

## White Board for Prose: **Alice Walker** and **Tim Winton**.

### **Character(s)**

*Who is the protagonist?*

### **Conflict**

### **Plot**

*What is the story or plot?*

### **Point of View**

*What is the point of view?*

### **1<sup>st</sup> Para: Context**

*When and where is the setting?*

*What is the wider context? What are the immediate contexts?*

*What is implied in the story/ rather than stated?*

### **Style**

Is the story in a particular genre? (comedy/ crime/ romance/ SF/ etc)

### **Technical devices?**

Contrast and comparison

*symbol, allusion, irony*

### **Theme**

*What is the theme or meaning of the story?*

## Alice Walker "Everyday Use"

### **Character(s)**

*Who is the protagonist?*

Mama

Maggie, Dee (Wangero), Hakim-a-barber (Asalamalakim)

### **Conflict**

Between old values and new values, mother and daughter, Maggie and Dee

### **Plot**

*What is the story or plot?*

The visit of Dee (with her new boyfriend/ husband?) to her old home to meet mum and sister. Dee's wish to take some items of historical value with her. Mum and Maggie's resistance to this

### **Theme**

The continuing value of the old. The strength of the underdog. All this contrasting with the values of the new generation and their need to prove their worth by reference to the past.

### **Point of View**

*What is the point of view?*

1<sup>st</sup> person (Mama) and 3<sup>rd</sup> person, when Mama describes her two daughters.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Para: Context**

*When and where is the setting?*

Maybe in the 70s in a poor African American area of the country.

*What is the wider context? What are the immediate contexts?*

The time of African Americans claiming more rights. The description of a family tragedy with the house burning down and the physical damage to Maggie.

*What is implied in the story/ rather than stated?*

The value of the old as a challenge to the values of the new

### **Style**

Is the story in a particular genre? (comedy/ crime/ romance/ SF/ etc)

Very immediate style, being in the first person: tells it how it is!  
Use of conversational language including dialect forms: "I reckon she would.... I can 'member Grandma Dee without the quilts.."  
Genre might be family history, Race studies.

### **Technical devices?**

Contrast and comparison

Contrast between the two sisters: style, way of life, values.

*symbol, allusion, irony*

The symbolism of the quilt as something having worth because it is still used and real, contrasted with the desired symbolism that it be hung on the wall as a historical decoration

### **Theme**

*What is the theme or meaning of the story?*

"Maggie can't appreciate these quilts!" she [Dee] said. "She'd probably be backward enough to put them to everyday use."  
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"I reckon she would." I said. "God knows I been saving 'em for long enough with nobody using 'em. I hope she will!" I didn't want to bring up how I had offered Dee (Wangeroo) a quilt when she went away to college. Then she had told me they were old-fashioned, out of style.

Triumph for Maggie...

## Tim Winton "Sand"

### Character(s)

*Who is the protagonist?*

Frank, Max (older brother, 10), their father and his mates, their mother (? "it was only two weeks")

### Conflict

Between the two brothers, in a men's environment where there is still a hint of the mother's past/presence

### Plot

*What is the story or plot?*

A morning fishing adventure and the larks of two brothers in the sand-dunes.

### Theme

Family drama- tensions/rivalry between brothers.- see below.

### Point of View

*What is the point of view?*

3<sup>rd</sup> person narration at start; then shifting into 1<sup>st</sup> person dialogue: Max, I didn't know how to do it..... Orright, it was an accident. Let's dig... A hole, dickhead. A tunnel. Like in the movies...

### 1<sup>st</sup> Para: Context

*When and where is the setting?*

Fishing expedition near a sandy beach, very early in the morning

*What is the wider context? What are the immediate contexts?*

A broken family? Shortly after the death, or disappearance of the boys' mother.

Describing the men fishing: They were just like ladies knitting, like his mother's friends.

Now that he was used to him, Frank loved his father.

Their mother called him Rabbit.

You're adopted, he said, they found you on the tip...

What is *implied* in the story/ rather than stated?

The whole unknown family background with hints of the mother's presence and uncertainty about the relationship between the brothers. Is one of them (Frank) adopted??

### **Style**

Is the story in a particular genre? (comedy/ crime/ romance/ SF/ etc)

Comedy, intimate family drama/

### **Technical devices?**

Contrast and comparison

*symbol, allusion, irony*

Vivid descriptive sensory prose: The sun boiled in the sea and the bare dunes turned pink... rhythmic clink of the lantern glass...

When the tackle boxes opened he smelt whale oil and mulies.

Moths came out of the dark to butt against the hot white glass of the lantern.

Vivid similes: The men's footprints were deep. They were like mouths with tongues of shadow hanging out of them.

The sun was gone but the sky was still light; it swirled yellow and green and blue like a bruise.

They were just like ladies knitting, like his mother's friends.

Comedy/tragedy: boys on the sandhills...

Metaphors: He saw the dunes all around him holding up the edges of the sky.

He was the only sound in the world.

### **Intertextual references**

referring to other texts and linking other texts: Hot cross buns (Easter child's jingle) + three blind mice (which may symbolically connect father and two sons).

### **Theme**

*What is the theme or meaning of the story?*

The conflict between two brothers; the atmosphere of a complex family; children and the environment

