
LITERARY GENRE

Comparative Study

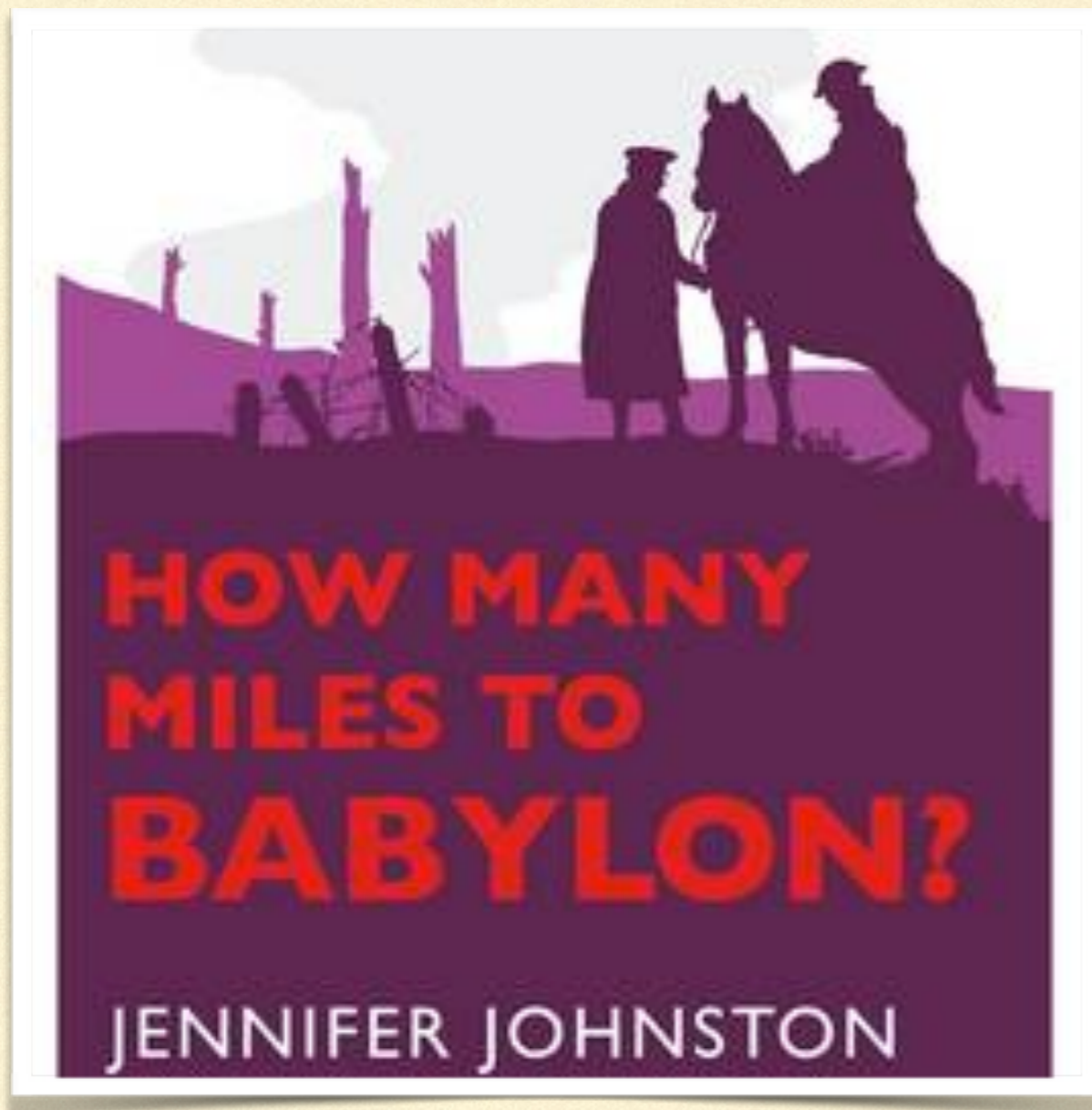
ASPECTS OF LITERARY GENRE

- Point of view
 - Structure or narrative pattern (flashbacks, linear)
 - Social realism
 - Symbolism and imagery
 - Dialogue
 - Poetry, song, music
 - Creation of character
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PAST QUESTIONS - FOCUS

- How memorable characters are created in the text
 - How emotional power is created in the text
 - Aspects of narrative and how they contribute to your understanding of the text
 - How powerful moments add to the story in the text
 - How the unexpected contributes to the story
 - The different ways in which the story is told in the texts you have chosen
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HOW MANY MILES TO BABYLON



- We will be using this as our anchor text.
- The second text we will discuss is 'Juno and the Paycock'
- The third text is 'I'm Not Scared'

POINT OF VIEW - BABYLON



- Narrated by Alec Moore
 - Dispassionate: his detachment allows him to be reasonably objective. This is unusual in a first person narrative.
 - Not omniscient - we never know if Frederick really is his father or how his decision to shoot Jerry is viewed by those around him
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- Does not portray himself in a positive light
 - Honest: admits he is a failure as a military leader and can neither control the soldiers in his charge 'nor give them comfort in any way'.
 - Does not try to paint others in a wholly negative light
 - We see the world as he describes it and we sympathise with him
 - Does not argue with his mother or Major Glendinning when they berate him for his failings
 - Says he may well be judging his mother harshly and confesses that there were moments where he 'almost admired' Major Glendinning.
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POINT OF VIEW - QUOTES



- ‘As a child I was alone. I am making no excuses for myself, merely stating a fact.’
- ‘There were moments when I almost admired him’, (speaking of Major Glendinning)

JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK



- Unlike 'How Many Miles to Babylon?', there are multiple viewpoints in 'Juno and the Paycock'. Because we do not see everything from the viewpoint of a single character as we do in 'Babylon', we have to make up our own minds about the characters attitudes and values.
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- None of the characters in 'Juno' are as dispassionate as Alec Moore. Where he is quite self-deprecating and able to view others quite objectively, the characters in 'Juno and the Paycock' push their own agendas and voice their attitudes quite forcefully.
 - The main characters in 'Juno' tell us repeatedly that they stand by their principles yet their behaviour proves otherwise. Because we cannot know their private thoughts, as we do Alec's, we must contrast their words and their behaviour and decide to what extent they are reliable narrators. Johnny, for example, claims to be a principled freedom fighter, yet he is revealed to have betrayed his 'comrade', Robbie Tancred.
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- Johnny believes ‘a principle’s a principle’ but we see that **he lacks Alec’s honesty and self-knowlege** as he is proven to be a traitorous coward.
 - Jerry Devine proclaims his love for Mary but abandons her as soon as he learns of her pregnancy. **Alec, in contrast, sticks by Jerry and is as good as his word, even sacrificing his life to save his friend from the agony of death by firing squad.**
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POINT OF VIEW - QUOTES



- ‘A principle’s a principle’
- ‘No matter what happens, you’ll always be the same to me.’ (Jerry Devine to Mary)

I'M NOT SCARED



- Michele is the protagonist.
 - The camera tracks his actions so that we, the viewers, experience the events as he does.
 - Similar to 'Babylon' in that we see only one point of view.
 - Like Alec, Michele is a good and selfless character and we empathise with his situation/
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- The single point of view in 'I'm Not Scared' helps to create a sense of mystery. **As in 'Babylon'**, we have no omniscient narrator so only learn the truth as events unfold. For example, it is not until Michele hears the adults discussing the kidnapping as they watch news coverage of it that we learn the identity of Filippo.
 - **We empathise more with the characters of Michele and Alec than we do with those in 'Juno and the Paycock'** because the multiple viewpoints in the play mean we are constantly having to re-evaluate the situation and make our own judgements about the characters.
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- **Like Alec, Michele** sticks to his word and is a more admirable protagonist than anyone in 'Juno and the Paycock'. We see the suffering and cruelty of the world they live in through their experiences. We see that both, unlike those in 'Juno and the Paycock', are principled despite not claiming loudly or boastfully to be.
 - During the race, Michele stays back to help Maria, and when he sees that Barbara is to be humiliated he takes her place.
 - A single viewpoint makes the message or messages in a text far more clear-cut than multiple viewpoints.
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