

From the VCE Literature Study Design

Over the holidays read and annotate *The Dressmaker*

Literary Devices

- ❖ Point of view from which ideas or events are presented (for example, who is telling the story at any point? How would meanings be different if the narrative voice were changed? Does the point of view change? How is this point of view conveyed in terms of language and images?)
- ❖ The methods of characterisation / *positioning of the reader*, for example, does the reader/viewer learn about the characters through the perceptions of other character/s, through monologue, dialogue or through description? In a film this may include aspects such as use of music in the background, framing of shots, colour, costuming. What are the effects of these methods of characterisation?
- ❖ The structure of the text (for example, how are the ideas events organised in terms of time and place?) What is the relationship between parts of the text?
- ❖ The tone adopted by the author (or narrator, if one is used). How is the reader invited, *or positioned*, to respond to the characters and events? Shifts in tone/mood atmosphere throughout the text and how these are signalled and achieved in technical terms.
- ❖ The ideology of the writer/author/poet/director and how this is revealed. Key messages and ideas in the text.
- ❖ The style of language used (for example, what is the purpose and effect on the reader of the use of symbolic reference, (*including metaphor*), of formal, colloquial or unfamiliar language? Use or absence of dialogue? For what purpose is this symbolic reference used?
- ❖ How does the writer/poet/playwright/filmmaker achieve this in technical terms, (*for example, Dalrymple's descriptions of characters and their environments/shifts in location and point of view, the shifts in point of view and use/absence of formal chapters in Garner, the use of understatement in Carver, the use of film techniques in Black Chicks Talking*).

❖ Read *The Dressmaker* making sure that you annotate it with the above devices in mind.