

Role: Style Expert

Goal: Understand the format of the novel and the style of writing

1. In *The Cat's Table*, Michael Ondaatje has shown many aspects of his writing style in the last quarter of the book as he did through the rest:

Mode of discourse:

- Michael Ondaatje type of writing is: fictional autobiography
- The very first part of the novel is the only part where the author tells the story in 3rd person. After that, Michael Ondaatje comes back to 1st person storyteller.
- The novel is about the adventure of a boy named Michael who is also the author.
- The author is trying to retell his story while adding unrealistic elements in order to keep it interesting there for I believe his writing style is a fictional autobiography

Organization pattern/ Structure:

- Throughout the novel, reader are introduced to new character, new situation, or just given more details about the main character's life outside the boat in the past and future. This kind of structure created more suspense that can keep the readers interested. However, the 4th Quarter is the complete opposite.
- The author focuses the last sections of the novel for the actual conflict and resolution.
- Therefore the authors general writing patterns/ structure consists of suspense and little flashbacks which gives the reader no more confusion and intrigues them to continue to read toward the resolution of the story.

Tone:

- The author wrote most of the story in a relaxing tone because they were his flashback to precious memories to when he was a child, however, the tone in this section is more serious and there is a lot of atmosphere. The reason for this is because in this section Michael experienced his biggest event on the ship, which was the breakout of the prisoner.

Mood:

- The author sets a gloomy and dreadful mood by giving miserable stats about himself.
- For Example: " **I returned to my cabin and stayed there all day**" (Quote #1 to use in discussion)

Diction:

- The author choose modern English but his writing style made it hard to chronologically arrange past and present events which were taking place. He has done this throughout the novel, however it focused a bit more toward the events in the ship
- Level of language: colloquial and plain (everyday vocabulary).
- Example: " I returned to my cabin and stayed there all day"

Facts about sentences: