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English 9

Figurative Language Essay

    America has always been built on overcoming adversity. No matter what the problem is, America has always been able to overcome it. In the "Gettysburg Address", the "Pearl Harbor Address", and "A Quilt Of A Country" figurative language brings out the theme of overcoming adversity.

In the "Gettysburg Address", figurative language brings out the theme of overcoming adversity. Abraham Lincoln presented this speech in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on November 19, 1863. Lincoln used an anaphora often to get his point through. An example of this was when he said "But in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground"(Lincoln). Figurative language often keeps the reader or in this case a crowd of people in Gettysburg interested. He also uses personification often to make his speech easier for people to relate to. Lincoln talks about how the world won't remember what we say which makes it sound like the world can think. Figurative language helps bring out the theme overcoming adversity because it makes this article more exciting.

In the “Pearl Harbor” address figurative language brings out the theme of adversity. Franklin Delano Roosevelt presented this speech shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 8, 1941 in Washington, D.C. Roosevelt uses the anaphora quite frequently in his speech to get his point through. An example is when he said, "Last night, Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong. Last night, Japanese forces attacked Guam"(Roosevelt). He continued on like this to emphasize how Cruel Japan was. He also used personification and once said, "The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves"(Roosevelt).The idea that facts can speak is an example of personification which keeps the listener interested. All of these literary devices allow the article to show the theme of adversity.

In “A Quilt Of A Country”, figurative language brings out the theme of adversity. This article was written by Anna Quindlen on September 26, 2001 after 9/11. To make her article easier to relate to, Anna often uses a simile. An example of this is when she wrote,"That's because it was built of bits and pieces that seem discordant, like the crazy quilts that have been one of its great folk-art forms, velvet and calico and checks and brocades"(Quindlen). During this she was using figurative language to bring out the theme of adversity by comparing our country to quilts. Anna also uses alliteration to make her article sound more pleasing. She once used this and said, "These two are our defining ideals; they are also in constant conflict"(Quindlen). When she uses this it helps present the theme of adversity by making it more pleasing or catchy. When she uses this she knows that people might remember what she says if it is catchy. When this uses any literary devices in this article, it helps bring out the theme of adversity.

The "Gettysburg Address", the "Pearl Harbor Address", and "A Quilt Of A Country" all use figurative language to bring out the theme of adversity. Every one of these articles all use many different kinds of figurative language to bring out the theme of adversity. Not just these articles but other articles also use figurative language, just for different themes. Just one example of figurative language bringing out the theme of adversity in these three articles.

Works Cited

Lincoln, Abraham. "The Gettysburg Address." 19 Nov. 1863. Address.

Roosevelt, Franklin Delano.  “Pearl Harbor Address to the Nation.” 8 December 1941. Address.

Quindlen, Anna. "A Quilt of a Country." Readings For Analytical Writing (2008): 436-38. Print.