

W;t Margaret Edson

Quotes	Technique	Effect
"I am a professor of seventeenth-century poetry, specialising in the Holy Sonnets of John Donne" - p. 5	Absolute language	This introduction of Vivian's work highlights how she is a stern, tough, 'to-the-point' character.
"Irony is a literary device that will be necessarily be deployed to great effect" - p. 6	Academic tone	The use of the academic tone provides insight into the highly intellectual and rigid lens in which Vivian views the world.
"I know all about life and death. I am, after all, a scholar of Donne's Holy Sonnets, which explore mortality in greater depth than any other body of work in the English language" - p. 12	Irony	This line of Vivian's detailed knowledge about life and death is ultimately ironic as we soon realise that she understands death in the abstract but cannot truly comprehend the 'lived experience' of death
"And I know for a fact that I am tough. A demanding professor. Uncompromising. Never one to turn from a challenge" - p. 12	Blunt tone, Short syntax	The coupling of blunt tone and short syntax reaffirms her harsh, cold persona
"I have made an immeasurable contribution to the discipline of English literature. I am, in short, a force" - p. 17	Confident tone, hyperbole	The confident tone and hyperbole connected to the word "immeasurable" is another sign of her self importance and highly academic mannerisms.
" <i>The Tale of Flopsy Bunnies</i> by Beatrix Potter" - p. 42	Motif	This childhood book is a motif throughout the play as it is symbolic of a lesson Vivian learns in the end.
Vivian speaking to a student: "You can come to this class prepared, or you can excuse yourself from this class, this department, and this university. Do not think for a moment that I will tolerate anything in between" - p. 59 & 60	Harsh tone	The harsh tone conveys Vivian's devoid ability to emotionally support and connect with her students and emotion and reveals her strict persona as an academic lecturer.
Vivian's interaction with a student after she asks for an extension following the student's grandmother's death: "Do what you will, but the paper is due when it is due" - p. 63	Harsh tone, absolute language	This suggestion from Vivian again reiterates her lack of empathy for others.
Susie comforting Vivian, "I know. It	Comforting tone, repetition	These techniques are used to not only

hurts. I know. It's all right. Do you want a tissue? It's all right. (<i>Silence</i>). Vivian, would you like a Popsicle?" - p. 65	and imagery of maternal care, contrast	juxtapose Susie from the other doctors but also from Vivian. In turn Susie's kindness also emphasises the importance of kindness in the face of mortality.
"Vivian unwraps it and breaks it in half" (referring to the popsicle - p. 66	Symbolism	This is symbolic of the 'beginning of Vivian's redemption' and how she is beginning to appreciate that human kindness and empathy is quintessential during a hard time
Vivian referring to if her heart stops, "Just let it stop... Yes" - p. 68 & 69	Short syntax, blunt tone	Demonstrates how Vivian has ultimately come to understand and make sense of her mortality.
Vivian to Susie, "You're still going to take care of me, aren't you?" Susie to Vivian, "Course sweetheart. Don't you worry" - p. 69	Questioning, affirming tone and imagery of maternal care	The use of Vivian's soft questioning coupled with Susie's maternal presence reiterates how Susie is the embodiment of the care and kindness Vivian needs during her cancer treatment.
"We are discussing life and death and not in the abstract either; we are discussing <i>my</i> life and <i>my</i> death and my brain is dulling" - p. 69	Repetition, possessive pronoun, reflective tone	The use of repetition, possessive pronoun and reflective tone illuminates how Vivian once again has come to accept and make peace with the fact that death cannot be studied in a purely academic light, but rather that it must be addressed in the literal, 'lived' sense.
"Now is a time for simplicity. Now is a time for, dare I say it, kindness" - p. 69	Repetition, reflective tone	This line by Vivian conveys her change in demeanour as she undergoes a pivotal character development.
"I thought being extremely smart would take care of it. But I see that I have been found out" - p. 70	Blunt tone	The blunt tone elucidates how Vivian has come to accept her fate; death.
E.M Ashford speaking to Vivian, "Let's see. <i>The Runaway Bunny</i> . By Margaret Wise Brown." - p. 79	Motif	The use of the motif of the book highlights how Vivian finds solace in the childhood innocence and endearing message in Brown's book.
E.M Ashford stage directions, " <i>E. M slowly gets down and gathers her things. She leans over and kisses her.</i> " - p. 80	Stage directions, imagery of kindness in the face of mortality	Through the stage directions highlighting E.M Ashford's sense of care, we are able to see how Vivian appreciates kindness over academic and scholarly recognition in the face of death
Stage directions at the end of the play, " <i>She walks away from the scene, toward a little light... The instant she is</i>	Symbolism	This is symbolic of her resurrection and redemption and how she has ultimately changed as a result of her cancer treatment

naked, and beautiful, reaching for the light" - p. 85

and the newfound lessons she has learnt