

5 Worksheet on Analysing Rhetorical Devices

Text: Mahatma Gandhi, "The Quit India Speech, 1942", from: Mita Banerjee and Susanne Stadler, *India*, Viewfinder Topics (München: Langenscheidt, 2010), pp. 40-41.

A HOW TO DEAL WITH TASKS ON RHETORICAL DEVICES

In general, the following three steps in analyzing a rhetorical device can be recommended:

1 Identification of device and location in the context plus line number in brackets:

What is the name of this device and where does it occur?

2 Quotation and technical analysis:

What are the characteristics of the device that are evident in this particular example?

3 Function of the device within the context:

What effect does this particular stylistic device have on the reader? In what way does it enhance this particular passage and heighten its impact?

Example: At the beginning of the excerpt, Gandhi uses a metaphor to illustrate the destructiveness of the violence in the India of 1942: "the earth is being scorched by the flames of *himsa*" (l. 4). In this image the consequences of violent actions ("*himsa*") are described as extremely strong flames that are so powerful that they even devastate the surface of the earth - and one may imagine what happens to the people who are in that place when these flames are let loose: they die a very painful death, and as a result, whole areas of the country are in ruins.

B) TASKS

1. Analyze the stylistic device in line 5.
2. “May be that the reins will be placed in the hands of the Parsis” (ll. 19-20) - analyze this stylistic device.¹
3. Analyze the stylistic device in ll. 84-85.

(Peter Ringeisen)

¹ There is a misprint in l. 19; the sentence should read: “... and it will be for them to decide to whom it should be entrusted”, cf. Joseph Black et al, eds., *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: The Late Twentieth Century and Beyond*, Volume 6B (London: Broadview Press, 2008), p. 784.