

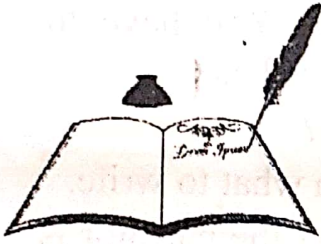
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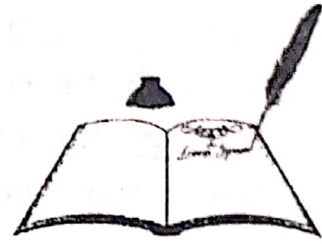
2021-2022

Third Year

Second Term



6



Literary Texts

02.07.2022

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Literary Texts II 3.6

AYDI 2022

HELLO EVERYONE!

Write a paragraph where you analyze the narration and the point of view in the story.

This is one question. Of course the story would be one of the stories that we studied.

- How can you answer such a question?

Actually, you have to read the theoretical part. We mentioned the three types of narration which are:

- ✓ First-person narration
- ✓ Second-Person narration
- ✓ Third-person narration

First, you mention the type of narration. In our story, the narrator is a *first-person* narrator because he uses the pronoun "I"; it's a character in the story.

Then, you elaborate on this type of narration. You have to mention the tone of the narrator (is he serious? ironic? etc.).

Student: Shall we write a paragraph or an essay?

Instructor: I don't know yet, I'll tell in the exam what to write.

Let's continue. You have then to tell me whether the narrator is reliable or unreliable. You have to explain the first-person narrator which exists in your essay.

In our short story, do you think the narrator is reliable or unreliable?

Student: Unreliable.

Instructor: That's correct but you have to prove it.

Student: He's unreliable because he's a liar. He said that he's not coming to his house until the other morning and they turned their backs and left his house. Then he brought Fortunato and came home.

Instructor: There are more valid proofs.

Student: He wore the mask when he first met Fortunato.

Student: When Fortunato coughed, he pretended to care about

his health.

Instructor: You're the judge and the lawyer. You have to judge his narration looking for gaps and contradictions that can prove to me that he's a liar.

While I am analyzing, I have to mention the theme; you can't skip the theme because it is the story. I'm going to analyze it for you but you are free to write your own analysis as long as you convince me with your point of view in a good language. I'll write the analysis and send it to you.

Student: Is the narration similar to fiction?

Instructor: No! Narration is the voice that is telling us the story.

As I analyze, I need to focus on some points and ideas. We're going to read the story now.

In the previous lecture, we mentioned that the theme is about revenge.

Student: He was insulted by someone and he wants to take revenge.

Instructor: Correct.

He also tells us that he wants to take his revenge without suffering the consequences. He says it's normal to do revenge and not suffer the consequences.

Please focus on and underline the first three sentences in the first paragraph:

You, who so well know the nature of my soul, will not suppose, however, that I gave utterance to a threat. At length I would be avenged; this was a point definitively settled—but the very definitiveness with which it was resolved, precluded the idea of risk.

These are very important lines; especially the term "the nature of my soul". This is fruitful for the theme.

He tells us how he's going to implement his plan in order to kill him. The first thing he is doing is to smile to his enemy; he's

wearing the face of a friend. This is in the second paragraph.

In the third paragraph he tells us that he had a weak point.

He had a weak point—this Fortunato—although in other regards he was a man to be respected and even feared. He prided himself on his connoisseurship in wine. Few Italians have the true virtuoso spirit. For the most part their enthusiasm is adopted to suit the time and opportunity—to practise imposture upon the British and Austrian millionaires. In painting and gemmary, Fortunato, like his countrymen, was a quack—but in the matter of old wines he was sincere. In this respect I did not differ from him materially: I was skilful in the Italian vintages myself, and bought largely whenever I could.

In this paragraph, our narrator tells us that this Fortunato has a weak point that he believes himself as expert in knowing the good wine; that he has a delicate taste for wine which is a prestigious profession in the west. He has *pride* and *arrogance* due to his profession. The narrator is going to exploit this weak point.

This shows that our narrator is an expert in human nature. As humans, we have a good nature and a dark nature; we're a combination of both. The story is the examination of the dark nature of human beings. When he exploits the pride of his friend, it also means that he knows the ways to dig into his dark nature. Later on, you'll see more similar dark issues.

He's going to exploit his weakness in order to hook him (catch him) into his bait. This means that our narrator is *cunning* and *expert in human nature.*

Let us read the next paragraph. It is the setting: the time is dusk, the place is Italy.

It was about dusk, one evening during the supreme madness of the carnival season, that I encountered my friend. He accosted me with excessive warmth, for he had been drinking much. The man wore motley. He had on a tight-fitting parti-striped dress, and his head was surmounted by the conical cap and bells. I was so pleased to see him, that I thought I should never have done

wringing his hand.

I said to him: "My dear Fortunato, you are luckily met. How remarkably well you are looking to-day! But I have received a pipe of what passes for Amontillado, and I have my doubts."

"How?" said he. "Amontillado? A pipe? Impossible!

And in the middle of the carnival!"

"I have my doubts," I replied; "and I was silly enough to pay the full Amontillado price without consulting you in the matter. You were not to be found, and I was fearful of losing a bargain."

"Amontillado!"

"I have my doubts."

"Amontillado!"

"And I must satisfy them."

"Amontillado!"

"As you are engaged, I am on my way to Luchesi. If anyone has a critical turn, it is he. He will tell me——"

Let us stop here. The fiction of the story is working so that all its elements collaborate to create the meaning.

The setting is Italy, dusk, during the carnival season.

The carnival is a cultural issue in the west. It is a season where the ordinary people celebrate folk occasions. The carnival has a specific atmosphere; it's a place of chaos, disorder, and it's full of people from all social, religious, and economic status. These people are totally free to do whatever they want. It's like a space and time for human nature to behave without any judgment. I can do whatever I want without the eye of religion or social norms watching me. It's important in the western culture; it exists in Europe, USA, and North America. In carnival, you can be evil, you can be mean, you can drink excessively, you can eat excessively, etc.

You're just supposed to say that the carnival is a place of chaos and disorder where you can break the social and religious norms.

Student: Does this happen under 'the supervision of the

government?

Instructor: Yes, it's official.

The tone of the carnival is laughter. People mock and laugh at religious and social norms; they allow themselves to be free. So, the dark nature is free to surface.

Student: We have carnivals in Syria but we don't see these behaviors here.

Instructor: The carnival is a western concept. In our conservative societies, we don't have disorder and chaos in celebrations. So, we have celebrations not carnivals.

The carnival suits the dark human nature; you're going to see more clues about that.

We have some characterizations of Fortunato. We are characterizing the narrator whose name is unknown for us till now but we're going to know his name later on. He's cunning and clever.

Now, we're going to see this Fortunato. He looks at what Fortunato wears: he had on a tight-fitting parti-striped dress, and his head was surmounted by the conical cap and bells.

Fortunato is dressed as a clown. This is the first time we see Fortunato. We're going to know more about him later and see if he deserves his fate.

He tells him that I'm happy to see you and that I have received a pipe of Amontillado. Amontillado is the name of a fine wine. He tells Fortunato that I have bought it for a cheap price and I want you to examine it for me and see if it is really fine wine.

- What does our narrator tell Fortunato to make him jealous?

He tells him: I wanted to consult Luchesi but I didn't find him. Luchesi is another expert in wine; he's Fortunato's rival.

Again, he told him: I want you to taste the wine; it's a good fortune that I met you. I wanted your friend to taste the wine but I couldn't see him. He makes him jealous.

This is another appeal to dark human nature, the first one is

arrogance and *pride*, and the second one is *jealousy of the other*.

This Fortunato is *gullible* which means he believes everything said to him. He's *innocent*.

Student: What exactly did Fortunato do to our narrator?

Instructor: Until now, we're just told that Fortunato insulted and injured him. Through the speech of our narrator, we will discover if he is truthful and honest. We'll see the real reason for his hate towards Fortunato.

Until now, Fortunato is not a bad character; he's funny, friendly, and innocent, while the narrator is cunning and manipulative. He knows how to exploit the weaknesses of people.

Another thing that indicates the dark nature of human beings is the place of their meeting. They're meeting in the vaults; they are going to go deep into the ground where darkness prevails. Vaults are also used to bury people so this is an indication to dark human nature.

Let us continue reading. We are not going to read the whole text, just the important parts. On page 5, the narrator is planning to kill Fortunato.

أخبر الخدم أنه عليهم البقاء في القلعة وأنه غير مسموح غياب أحد منهم. بسبب معرفته بأنهم سيذهبون لكي يشاهدوا الكرنفال، خرجوا ولم يبق أحد في القلعة. راوي القصة يعرف سلفاً أن هذا ما سيحدث. بسبب ذكائه وخبثه، استغل رغبة المرؤوسين بمخالفة الأوامر.

He exploited the human nature once again, but this is not a theme in the story.

He tells us how he tricks him to take him to the vaults. He tells him about the wine.

Let us read on page 5, the last two lines and on:

"Come," I said, with decision, "we will go back; your health is precious. You are rich, respected, admired, beloved; you are happy, as once I was. You are a man to be missed. For me it is no matter. We will go back; you will be ill, and I cannot be

responsible. Besides, there is Luchesi——"

"Enough," he said; "the cough is a mere nothing; it will not kill me. I shall not die of a cough."

"True—true," I replied; "and, indeed, I had no intention of alarming you unnecessarily; but you should use all proper caution. A draught of this Medoc will defend us from the damp."

Here I knocked off the neck of a bottle which I drew from a long row of its fellows that lay upon the mould.

"Drink," I said, presenting him the wine.

He raised it to his lips with a leer. He paused and nodded to me familiarly, while his bells jingled.

"I drink," he said, "to the buried that repose around us."

"And I to your long life."

He again took my arm, and we proceeded.

"These vaults," he said, "are extensive."

"The Montresors," I replied, "were a great and numerous family."

"I forget your arms."

"A huge human foot d'or, in a field azure; the foot crushes a serpent rampant whose fangs are imbedded in the heel."

"And the motto?"

"Nemo me impune lacessit."

"Good!" he said.

These are the key lines for the motif.

- Have you spotted the motif of the narrator in these lines? Do you have a hint about the real motifs for the murder?

Student: Jealousy.

Instructor: Our narrator belongs to The Montresors family; a prestigious family which *used to* be rich. He said:

"The Montresors," I replied, "were a great and numerous family."

Notice that they "were" great and numerous. Whereas,

Fortunato is rich, respected, admired, beloved, happy as once the narrator was. Notice the narrator's words to Fortunato:

...your health is precious. You are rich, respected, admired, beloved; you are happy, as once I was. You are a man to be missed.>

What is the true motif for the grudge that the narrator holds towards Fortunato?

The reason is that Fortunato is better than him. He has money, he's happy, and he's loved. Through these lines, the narrator revealed his true intentions and feelings. He's jealous of him. It's jealousy; it's a dark human nature.

Actually, the bad guy is the narrator not the victim. We don't need all these clues because in the first place, revenge is a bad behavior.

In the sentence "I forgot your arms", arms mean weapons. Back then, prestigious families had special weapons and armors.

"A huge human foot d'or, in a field azure; the foot crushes a serpent rampant whose fangs are imbedded in the heel."

Impunity means (حصانة)

This is a description of the picture on their arms. While their motto is "Nemo me impune lacessit" which means "no one provokes me with impunity".

The serpent has a literary connotation. What is the symbolic meaning of the serpent?

المكر والخداع

It was the serpent who caused the fall of Adam according to the Bible.

بعد ذلك، الراوي يقنع الضحية بأن عليهم النزول أكثر للوصول إلى البرميل، فينزل به إلى آخر سرداب كيث يوجد حفرة في الجدار وفيها قيود. بعد أن يكثر الضحية من الشرب ويسكر، يقوم الراوي بربطه في الحفرة ويبدا بالبناء فوقه وهو حي.

AYDI 2022

بسبب سذاجته وإفراطه في الشرب، ظن الضحية أن الأمر مجرد مزاح.
هذا تجسيد لفكرة أن نقطة ضعف الشخص قد تقتله.

Let us see how the narrator feels while he is burying Fortunato.
Let us see if he regrets his action. Page 9, last paragraph:

A succession of loud and shrill screams, bursting suddenly from the throat of the chained form, seemed to thrust me violently back. For a brief moment I hesitated—I trembled. Unsheathing my rapier, I began to grope with it about the recess; but the thought of an instant reassured me. I placed my hand upon the solid fabric of the catacombs, and felt satisfied. I reapproached the wall. I replied to the yells of him who clamored. I re-echoed—I aided—I surpassed them in volume and in strength. I did this, and the clamorer grew still.

While he was burying him, Fortunato began to scream loudly.

- What was the response of the narrator?

Student: He screamed louder.

Instructor: Exactly. He screamed louder in order not to be affected by his screams.

For a brief moment, he hesitated and trembled (shivered), but he continued his work.

It was now midnight, and my task was drawing to a close. I had completed the eighth, the ninth, and the tenth tier.

He's building the walls.

I had finished a portion of the last and the eleventh; there remained but a single stone to be fitted and plastered in. I struggled with its weight; I placed it partially in its destined position. But now there came from out the niche a low laugh that erected the hairs upon my head. It was succeeded by a sad voice, which I had difficulty in recognizing as that of the noble Fortunato. The voice said—

“Ha! ha! ha!—he! he!—a very good joke indeed—an excellent jest. We will have many a rich laugh about it at the palazzo—he!

he! he over our wine—he! he! he!"

"The Amontillado!" I said.

"He! he! he!—he! he! he!—yes, the Amontillado. But is it not getting late? Will not they be awaiting us at the palazzo, the Lady Fortunato and the rest? Let us be gone."

"Yes," I said, "let us be gone."

"For the love of God, Montresor!"

This is his name; Montresor.

"Yes," I said, "for the love of God!"

But to these words I hearkened in vain for a reply. I grew impatient. I called aloud:

"Fortunato!"

No answer. I called again:

"Fortunato!"

No answer still. I thrust a torch through the remaining aperture and let it fall within. There came forth in reply only a jingling of the bells.

Hearkened: heard.

My heart grew sick—on account of the dampness of the catacombs. I hastened to make an end of my labor. I forced the last stone into its position; I plastered it up. Against the new masonry I re-erected the old rampart of bones. For the half of a century no mortal has disturbed them. In pace requiescat!

Dampness: رطوبة

In pace requiescat: The Latin for "rest in peace".

His heart grew sick which means he has some sense of humanity inside him.

Notice the last sentence: "For the half of a century no mortal has disturbed them. In pace requiescat!" This means that the narrator is telling us the story after a half of a century; 50 years later. Fortunato is dead for half a century and he's resting in peace. This is the end of the story.

If you want to analyze the narration, you have to tell me how the narrator is a liar, cunning, and a bad character, and how Fortunato is a naive and innocent character, and how our narrator acts upon his bad side. He's not a reliable narrator.

Student: What about the point of view?

Instructor: It is the same idea. The point of view is the angle that the narrator is telling the story from. We are hearing the voice and the perspective of the narrator.

Thank you

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احذر المحاضرات المسروقة
[مكتبة العائدي لا تنشر محاضراتها على الإنترنت ونحن لا نتحمل مسؤولية أي
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