

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 2

Text Structure - Response to Literature

Title

Context - gives background information on author, setting, main characters, brief synopsis

Opinion/reaction - explores the qualities and effectiveness of text, expressing personal feelings

Evaluation

WHALE RIDER

The title of the movie I studied is 'Whale Rider'. It is based on novel by a Maori writer, Witi Ihimaera. The main characters are Pai, a young Maori girl, and Koro her grandfather, an elder of the tribe. The movie is set in Whangara, which is a small village in New Zealand.

Koro is trying to find the person who will lead the tribe in the future, but he believes this person must be male, as it is Maori tradition. Pai knows that she should be the leader, but it takes a long time for her grandfather to realise that she is the Whale Rider, the chosen one.

Pai must pass the tests to show she is the chosen one and nearly drowns when she helps to rescue a whale which has been stranded on the beach. Finally Koro accepts that Pai should be the leader of the tribe.

I really enjoyed this movie because it made me realise that people have different beliefs and ways of living and made me understand some Maori culture. I also enjoyed the beautiful, natural scenery of the New Zealand coast. The best shot in the film was the slow motion shot where Pai was riding a huge, magnificent whale and everyone thought she had drowned.

I would recommend this movie to anyone interested in understanding another culture.

Language Features

Use of nouns to name people, places, things, e.g. Pai, Koro, New Zealand

Use of complex sentences, e.g. Koro is trying to find the person who will lead the tribe in the future, but he believes this person must be male.

Use of adjectives (including opinion adjectives) to build description e.g. huge, magnificent

Use of adverbial phrases, e.g. on the beach

Use of past and/or present tense (present tense to describe what film is about)

Use of feeling verbs, e.g. liked, enjoyed, realised

Use of conjunctions, e.g. because, when