 Teacher resource 4d

Sample chapter analysis

| Chapter | Observations on the chapter |
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| The fort of la cite (page 201-203) | * First chapter within the section “Four” 8 August 1944 – same date as sections Two, Four and Six (re-read in conjunction) * “cite” means “city” but can also mean “walled city”, a “piling up”, “somewhere of importance”. |

Language device analysis

| Language device | Example/quote | Explanation |
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| POV | Sergeant Major von Rumpel | The reader begins to understand von Rumpels motivation for the relentless pursuit of the Sea of Flames diamond. |
| Vocabulary | Tephra  Stukas  Caul | Rock fragments ejected by a volcanic eruption  German dive-bombing aircraft  Sac containing amniotic fluid |
| Metaphor | The black vine that has grown branches | Von Rumpel’s cancer – sinister overtones; image of continual growth and further invasion of his body by the disease |
|  | Serrated maze of the city | Image of the city pock-marked by thr bombing |
| Simile paradox | Blowing like a caul | caul is the sac which contains amniotic fluid – paradoxical image of the city being engulfed & trapped by something which is designed to be safe and protective |
| Juxtaposition | Von Rumpel sits in an ammunition box and eats cheese from a tube | The mundane activity of eating cheese highlights for the reader the impact of the events being described in the chapter. What does this tell us about Von Rumpel? |
| Repetition | “He will wait.” Wait and wait and wait…” | Reflects VR’s chilling determination. He will not be deterred from pursuing the diamond. |
| Alliteration | His weight like a rag on the rungs | Connected to the previous sentence which describes how VR is feeling. The sensory imagery created by the alliteration invites the reader to feel VR’s heaviness and inertia. |
| Sibilance | The smoke appears strangely solid | Repetition of the‘s’ sound softens the image; it may appear solid, but it’s still smoke – with all that implies. “Smoke” is a repeated word in the chapter, the sibilance creating a sombre mood. |
| Truncated sentences | Two windows visible, the glass out. One shutter hanging, three in place.  Number 4 rue Vauberel. Still intact. Seconds pass; smoke veils it again. | Not just a short sentence, but incomplete, may be grammatically incorrect. Used here interspersed with longer sentences. Creates tension, anxiety, discomfort in the reader. In this example, the object of VR’s desperate search, he has found not only the stone, but Marie Laure. |
| Present tense | Von Rumpel retreats down the long ladder into the tunnels of the fort below. | As in the rest of the novel this creates a sense of immediacy for the reader; heightened sensory & emotional reactions of fear, impending doom, helplessness. We are present in the scene. |
| Dialogue | Only a matter of time before the black vine chokes off his heart.  ‘What?’ says a soldier beside him.  Von Rumpel sniffs. ‘I do not think I said anything.’ | Minimal dialogue juxtaposed within a chapter of mainly physical description, albeit communicated with intense imagery.  Reflects VR’s lack of human interaction.  Did he speak about the black vine?  Or just think it? Or is it authorial? |
| Concrete language | Sergeant Major von Rumpel climbs a ladder in the dark. | Used minimally, this creates a tension with the hyperbolous imagery of the rest of the chapter. Compare “… climbs a ladder in the dark” with, “His weight like a rag on the rungs.” |