

One decision is all it takes to turn a world upside down; and consequently a person's response is wildly unpredictable. It almost always results in either chronic depression or enriching strength. The formation of thought, combined with action, dashed with consequence makes for an incredible story. To witness this transformation of mind is breath taking, and to create it is indescribable. In his book "The Stranger" Albert Camus selects intensifying repetition and underlying analogies to show how Meursault reacts when his traditional routine is estranged.

Camus's use of repetition throughout the book catches the reader's attention and becomes embedded into their mind. During high stress situations Meursault uses cigarettes to keep himself grounded. He has created a mentality that without them he is unable to remain sane. In the beginning of the story after finding out Maman had passed, Meursault takes a bus down to the funeral home where Maman's body is held. After rejecting the offer to see his mother's deceased body, Meursault declines an offer for food and sits down and says "Then I felt like having a smoke" (Camus 8). The reader begins to infer that the cigarette takes the form of a stress reliever in a way to keep Meursault relaxed. As a comparison, Camus introduces a man living near Meursault as Raymond, the pimp. Raymond represents the rift in the story, although many readers may be deceived that Meursault being put in jail was the actual rift. However not everything is given to the reader up front. They must think outside the box and infer based on what is given to them. At first Raymond may come off as just another person that Meursault meets throughout his life but he creates the rift that occurs in Meursault's routine-run lifestyle. Camus portrays Meursault and Raymond as almost the same character, emotionally. When Raymond speaks to Meursault he says "It's not that I'm a bad guy, but I have a short fuse" (Camus 29). To that, Meursault relates because both men have a tendency to become irritated quickly, the only difference is that they do not act on the situation the same way. Raymond shows more of a violent approach while Meursault, once again, uses cigarettes as an easy out. Even as Meursault is put into a new environment in the prison he still begs for his cigarettes back. Not only is he addicted to the cigarettes, Meursault is also addicted to the idea of the cigarettes being a sanctuary for him where he can diminish his problems.