

## 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. Analyse 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.<sup>1</sup>
3. Analyse the stylistic device in ll. 84-85.

(Peter Ringeisen)

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<sup>1</sup> 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.