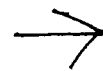


In the excerpt from *Fasting, Feasting* by Anita Desai, the writer uses a variety of techniques to detail Arun's inner emotions and sentiments regarding his experience. Through the use of alternative diction, speech, and point of view, the author aptly expresses to the audience ~~Arun's~~ Arun's perception of the events. Due to the newness of the situation, Arun's uneasy air does not ~~so~~ shock the audience; however, the characterization of such uncomfortableness through Desai's words allows the reader a deeper understanding of the character.

In the first paragraph, the matter-of-fact type diction allows the reader to ~~the~~ quickly establish the setting of the passage. By claiming that "Arun cannot plead work," Desai already shows the character as unwilling to participate in the activity he is trying to find an exit strategy. However, as the text progresses, the diction becomes more expressive and imagery becomes a key component in the text. Mrs. Patton's "animated prance [that] galvanizes her dwindled shanks" shows the reader ~~the~~ the excitement that the American family feels; ~~which~~ <sup>an emotion that</sup> is intensified by Arun's obvious indifference and awkwardness. The two children follow "silently" making an uneasy trek to the beach. However, in the last paragraph the diction once again becomes more intense. The heavy visual and auditory imagery that the author uses ~~at~~ aids the reader in ~~the~~ connecting with Arun's deeper



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emotions. Beyond his outward un-comfortableness, the "thrumming of windas" in the "benighted wilderness" creates a more permanent unsettled feeling in Annu. The repetition of the word "insidious" and its use as a contrast to the buildings in the town also serve to highlight Annu's deeper emotion of ~~hatred~~ <sup>disgust or outright</sup> ~~dislike~~ <sup>dislike</sup> of the situation.

Similarly, by creating some sort of dialogue in the passage, Desai allows the reader to easily characterize the American family and, thus, contrast it with Annu. At the beginning of the text, when Annu is trying to decline going to the beach, Mrs. Patton's dialogue serves as a blatant establishment of her role in the plot. As a host, she assumes her duty is to entertain, a task she sees as essential to Annu's comfort. Ironically, however, Annu's discomfort ~~expands exponentially by repeated~~ <sup>repeated</sup> refusal ("No, no, no... oh no.") to accept Annu's excuses. Later in the ~~text~~ text when Annu hears Mrs. Patton ~~singing~~ <sup>singing</sup> the lyrics to "Summertime" the words also serve to point out irony within Anita Desai's text. By belting that "the living is eeh-zee...", Mrs. Patton is established as a character ~~whose oblivion~~ <sup>whose oblivion</sup> allows her to maintain bliss. Despite Annu's obvious discomfort, the American host ~~took~~ <sup>falsely perceived</sup> his denials as a shyness, a polite gesture because he wished not to disturb them. Ironically, the living for Annu is not easy at all; indeed, in the final paragraph, he shows the audience his true emotions regarding the situation.



2

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Throughout most of the text the point of view is third person limited; the author merely comments on the situation, allowing the audience to draw conclusions or infer the deeper themes of the text. However, in the concluding paragraphs the point of view becomes third person omniscient giving the reader a more depth view of Ann's thought process. In line 46, the author uses a rhetorical question, <sup>represents</sup> a technique that ~~displays~~ Ann's thoughts on the issue. Because he is "sweating" and his hands are "upflin and damp" the audience concludes that <sup>Ann</sup> B. becoming increasingly unsettled, ~~and~~ the following rhetorical question actually allows the reader to pinpoint his unease and the following sentences expand upon his beliefs.

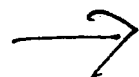
A. Although the passage begins as a <sup>lighthearted</sup> ~~lighthearted~~ account of a swimming event, the author uses several rhetorical strategies to quickly transform the tone. Through the development of her diction, Desai is able to show the various increasing levels of Ann's unease, a feeling that culminates in a <sup>more</sup> heightened sense of dread. The author also uses speech to characterize the American family, <sup>whom</sup> serves as a foil to Ann, and to express irony. ~~By shifting perception at the conclusion of the passage,~~ the author also <sup>summarizes</sup> ~~creates~~ the unease and helps the reader to gain deeper insight into the character's mind.

#

Desai utilizes strong characterization and a very singular point of view to effectively characterize Crum's experience in America with his host family.

~~Crum's well developed character~~ Crum's internal monologue <sup>at first</sup> displays his awkwardness as a guest of the Pattons' but then very skillfully shifts to a singular overtone of disgust for the whole experience. This is fostered by sharp but sparse dialogue that serves to heighten the differences between Crum and the Pattons. In addition, Crum's experiences are further enhanced in the reader's mind because of the imagery used to express his revulsion towards the wilderness and its ~~insidious~~ "creeping curtain of insidious green."

Crum's internal monologue and his reaction to what goes on in the world around him lend credence to the overall believability and impact of his experiences in America. From the opening lines of the excerpt we can infer that he has been apprehensive about going out with the Pattons for a long time; with this point of view in the background as a skeletal structure for the innermost workings



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of his psyche, we ~~as~~ build sympathy for him. Contrasted with his dejected demeanor is the delightfully decadent Mrs Patton who ironically sings "Summertime... when the living is eehzee-". She cannot seem to fathom any other point of view than ~~the~~ her own, and she is characterized as an object of derision throughout the rest of the trip to the beach. Her confident swagger is directly in contrast with unassumedness of Arum to step out into the unknown.

He criticizes nature as hoarse and shrieking - "they shrill and shrill... a bird shrieks... an ugly jarring note that does not vary." - and dangerous with "...grasses stirring with insidious life, and bushes with poison berries". In short he is afraid of the wilderness and much rather would be ~~an~~ familiar town around people. However his excuses have long since <sup>failed to get</sup> ~~gone~~ through to the obstinate Mrs Patton, and he must be accommodating for her and carry her basket whether he wants to or not.

All of this intense characterization of Arum and his foil that is his environment serves to emphasize the uniqueness of his

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experience and how tempered it is by others  
and his natural environment.

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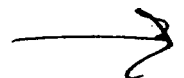
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2C  
10/2

In the passage taken from Fasting, Feasting by Anita Desai, ~~of the~~ a young boy ~~on stays at a country that~~ is confused by his host family's actions. He is taken from the town and brought to a country-like setting for the sake of leisure. Desai uses speech and point of view to characterize Arun's experience.

The author's use of a third person omniscient narrator lets the reader know ~~that~~ of Arun's disapproval of the beach and his confusion. ~~The author uses~~ The author's description of Arun, from lines 43-46, ("Arun... damp") shows the reader that Arun is nervous about going to this location. The following lines show Arun's ~~let to show~~ Arun's confusion. The reader is in Arun's mind and learns that he prefers the city. He does not understand why Americans would choose to go to an isolated place. He feels safe in the city being surrounded and "post offices, shops..." by people, and very insecure in the woods - "the grasses ~~stirring~~ stirring with insidious life, and bushes with poisonous berries." He does not find the nature beautiful, but thinks that the bird is "shriek[ing]" and describes it as an "ugly, jarring note that does not vary." ~~In his thoughts~~ ~~lead~~ The work even ends with him "nearly tripping upon a root." All of these thoughts show the reader Arun's disapproval of the wilderness, and preference of the city. His experience can be regarded as a negative one.

The other device used in the passage is speech. Desai's choice of words also support the notion that Arun is not pleased with being in the wilderness. The passage begins with Arun trying to find



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excuses ~~to~~ to not accompany them to the beach. This shows that Arun was forced to go. When they arrive at the beach, ~~Ar~~ Arun is silent. His lack of speech shows his disinterest. ~~of the~~

The author uses the <sup>stylistic</sup> devices of speech and point of view to show that Arun ~~does not~~ is not fond of the wilderness ~~and~~ and believes his experience to be a negative one. He prefers the city, to the more country-<sup>traditional</sup> like setting. ~~It~~ ~~It~~ His "Indian" life has clashed with the American idea of leisure.

#