Q1) Elective 3 - Image

Images are a ubiquitous form of media that exist in books, cartoons, movies and a myriad of other forms of multimedia. Various composers utilise images to portray their ideas of the world and to hope to change the responder's attitudes towards nuclear war.

In the text "When the Wind Blows" Raymond Briggs utilises various images incorporating numerous visual techniques such as symbolism, stylisation, colour and contrast to warn the responder about the chilling reality of nuclear war.

Alternate texts such as "Nuclear Families" by Alan Pryke and the cartoon "Redeeming the Image" by Ravi Shankar portray the deleterious effects of nuclear war on civilians.

"Images speak a thousand words", and it is this reason that they are employed in various texts.
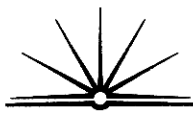
In the text "When the Wind Blows" Briggs uses stylisation and contrast to warn the responder of the horrific effects of war on ordinary citizens.

The simple and generic lifestyle of the two protagonists – James and Hilda is rendered through stylisation. Their faces are round and lacking in detail and character. The employment of dots for eyes and lines for mouths exemplify their ordinary existence. This simplistic stylisation portrays the protagonists as representative of every man and woman in the world. This confronts the responder as they are able to empathise and realise that nuclear war can affect anyone.

The employment of dramatic contrast emphasises the horrific implications of nuclear proliferation.

At the beginning of the text, the sky is blue; landscape picturesque, and billowing clouds in the background. The use of vibrant colours and shades depicts that all is well. This dramatically
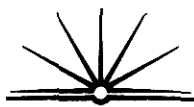
changes to dark sombre clouds making the sun and fading colours and shades. The dramatic contrast compounded by the simplistic stylisation of the protagonist portray to the responder that nuclear war will have devastating effects on ordinary citizens like ourselves.

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Raymond Briggs elucidates why we continue to make mistakes because of our inability to learn from the past. The protagonists suffer from nostalgia, a longing for the past. Their memories of the previous war are ~~seen~~ seen in warm and vibrant hues. They reminisce about their war heroes. Joe Stalin is remember "like an uncle" and Churchill with his trademark cigar and two finger peace symbol. Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin - the "nice chap" ~~are caricatured and rendered harmless. There well never~~ → were guilty of war crimes against humanity. These well renowned leaders are caricatured and
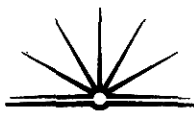
rendered harmless. The dramatic contrast between the insignificant protagonists, and the detailed deformed caricatures highlights the degree of seperation between these two groups of people. Briggs manipulates the responder through the use of contrast into agreeing that the authority are misusing their powers at the expense of these suffering civilians.

To complement these visual devices Briggs has also employed language techniques such as malapropisms to convey the lack of fundamental awareness of the Bloggs. James' use of malapropisms such as "commuters" instead of "computers" further reinforces this sense that he is out of touch from this world. He has retired not only from work, but from this world. Briggs warns the responder that the Bloggs' lack of political acumen or even basic knowledge has allowed the "Powers that be" to bring the world towards Armageddon. We realise that apathy and a complacent attitude could

result in the destruction due to nuclear proliferation.

In the alternate text "Nuclear Families" Alan Pryke depicts the suffering of innocent victims as a result of nuclear proliferation. His purpose is to shock the responder into seeing the reality of nuclear war and its effects on commoners.

The main feature of this image is a lone figure, grotesquely deformed and huddled in a lounge chair. The grotesque visage of the subject depicts the almost inconceivable extent of damage caused by radiation from nuclear testing. ~~The photograph is a midshot. The enclosed stance of the subject and the expanse of space on the right~~

Similar to Raymond Briggs, Pryke depicts the horrific effects of nuclear proliferation on suffering civilians.

The photograph is a mid shot. The enclosed stance of the subject and the expanse of

space on the right depict the alienation of the subject. Pryke, similar to "When the Wind Blows" depicts the misuse of power by authorities who allow civilians to be sacrificed for political machination.

Both these texts use visuals powerfully to persuade us to "take action" against the malicious use of power by authorities. By depict Pryke, by shocking the responder with a real photograph of a grotesque individual, evokes sympathy in the responder at the plight of this despondent individual. He also warns us that nuclear war can have devastating effects on innocuous citizens like ourselves.

"Redeeming the Image" by Ravi shankar similarly depicts the horrific effects of war on ordinary citizens.

The setting is "Indo-Pak Border" which is indicated by a gravestone and barbed wire. The gravestone a symbol of death, and the

barbed wire which renders an barrier on
~~post~~ border depict the war zone as a
cemetery devoid of life. Shankar warns us that
~~nation~~ no one is immune to the implications
of war. War is global and it can affect not
only a country but also the civilians.

Shankar warns us not to develop
a false sense of security induced by those in
authority. In the foreground, a podgy, stout
journalist states "America has declared Pakistan
unsafe but India is quite a safe destination
again". This caricatured journalist mocks the
superficial nature of the border - a barbed
wire, easily surpassable. Shankar warns us through
this cartoon that war has no limitations
and boundaries can be easily broken.

Various composers utilise images
complemented by language techniques to ~~show~~
induce an anti-war attitude. Images convey
and foster powerful emotions such as

empathy, sympathy and apathy. ~~There~~ Images are an easy way to convey ideas and warn the responder of the terrifying implications of war, which is why they are utilised in a wide variety of texts.