
Reading US26624

— Example —

More than just a place to sleep

— Lauren Davidson NCEA 2017 —

9 May

Purpose for reading

I needed to read this text for practice for my external English exam - Close Reading of Unfamiliar Texts. This exam is about understanding the author's purpose for writing a text and showing that I can see how they used language to achieve that purpose.

What was the writer's purpose? What effect did they want to have on the reader?

Inform - explain - persuade - provoke - entertain - challenge - share - respond - suggest - clarify - explore - consider ... about what?

This writer wanted to share their opinion about an art display they had been to see. It made them think about teenagers and they wrote their article to make other people think about changes in teenagers too.

What I found out from reading this text

Explicit information (on the lines)

Who - the show was put together by Carey Newson

What - it is a display of teenager's bedrooms

Where -

Why - part of her research into teenage material culture

Implicit ideas (ideas that are implied, hinted at, or suggested in the text, but not directly expressed.)

The exhibits show that teenagers like to keep or display stuff that shows their personality. Some of it is from their childhood, and some of it is current. For example, a teddy bear and a stolen road sign.

The bedrooms are different from the rooms that their parents had as teenagers because of the influence of social media. Although bedrooms are still a teenager's personal space, their access to social media actually makes their rooms connected to the whole wide world.

How useful was the information? Justify your answer

The information was interesting, but challenging to read.

The writer used a language feature - metaphor - "3D scrapbook" to compare a teenager's messy bedroom to a visual memory scrapbook. In common they have visual displays of items that matter or seem important.

This was useful for understanding the displays as research. It was also useful for practising for the CRUFT external. I was able to identify the language feature and explain it.

Paste or insert a copy of the text.

More than just a place to sleep

If a man's home is his castle, a teenager's bedroom is her showroom, put together with as much care as the stained jeans slung perfectly on the hips or the unbrushed hair pulled immaculately into a scruffy bun.

Carey Newson curated this show as part of her research into the material culture of the teenage bedroom. It is an attempt to conserve the evolving museum of identity and experience that adolescents build around themselves during these important yet transient years.

The rooms are filled with objects and mementos from everyday activities, a sort of 3-D scrapbook.

The blurred line between child and adult, between home comfort and independent rebel, is one of the most prominent themes of the display.

In one room, a soft toy pokes its head out of a blue set of shelves stacked haphazardly with books, on top of which perches a red Accident & Emergency sign presumably stolen from a hospital. "As soon as I walk in there it's like a sigh of relief," says Pearl, its 17-year-old occupant.

"It's so tuned to me ... I just feel it's like a house inside a house."

Freya, 15, has swaddled her room in a warm, red glow, where stuffed toys mingle among more elegant cushions on the bed. Large flowers have been hand-painted on the walls and a Monet print of a bridge over water lilies is framed with twinkling fairy lights. "It's, like, my space and I put things up that I like, that are special to no one else," Freya says.

To be sure, from J. D. Salinger to Kurt Cobain and many more besides, the teenage experience has been well documented. However, Newson wanted to capture not just the soul-searching nature of these few years in a person's life but the way the experience has changed over the generations.

One of the most notable differences between the life of teenagers today and that of their parents' youth is the advent of social media.

Whereas teenagers in the sixties and seventies would have relied on the family telephone in the hall—a much more exposed place to conduct their personal life—their children manage their social affairs from the safety of their own rooms.

This makes the bedroom a more personal, private space, where a young person can speak on the phone without an adult presence. But it's also a more public space, where a teenager might be having five conversations at once—including visual ones, using FaceTime or Snapchat for instance, that allow the other person to see the room. The changes reflect our increased ability to work and socialise from our own rooms—and also, perhaps, a more liberal attitude towards parenting.

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Date

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