

C. In the extract we are introduced to a female narrator struggling to deal with reality, and challenges this by recalling her experiences to train her hawk.

The narrative voice is a key element used by Macdonald to portray the significant shift in her views and emotions. By writing in first person the reader feels immediately connected to the voice and we are given keen insight to both her view of her world and the emotions she experiences alongside them. The narrator appears honest, being truthful over her thoughts and unavailing of any pain she feels, even if she is unsure

of what it is. This gives the reader the freedom to be engulfed by her words without fear of deception most clearly shown as the writer makes ~~clear~~ obvious the narrator's vulnerability as "something shifts in my head. Something huge." The repetition of 'something' allows the reader to accept the narrator's fear and experience it alongside her due to the threat being unknown to us as well. Choosing this style of narrative expertly aids in Macdonald's exploration and portrayal of her personal experience as it boosts the intimacy between reader and writer and also ₃ makes the

emotions, incidents and reflections far more real.

The writer's reflection on her experience teaching her hawk allows the reader to witness the rewarding nature of this. In order to heighten the impact, the writer first makes the reader aware of the depression and dullness of life she had been dealing with ^{before}. Utilising pathetic fallacy, Macdonald recalls how "the air ~~was~~ about us ~~is~~ mud, still... the sky dull and flat as unpolished brass." The overwhelming bleakness and unwelcoming nature of her world appears to mirror her own outward

persona, wishing to escape from society and disappear rather than face the reality of her situation. This draws in the reader as we feel sympathetic and many can relate to her experience due to the loss of a loved one, despite her ^{own} refusal to accept this as a reason.

The writer's journey through her experience continues to mount leading to her trying to turn to a fictional world for escapism. Making use of setting Macdonald reveals that "everything here is built from things pulled from dreams." The fantastical nature of this contrasts the harmlessness of dreams with a forceful

removal of pulling it away and remodelling it. This gives insight into the writer's thoughts as she feels cheated by the 'reality' she lives in and instead of being in awe, she criticises the false nature of it.

The personal qualities displayed through the writer's ~~views~~ analogy about 'Alice in Wonderland' again gives the reader greater insight and curiosity over the personal experiences of this woman. The loss of her father clearly having a greater impact on her than she is able to admit, Macdonald shows her loss and lack of direction when it to when "Alice, falling,

looked down to see where she was headed but everything below her was darkness. Using both a familiar story and darkness cleverly parallels to the audience Macdonald's confusion and frustration as she feels she should know what to do but instead has been thrown into the unknown.

This shows immense significance ~~to~~ of this personal experience to the reader as the scale of which she feels lost is great but still realistic.

Bringing in a closer relationship between the hawk and Macdonald herself, we see her begin to reconnect with

reality. Instead of becoming passive or immensely reflective, Macdonald, far more effectively, portrays the hardness which she had to face first. Referencing 'Alice in Wonderland' again, she claims that her fridge now holds "a dead white rabbit [which] is defrosting," killing off any chance of her being tempted back to her fictional universe. The blunt tone used here creates some dark humour for the reader yet expertly pushes us to understand that destroying a character from a ~~fiction~~ book is actually her stepping back into reality. ✱

Choosing to build up the

relationship between herself and the hawk marks the most significant stage of her personal experience dealing with her mourning. The bird's willingness to participate in what is a game to it, anthropomorphises it to give both Macdonald and the reader greater purpose within this account. Recalling the training experience step by step gives us a clearer image of the progression and creates similar emotions within us as she herself, experienced. She recalls her "ship of my heart... and she is there by my side." This image created by Macdonald makes clear the strong bond

forming between her and her hawk, pulling her away from depression and finding purpose.

The writer's description of her emotions have a particularly strange influence on the extract. She uses short sentences to abruptly claim "It strikes me that this must be happiness." The wording of this creates a mirroring response of shock ^{in the reader} as they too are struck by her realisation. Her word choice not only reveals the numbness she had been experiencing for so long that she forgot how happiness felt but also that the relationship formed with the bird had such a drastic

effect that it "must" be true.

Macdonald's use of symbolism is also incredibly effective in portraying the significance of this experience in her life. Marked as a turning point she ends the extract ~~as~~ ~~wondering~~ with "the strip light flickers ominously, undecided whether to illuminate the room or cease to warn entirely." Choosing to shift her decision making onto an inanimate object suggests that Macdonald is still struggling to take control of her life however the fact that she now sees a chance of her life 'lighting up' gives both the reader and her, hope. This

displays the immense significance of this experience and marks her movement on to the next stage of her life.

The writer's use of contrast is also very effective in showing the shift taking place within her life. She begins the extract bleakly listing the objects found in her college such as "a bronze Benin cocheret in the dining-hall, and a skeleton in ~~the~~ a cupboard... a bronze horse on one lawn and a hare on another." The dull and muted objects and colours are then sharply contrasted when Macdonald begins to "serenade

my hawk with "my favourite things", with whistles and hoots and brown paper packages tied up with string." The lyrics all focused around joy and happiness make clear the writer's emotions and new found way of expressing them. By doing so brightens the extract and draws in the reader's emotions to mirror those experienced by Macdonald.