

# The Simple Gift

## Steven Herrick

Quote	Technique	Effect
No quote but the majority of the story	First person narration	Creates a very personal tone and provides an in-depth insight into the experiences of the protagonist
"I love this place. I love the flow of cold clear water over the rocks and the wattles on the bank and the lizards sunbaking"	Repetition, emotive language, imagery	Evokes a sense of the deep love the protagonist feels for their setting and how this could be interpreted as their 'happy place'
"A speedboat on a train heading west? To what? A coalfield lake? The inland river system dry as a dead dingo's bones?"	Rhetorical question, short syntax, alliteration and simile	The use of rhetorical questioning and short syntax, creates a sense of anticipation and mystery
"No free rides with this government, son. Just kidding. I hate the bloody government"	Short syntax, tongue-in-cheek tone	Reveals the sarcastic, humorous tone of the character and their sense of disdain for the government
"There are men like Ernie and there are other men, men like my dad"	Comparison	This highlights how the protagonist's dad is seen as inferior and the protagonist has little respect for his father
"[Dad] gave me one hard backhand across the face, so hard I fell down as much in shock as anything, and I felt the blood from my nose, I could taste it dribbling out as Dad stood over me and said no more sport no more forever"	Repetition, sensory language	The sensory language provides a sense for how the protagonist feels and the pain he is put in by his father
"Too much salad in the sandwich but I ate it all the same. I had a coffee heaped with sugar sweet and hot and I felt warm"	Sensory language	Reveals how hungry the protagonist is and how satisfied he is for the cup of coffee
"Dawn is fog-closed and cold"	Setting	Reveals the eerie, uninviting setting
"Miles from home, miles from school"	Repetition	Highlights just how far the protagonist has run away from home and how they are isolated and alone
"Bendarat is the perfect town. A friendly librarian, a warm McDonald's, luxury train accommodation and the town is	Absolute language	Reveals the sense of pleasure and amazement the protagonist has for their new resting spot

surrounded by apple and pear orchards”		
“I could hear Old Bill snoring, coughing, swearing in his sleep. He made more noise than the wind”	Metaphor	The use of metaphor highlights how noisy Old Bill is and how he can be a difficult travelling companion to have
“I opened the door to his [Old Bill’s] carriage, to the smell of old socks and alcohol mixed with the Weetbix, the Weetbix I offered to Old Bill”	Sensory language	The sensory language paints a vivid picture of the place Old Bill lives and how it is very dirty and decrepit
Old Bill speaking, “P*ss off, son. P*ss off. Leave me alone”	Derogatory language, repetition, harsh tone	The derogatory language and harsh tone which is repeated, is indicative of how Old Bill is often grumpy and quite firm on the young boy
“The river is cold, clear and deep. Outside the town there’s a weird where the water falls swiftly over rocks and forms whirlpools”	Setting	Evokes a sense of setting
Old Bill narrating, “I feel sorry for swearing at the kid, abusing him for bringing me breakfast. Breakfast! Of all things”	Exclamatory, emotive language	Through the exclamatory and emotive language we gauge how Old Bill feels a sense of regret for the cruelty he showed towards the boy
“And I choose the thick silver ring with the green emerald stone small and shining green like her eyes”	Simile	Represents the protagonist’s adoration for the girl from McDonald’s who has caught his eye
Old Bill speaking about his daughter, “my Jessie, my sweet lovely Jessie, fell and I fell with her and I’ve been falling ever since”	Repetition, symbolism	This is symbolic of how when Jessie died, a piece of Old Bill also died
“The house remains and I sometimes think I should sell it, or rent it, but the thought of a family within those walls, people I don’t know within those walls...”	Ellipsis	The ellipsis reveals how Old Bill still feels a deep sense of fondness and attachment to his old house
“I almost laughed when they arrived. The two neatest hobos I’d ever seen with their hair combed, slicked back and their faces rubbed shiny clean”	Oxymoron	The oxymoron is developed in “two neatest hobos” as homeless people are typically unkempt due to their circumstances. The oxymoron also therefore highlights just how much effort Old Bill and the protagonist had gone to, to impress their special dinner guest