



Genre Investigation

MAGICAL REALISM

AS91101: WRITING PORTFOLIO - 6 CREDITS

2.4: PRODUCE A SELECTION OF CRAFTED AND CONTROLLED WRITING



Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p>Produce a selection of crafted and controlled writing which develops, sustains, and structures ideas.</p> <p>Produce a selection of crafted and controlled writing using language features appropriate to audience and purpose to create effects.</p>	<p>Produce a selection of crafted and controlled writing which develops, sustains, and structures ideas convincingly.</p> <p>Produce a selection of crafted and controlled writing using language features appropriate to audience and purpose to create convincing effects.</p>	<p>Produce a selection of crafted and controlled writing which develops, sustains, and structures ideas effectively.</p> <p>Produce a selection of crafted and controlled writing using language features appropriate to audience and purpose to command attention.</p>



“Together, they would watch everything that was so carefully planned collapse, and they would smile at the beauty of destruction.”

Outline

This task is a culmination of our novel study of **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak. This is an opportunity to develop a clearer sense of the genre of the novel by identifying the key features of magical realism present in the text and exploring how these add meaning.

CENTRAL QUESTION

Markus Zusak’s **The Book Thief** is part of a larger category of fiction. As magical realism it serves to manipulate, or even undermine the readers’ expectations. Explore the means by which Zusak uses the conventions of magical realism to reinforce the deeper ideas in the novel.

Preparation

SUMMARY

1. Keep a personal summary of key events in *The Book Thief*, including a wide range of cogent quotations.
2. Identify **a range of key features of the magical realism genre** that you recognise as being common to *The Book Thief* and other magical realism fiction you know. List these.
3. Using the schema devised in class, where observations about the text are classified under the categories of: Character, Setting, Narrative Point of View, Structure and Language, lay out a set of relevant quotations for each
4. Practice analysis paragraph structure and language, paying close attention to careful construction of sentences and deliberate word selection.
5. Plan the structure of your essay



The Final Piece

SIZE

Once your initial research and preparation is completed, the final piece should be written in the form of a literary essay. While there is no specific word limit, making an effort to keep it to **1000-1200 words** will allow you to keep your argument focussed.

CONDITIONS

The final piece will be written exclusively in class over **8 periods**. You must use your online journals to complete the writing and feedback may only be sought as part of the initial 4 period drafting process.

SCOPE

Your proficiency with spelling, grammar and punctuation will aid the clear and effective communication of your argument, as will conforming to a clear structure with your writing.

ADVICE

You are advised to refer to examples of critical essays that you have been exposed to as part of the genre study in order to refine your understanding of how such a piece can be constructed for effect.

Seek feedback from your teacher in the early stages of your drafting in order to ensure you are on the right track.



Exemplar

ANNA ROBERTS

Future Dystopia Now

In the novel, 'Nineteen Eighty-four' written by George Orwell, the author uses ideas such as language, surveillance and the alteration of history to explore the warning's the novel poses. **Published in 1949, the novel shone a light on what a future looks like when technology and people with too much power have taken control.** The novel follows a society living under a totalitarian regime, where conformity and compliance is enforced by fear. It is a word full of self censorship and loss of freedom, where the government dictates the actions of individuals. **Through this lense**, we can see how the acceleration of technology and surveillance could negatively effect our society.

This story has now become even more relevant, with recent controversy over the level of privacy the New Zealand public really has and restrictions on speech due to political correctness and text language. The novel also does its part to highlight the importance of history and the importance of learning from the mistakes of our past. The novel follows Party member, Winston, as he struggles to accept the ideas that the party forces on the public, choosing instead to record his rebellious thoughts and fight his internal struggle of independent thought against the Party.

One of the specific warnings that 'Nineteen eighty-four' issues is the idea that restrictions on speech could result on restrictions of thought.

The novel introduces the idea of 'newspeak' very early on. New speak is the language of Oceania, which was created by the party to meet the ideological requirements of the new world that lives under the lense of Big Brother. In the novel Winston often talks about how the society created by the party has lost freedom of speech, and how they have used the creation of the new language to manipulate an individuals capacity for independent thought. "It's a beautiful thing, the destruction of words. Of course the great wastage is in the verbs and adjectives, but there are hundreds of nouns that can be got rid of as well. It isn't only synonyms; there is also antonyms. After all, what justification is there for a word, which is simply the opposite of another word." This comments on the ways in which the party is restricting speech. Taking out verbs and nouns, making it difficult for an individual to express how they are feeling or what they are doing. The objective of altering the dictionary is to rule out any expressive words that promote original thought. Over time the dictionary will become so sparse that there is not enough words in existence for a person to have an individual thought. This means that in time thought crime will cease to exist. "Don't you see the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought? In the end we shall make thought-crime literally impossible,

The introduction engages the reader through the parallel employment of inclusive pronouns and a 'conversational' tone. Variety in sentence structure strengthens the impact of the precise statements.

The introduction establishes the argument and clearly states the central proposition: *This dystopia serves as a warning*

The use of the metaphor, "Lense" serves to illuminate the nuanced idea being developed by the author.

Body paragraphs leading with clear, specific statements that define their intent.

Use of powerful verbs in paragraph statements that precisely support the idea.



Extensive use of powerful quotations that further advance the points being made.

because there will be no words in which to express it. Every concept that can ever be needed will be expressed by exactly one word, with its meaning rigidly defined and its subsidiary meanings rubbed out and forgotten "

People do not crave to express a feeling they do not know the meaning of, so limiting a person's access to independent thought is an effective way of avoiding a revolt against the government. The government uses the execution of unorthodox words to criminalize unapproved government thought. It is very clear that Orwell understood the power language has over the mind and is warning us how easily our minds can be unwillingly compromised. We see a version of newspeak in everyday society, with the growing popularity of political correctness, which has been sold under the guise of tolerance and affection for others. It gets the point where people become fearfully polite, unable to express opinions without the risk of being shamed, censored and outcast. In the age of tolerance, there is no freedom of speech, expressed thought or unpopular opinion that is spoken without backlash. This idea of speech being politically correct is working to restrict the things people are able to voice without serious repercussions. Much like the altered language we see in Nineteen eighty-four, political correctness is already having an effect on freedom of speech. An example of this happened recently in the USA, with the government passing a law to ban some forms 'intolerant' speech. In complete contradiction of the First Amendment clause that prevents the government from proscribing speech or expressive conduct, they now have a court issued right to reprimand individuals using 'intolerant' speech. This has been justified as a reaction to discrimination of 'government speech'. I believe Orwell developed this idea of newspeak as a warning of the effect our vocabulary has on the amount of change we can make. The more words we know, the easier it is to explain and offer opinions about complex ideas in our everyday lives. Orwell's intention is to highlight the effect newspeak has on the 'dumbing down' of the population of Oceania, and how easily thought control could be implemented in our lives. A restriction on the things that define who we are; art, literature, entertainment. Orwell's warning is clear; It is so easy for the powerful to limit our independent thoughts and ideas, it's as simple as redefining the dictionary. He warns us to beware of other efforts they make to control our minds. This kind of control starts with a restriction of one kind of speech, **but can blossom into the loss of expression** if it is left to thrive in the mind of society.

Use of figurative language (metaphor) in the later stages of the essay in order to illustrate the points made formally earlier in the piece.

[CONTINUE READING: [HTTP://ANNA.MTASPIRING.EDUTRONIC.NET/3-1-RESPONSE/](http://anna.mtaspiring.edutronic.net/3-1-response/)]