

the colonies were “barbaric”, demonstrating how the colonies blossomed after they left and how the former colonies were better off without being colonized. The use of faction particularly in the chapter “Honeymoon” evokes a sense of distortion from the audience, as the title seemingly has no relation to the content. This initial lack of context deviates from the conventions of a memoir where the author provides enough context for the reader to understand the story. However, when the audience continues reading through the memoir, progressively becoming aware of the turbulent relationship between Mervyn and Doris, the context of “Honeymoon” becomes more apparent. Therefore, the audience’s initial perplexity of this chapter’s use of faction parallels how Ondaatje was forced to make connections between family stories to construct a coherent representation of his family history.

In conclusion, Ondaatje’s memoir *Running in the Family* deviates from its genre as a memoir, as he utilises postmodernist traits such as dark humour, intertextuality and faction for different purposes. Dark humour is used to portray the indifferent attitudes of the Ondaatje family during the context, which provides the audience a greater understanding of how the circumstances in the situation influenced attitudes. Intertextuality is used to draw parallels between Shakespearean tragedies and the memoir. *Othello* is used to emphasise the exotic nature of Ceylon, and mock the exploitative nature of the Europeans. *King Lear* is included to emphasise the relationship between Ondaatje and his father. Finally, faction is used to foreshadow the deterioration of the relationship between Mervyn and Doris. **A final statement needed to establish a concluding feel: comment on how your response to this prompt enables a better understanding and/or appreciation of the work as a whole.**

Word Count: 1341

Works Cited:

Ondaatje, Michael 1993. *Running in the Family*, New York: Vintage International

"Character Analysis Earl of Gloucester." *Cliffsnotes*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/k/king-lear/character-analysis/earl-of-gloucester. Accessed 20 Sept. 2016. **Not a strong choice of source!!! Look for an ACADEMIC resource!!**