

RHETORICAL ANALYSIS

"The Happy Memories Club" - Lee Smith (1995)

Passage Analysis

SOAPSTONE

- S = older woman (Alice) reflects on memories
- O = last hooray
- A = more mature / Western audience
- P = disruption of established expectations
- S = Lee Smith / Alice Scully - English training
- Tone = free-thinking, informal, expressionist; older, crazy in a fun way; "wine aunt" vibes

Notes

LIST AT LEAST FIVE KEY POINTS

- Alice Scully lives in assisted living community
- She is having an affair
- She was once an English teacher.
- She joins a writing club.
- The members cannot handle reality.
- She writes anyway and makes her own rules.

Rhetorical Devices

LIST AT LEAST FIVE DEVICES

- subjunctive verbal moods
- infinitive verb forms
- first person pov (ethos)
- second person pov
- conversational dialogue
- alliterative tone (speeds up pace)
- lack of standard punctuation
- anecdotal stories
- repetition
- imagery
- euphemisms
- allusions
- hypotheticals
- anaphora (pg. 153/6)

Appeals Overview

ETHOS-PATHOS-LOGOS

INCLUDE QUOTATIONS

- ① ETHOS - "I've always done exactly what I'm supposed to do - now I intend to do what I want" - (1).
- ② PATHOS - "I quit reading aloud and looked around the room... I HAD to miss the third meeting... bc Dr. C sent me to the Health center" (11).
- ③ LOGOS - "I MAY be old, but I'm not dead" (1).

Thesis Statement

INCLUDE WRITER/SPEAKER, TEXT, AND EXIGENCE abstract

- Lee Smith (writer)
- Alice Scully (speaker)
- "The Happy Memories Club"

In Lee Smith's "The Happy Memories Club," Alice Scully disrupts established expectations.

Selected Strategies

THE A-B-C TOPICS

- (A) concrete components: infinitive verb forms that not conjugate w/ the subject
- (B) the employment of second person pov and informal conversational tone
- (C) divergence from punctuation standards (e.g. periods or full stops)