

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 2

Description - Literary,
Fictional

Introduction to the subject

Description - includes
physical appearance,
personality traits and family
life

Concluding comment

**A COMPARISON OF TWO CHARACTERS:
MARK AND BRYON IN S E HINTON'S NOVEL
(THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW)**

S E Hinton's novel 'That Was Then, This Is Now' is about rivalry between two groups of teenagers. The main characters are Mark and Bryon. They are almost opposites because their families are very different. They look very different and they behave differently.

Bryon was tall, dark and handsome. He had beautiful eyes "like a Saint Bernard puppy" (p 10). All the girls liked him because he was good-looking and also kind. Although Mark was smaller than Bryon, he was much stronger because he was very muscular. He had golden hair and strange golden eyes and a friendly smile.

Mark and Bryon were good friends but they disagree about fighting. Mark often wanted to fight, while Bryon avoided fighting. When Bryon was bashed by the Shepards for cutting Angela's hair, Mark wanted to fight, but Bryon said "I don't want anybody to fight the Shepards." (p 101). He said, "It's just I'm sick of fighting" (p 104). One time when they were out with their friends, Mark jumped out of their car and punched someone in the nose, but Bryon thought of the night Charlie was killed. He remembered "Mark grabbing up the shotgun and firing away" (p 77) while he himself couldn't move. He knew that he couldn't have done that. Mark, on the other hand, was quick to act and afraid of nothing.

Perhaps the reason Mark liked to fight was that he came from a violent family. When he was nine years old "his parents shot each other in a drunken argument" (p 50). Everyone knew that the man who shot Mark's mother was not his real father because his eyes were a different colour. "Nobody on my side of the family has eyes that colour," said Mark's stepfather (p 90). Bryon lived with his mother. His father was dead (p 70). Bryon and his mother loved each other very much and the family was happy.

Hinton has described two very interesting and different characters. The reader likes them and wants to know how they solve their problems.

Language Features

Use of relating verbs, e.g. the main characters are

Use of thinking and feeling verbs, e.g. All the girls liked him. Bryon and his mother loved each other. He remembered "Mark grabbing up the shotgun".

Use of action verbs, e.g. avoided, jumped, punched

Use of a variety of adjectives, e.g. good-looking, kind, friendly, violent

Use of detailed noun groups, e.g. beautiful eyes, 'like a Saint Bernard puppy'

Use of contrastive conjunctions, e.g. although, but

Use of pronouns to track subject i.e. referencing, e.g. he

Use of quotes to support description, e.g. "It's just I'm sick of fighting".

Use of compound and complex sentences