

# The Cay

## Theodore Taylor

Quote	Technique	Effect
<p>“Like silent, hungry sharks that swim in the darkness of the sea, the German submarines arrived in the middle of the night” - p.1</p>	<p>Simile</p>	<p>Reveals the conniving way that the German submarines emerged, seemingly out of the blue</p>
<p>Description of Henrik, “His face was round and he was chubby. His hair was straw-coloured and his cheeks were always red. Henrik was very serious about everything he said or did” - p. 5</p>	<p>Imagery and descriptive language</p>	<p>The use of imagery and descriptive language conveys how Henrik was a young boy, who was very serious and opinionated</p>
<p>“Henrik’s mother wasn’t that way. She laughed a lot and say, ‘Boys, boys, boys” - p. 7</p>	<p>Repetition, humorous tone</p>	<p>This reveals the humorous nature of Henrik’s mother and the laid back nature she had</p>
<p>“My mother often talked about the house and the trees; about the change of seasons and the friends she had there. She said it was nice and safe in Virginia” - p. 10</p>	<p>Imagery and positive connotations</p>	<p>This line and its technique insinuate that Timothy’s mother longed for home and the place they had previously lived due to the favourable way she had depicted it</p>
<p>“I thought about leaving the island, and it saddened me. I loved the old for, and the schooners, the Ruyterkade market with the noisy chickens and squealing pigs, the black people shouting; I loved the koenoekoe with its giant cactus, the divi-divi trees, their odd branches all on the leeward side of the trunk; the beautiful sandy beach at West-punt. And I’d miss Henrik van Boven” - p. 14</p>	<p>Repetition, emotive language, imagery</p>	<p>This encapsulates Phillip’s love and admiration he has for the island and how he will be sad to leave it</p>
<p>“I was no longer excited about the war; I had begun to understand that it meant death and destruction” - p. 18</p>	<p>Alliteration</p>	<p>The emphasis on death and destruction highlights how frightening and damaging the war had become</p>
<p>“We could hear the ship’s whistle blowing constantly, and there were sounds of metal wrenching and much shouting. The whole ship was shuddering. It felt as though we’d stopped and were dead in the water” -</p>	<p>Simile, sensory imagery, personification</p>	<p>Reveals the sense of danger they were in and he fear that filled their bodies</p>

p. 23		
“The captain came down from the bridge. He was a small, wiry white-haired man and was acting the way I’d been told captains should act. He stood by the lifeboat in the fire’s glow, very alert, giving orders to the crew” - p. 24	Characterisation	Characterises the captain as a capable man and allows for a richer picture of him to be in our head
“The Captain shouted, ‘Get a move on! Passengers into the boats!’” - p. 25	Exclamatory	The use of exclamatory heightens the sense of urgency that the passengers must excavate the boat
“I saw a huge, very old Negro sitting on the raft near me. He was ugly. His nose was flat and his face was broad; his head was a mass of wiry grey hair” - p. 26	Characterisation, negative connotation	The use of characterisation and negative connotation reiterates Philip’s judgment and racism towards those he is different to
“He crawled over towards me. His face couldn’t have been blacker, or his teeth whiter” - p. 26	Absolute language	The use of absolute language highlights how striking Timothy’s appearance is
“His voice was rich calypso, soft and musical, the words rubbing off like velvet” - p. 27	Simile, descriptive language	The use of simile and descriptive language accentuates the sense of warmth that Timothy radiates
“My lips were parched and my throat was dry. I wanted a whole cup” - p. 31	Absolute language, sensory language	These techniques reveal Philip’s desperation
Phillip’s mother speaking, “They are not the same as you, Phillip. They are different and they live differently. That’s the way it must be” - p. 33	Absolute language and comparison	His mother’s dialogues conveys the Dutch’s predisposed beliefs and racism
“Total darkness blotted out the sea, and it became cold and damp” - p. 35	Sensory language and setting	The audience is able to get a feel for how cold and isolating it is as they go overboard
“He was very old. Old enough to die there” - p. 65	Repetition	Repetition highlights that Timothy is an extremely old man who appears to be frail and incapable in nature
“During our seventh night on the island, it rained. It was one of those tropical storms that came up swiftly without warning. We were asleep on the palm mats that I’d made, but it awakened us immediately. The rain sounded like bullets hitting on the dried palm frond roof. We ran out into it letting it hit our	Sensory imagery and absolute language	Reveals the sense of relief the duo has as the island finally gives them some respite

bodies. It was cool and felt good” - p. 72		
“He answered slowly, ‘I don’ like some white people my own self, but ‘twould be outrageous if I didn’ like any o’ dem” p. 74	Reflective tone	Reflective tone is communicating how Timothy encourages Phillip to be reflective and corrects his racist assumptions
“Timothy said that the water all around the cay was clear and that he could see many beautiful fish. There was brain coral and organ-pipe coral that the parrot fish would nibble” - p. 80	Imagery	We are able to picture the lush, tropical and fertile land the two protagonists are stuck on
“But it did not change. It got worse” - p. 88	Short syntax	Short syntax conveys the sense of doom and misery Phillip feels on the island
“At sunset with the air heavy and hot, Timothy described the sky to me. He said it was flaming red and that there were thin veils of high clouds. It was so still over our cay that we could hear nothing but the rustling of the lizards” - p. 108	Sensory imagery	Conveys how tropical, yet overwhelming the island can feel at times
“Even the sound of the wind was being beaten down by the wildness of the sea. The rain was hitting my back like thousands of hard berries blown from air guns” p. 110	Sensory imagery and simile	Outlines how intense the storm is
Timothy said, “Phill-eep... you... alright... be true?” p. 114	Questioning, ellipsis	Timothy is questioning if Philip is alive and reveals his deep sense of duty and protection for him
“Old Timothy, of Charlotte Amalie, was dead” - p. 115	Short syntax and absolute language	Short syntax and absolute language clearly outlines the tragic outcome of Timothy’s life with clear certainty
“But now, for the first time, I fully understood why Timothy had so carefully trained me to move around the island, and the reef...” p. 118	Ellipsis and reflective tone	Reflects how it has just dawned on Phillip that Timothy had not actually been cruel, but actually prepared him well out of love and care for him
“My mother and father flew over from Willemstad in a special plan. It was a minute before they could say anything. They just held me, and I knew my mother was crying. She kept saying, ‘Phillip, I’m sorry, I’m so sorry”” - p. 140	Emotive language	Highlights the sense of relief Philip’s parents have for his safe return