimes of Harry Lavender”. Using the form of a crime fiction to challenge our perceptions of the role of men and women in the world we live in. Martin Luther King’s speech “ I have a dream” also explores these significant issues.

It was aimed to encourage individuals to work against racism, and to inform America that the African American’s would no longer tolerate prejudice. Each of these composers of these texts effectively uses distinctive voices to present their ideas and allow us to think about significant issues in the world we live in. A young detective of the name of Claudia Valentine in the street of Sydney called in to investigate the mysterious death of Mark Banister. Claudia is suspicious and when she digs a little and the chase leads her to the underworld of Sydney. Where she plays cat and mice with the cities network of crime and corruption.

The Most distinctive voice in the text would be that of the main character Claudia Valentine. The voice of Claudia is unique and original. She is independent and strong. These aspects ensure that her voice must be distinct from the voice of any other private investigator. She has the voice of a private investigator, illustrated as her comfortable use of jargon “ The crims don’t discriminate anyway: they’ll blow away a women on their trail as readily as a man” Day has not only created a distinct voice for Claudia, but she has created a believable for a character that is appealing to the responder in many ways.

Her voice is believable because of its lack of formality, often speaking in colloquial terms familiar to an Australian reader. “A spanner in the works. The hi-tech heart spasming out of control” Claudia’s voice is one full of confidence and strength but also vulnerability and uncertainties. The reader is intrigued to discover the mysteries that surround her. In his memorable speech Martin Luther King calls upon all Americans to join together in abolishing racial prejudice to make the country a better place. The distinctive voice in this speech is that of Martin Luther King. His voice is passionate, emotive, articulate, persuasive and powerful. Many of these qualities are also seen by Claudia Valentine in “The Life and Crime of Harry Potter”, in the fact that she is strong and confident, in her job and her relationships. “My legs are my best weapon” Claudia’s Distinctive Voice uses a metaphor that has a double meaning in that her female attributes help her get under the radar of male ego. Figurative language features are used in King’s speech. He uses metaphors, similes and personification, creating his voice, which is both poetic and entertaining.

The imagery created by the use of language enables the audience to visualise his ideas and be persuaded by his ways of thinking. He uses powerful imagery when describing the feelings of the African-American towards the Emancipation Proclamation: “this momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of the withering injustice”. This metaphor is effective as it captures the pain felt under slavery, and the joy of freedom. The distinctive voice of King comes as a result of his use of figurative language.

King personifies his country to create his distinctive voice. King's frequent hope in a better future for the African-American people shown in his personification of America "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed". Day creates an articulate and creative voice for her characters through the use of figurative language. Claudia's observations of her surroundings are frequently expressed through figures of language such as similes, metaphor, personification and alliteration. (That seen in the Martin Luther King's speech "I have a dream"). One such example is in the initial description of the city with its "slow sprawl of suburbs" the image is created by the hissing 's'. Harry Potter often uses metaphors to articulate his thoughts about power and progress. He describes the determination of the city of Sydney to forge its own identity without having any one person's ideals imposed upon it. For success in this city according to Harry one must metaphorically "recognise the shape and grow with it" continuing his metaphor he says one must "know what will become weed and end up as dead wood, what will be nurtured and thrive"

Spread with Claudia's colloquial and casual narrative is perceptive judgements and assessments of individuals and the world. The first of these occurs as she walks through the city to buy flowers for the funeral, commenting "memories are short in this city and facades change all the time". These frequent shifts in Claudia's tone of voice signal to the reader ideas of significance, often linking directly to Days themes. Day uses an informal and casual register to create humour and engage her readers in the life of Claudia Valentine.

The sarcastic voice of Claudia allows Day to bring the reader attention to her concern about the impact that development has on Sydney. Claudia describes Darling Harbour as a place “where building with the eye gouged out had been demolished to make way for development, for the men of power to build monoliths to themselves”. The personification of the original building creates sympathy for the responder for history and the sarcastic tone suggests men are ruthless in their pursuit of power. The voice of King fluctuates between dramatic, menacing and emotive.

These changing tones effectively articulate the changes in the focus during his speech. An urgent and dramatic tone is evident when he claims, “We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now”. Later a menacing tone is manifested when King tells how “It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro”. Finally an emotive and personal tone is used when King conveys his hope for the future.

When Composers use distinctive voices in their texts they enable us to think about significant issues in the world. Marele Day in “The Life and Crimes of Harry Lavender” challenges us on the way we think about relationships, our society and the role of men and women. The related text “I Have a Dream” a speech by Martin Luther King also allows us to think about significant issues in the world such as racism and to inform the American that African-Americans would no longer tolerate prejudice through the use of King’s distinctive voice.