# **Constructing a Reading of “Worth the Wait” (written by a student, available on AC:E as sample response)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Text structure**Reader response | **Narrative** | **Reading strategies**Answer after reading entire narrative. |
| **Complication**(in medias res)Event/**curiosity** DescriptionResponse to ComplicationEvent/**concern**Response to ComplicationClimax/**shock**Description/**horror** | **Worth the Wait**I didn’t even want to go onto the log in the first place, but he made me. He pushed, and teased, and laughed, and I eventually backed out onto the trembling remnant of a forest giant. When I had made my way to about halfway across, when the entire length was shaking, he put one foot onto the log, and began to pump his leg up and down. He smirked. I screamed at him to stop, disturbing birds in the canopy above me. All he did was laugh, and continue to vigorously shake the fallen tree. I not only heard the loud CRACK of the log, but felt it through the souls of my feet. The violent thud of my skull dashing itself on the boulders strewn haphazardly around the stream was the last thing I felt before I found myself rising above my own broken body. | Your thesis statement/central idea needs to be supported by the text structures and language features in the text. **Binary Oppositions:** What pairs of opposing forces can you identify in the text?What key conflicts are suggested by the binary oppositions?Does one half of a pair seem more powerful than the other?How is the reader intended to respond to the opposing forces? i.e. How is the reader positioned?Do the binary oppositions suggest any ideological messages? |
| **Resolution**ReflectionEvent/**curiosity**Description ReflectionEventReflection/**aversion**Description/**horror**  | It took me a moment to realize what had happened. It took even longer for the fact that I was dead to sink in. From my vantage point above I could see my body, among the rocks, blood trickling into the mountain stream, and I could see him. I could see him, as he took in what had happened. He peered down the small gully and saw my body there. What do you think someone would do if they were in that situation? Well this is what he did. He quickly scanned the forest around us, and a worried look crept across his face. Was he looking to see if anybody had witnessed what he had done? There was no-one there. Was that relief I saw flooding his face, even though his girlfriend lay on the forest floor, lifeless, blood pooling around her crumpled form? |

|  |
| --- |
| **Positioning: refers to how texts influence readers to read or make meaning in certain ways; readers are positioned or invited to construct particular meanings in relation to the characters, arguments or groups in the texts.**  |

How is the reader positioned to respond to each character and the situation? Which **evaluative** words and phrases position the reader to respond in that way? **What significant discourse is mobilized in the text?** What ideology underpins this discourse? What values, attitudes and beliefs underpin the text’s meaning? You can unpack this by considering how the reader is positioned to view the actions of the murderer.Does this text expose or normalize this ideology? |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| EventReflectionEventReflection/**revulsion**Event/**sorrow**DescriptionAttempted SolutionReflection**Comment/**satisfaction | He crawled like a spider down the side of the gully, and picked up my lifeless body. It was such a strange sensation, watching my body moving but not feeling his touch. I followed him, as he carried my prone form some distance from the track and into the forest, and stashed my body under a fallen tree. Under a tree! Instead of calling for help, or holding me to his chest, he abandoned me like an unwanted pet. He walked back to the stream, and proceeded to wash the incriminating blood off his hands and from the rocks. **All evidence of what he did washed away, down the mountain, where no one would ever find it.** My seething form followed him, as he hurried to his car, looking unsuspicious, escaping from what he had done. I could say then, that he would never escape. He thought nobody knew. But there was me. I knew.  | **Imagery and figurative devices:****Genre**: narrativeWhat kind of narrative?**Setting**? In what ways is the setting significant? How does it add to the tension? **Narrative Voice**/focalization? First, second or third person point of view? How does this position the reader?**Purpose** of narrative? |
| **Orientation**Context for complicationIntroduction of charactersReflectionEventDenouement/**curiosity**ReactionReflectionSolution/**satisfaction** | He had picked me up from my rental earlier that morning as a surprise trip for our one year anniversary. The thoughtful and romantic idea for a bushwalk was strangely uncharacteristic of him. Wrapped up in the excitement of a wonderful romantic afternoon, I saw no reason to tell anyone where I was going, or that he had picked me up. So, much later, when the news came to him of my “disappearance”, he claimed no knowledge of even seeing me on that day. No-one suspected a thing. I’m not sure what really happened next, but some time later I came to a place full of people, or rather, things, like me. Other ghosts, all with different reasons for still being kept in this place. I call this place The Waiting Room. All that matters is that after twenty years, I have found a way to get back to the world of the living. I have found a way to show the world what he did. I’m going to make him pay. It’s going to happen very soon. He is living on borrowed time. Now, after all these years, all I can say is that it has been worth the wait. (648 words) | **Symbolism:**How does this assist in the construction of meaning?**Rhetorical devices?**Hyperbole?Rule of three?Short emphatic sentences?Repetition?Allusion?**Invited reading: By reading with the text, the reader produces the meaning/s the text seems to invite.** What is the ‘theme’ of the narrative? What is the big idea? Identify a theme in your reading which is supported by the text structures and language features of the text. **Ensure you identify a theme which is supported by a wide range of text structures and language features.** Does this text **expose or conceal** gender power imbalances? |

Establish your central idea: