

Don't call me Ishmael

Michael Gerard Bauer

Quote	Technique	Effect
"I'm telling you, Ishmael Leseur's Syndrome is capable of turning an otherwise normal person into a walking disaster registering nine point nine on the open-ended imbecile scale" - p.3	Absolute language, hyperbole	The use of hyperbole (exaggeration) and absolute language, communicates how Ishmael perceives himself to be an extremely 'daggy' and somewhat pathetic character who cannot interact in a 'normal way'.
"It was the first day of year nine. A brand new year. A brand new classroom. A brand new Homeroom teacher. A brand new start" - p. 22	Repetition, symbolism	The use of repetition of the phrase 'brand new', which symbolises a change highlights the hope and optimism Ishmael has for the new year ahead.
Description of Miss Tarango, "She was young. She was beautiful. She actually seemed happy to be there. I think mum would have described her as 'bubbly'. I liked her straight away. She had short curly blond hair, eyes that actually did sparkle and dimples in her cheeks that appears like magic whenever she smiled, which was often" - p. 22	Characterisation and absolute language	The use of absolute language and characterisation highlights how warm Miss Tarango is, as well as how much Ishmael admires her.
"Barry Bagsley, as always, got his way" - p. 34	Absolute language	Demonstrates the strong and powerful figure that Barry Bagsley is.
"We all knew she was bluffing, of course. She was a teacher. She was responsible. She was a girl for crying out loud. She wouldn't do anything dangerous... would she?"	Questioning, ellipsis, Repetition	Bauer's repetition, coupled with questioning and ellipsis reiterates how Ishmael is assessing the power of Miss Tarango and where he stands with her.
"Talking to Barry Bagsley was like trying to reason with an avalanche. You could say whatever you liked but you'd still end up being pummeled into oblivion" - p. 44	Metaphor	The metaphor of talking to Barry Baglsey being like reasoning with an avalanche highlights how unshakable and tough he is as a person.
"Give back his hat?' Barry said in mock horror. 'But we were having so much fun, weren't we boys?' Danny and Doug smiled like gangsters" - p. 48	Sarcasm, simile	The use of sarcasm highlights Barry's taunting nature, whilst the simile of 'smiled like gangsters' reveals the cruel and taunting nature of Barry and his crew.
"You'd think I would have been pretty pleased with myself, but walking home that day all I could think of was Barry Bagsley grinning face and all I could feel were my knuckles aching on my clenched fists. It seemed like razor-sharp steel	Sensory imagery and descriptive imagery	The use of sensory and descriptive language provides a powerful insight into the emotions and experiences that Ishmael was going through.

blades were straining to break through” - p. 52		
“To begin with, James Scobie was small and a little too neat. His hair was parted perfectly on one side and swept back from his forehead like a wave poised to break” - p. 55	Imagery and simile	The use of imagery cleverly depicts the well-groomed, sharp nature of James Scobie. The simile of ‘like a wave’ further demonstrates how he is neat and clean-cut in his appearance.
“Oh well, I thought, if you’re stuck on the Titanic, you might as well have the seat with the best view of the iceberg” - p. 63	Humour	The use of humour reveals the light-hearted, charismatic nature that Ishmael has.
Mr Barker speaking to the boys, “I will return, I will check your work, I will be seeing you at lunchtime if I’m not satisfied with both quantity and quality. Are we clear?” - p. 65	Repetition and rhetorical question	Through Mr Barker implementing great repetition and a firm rhetorical question, this underlines his firm and strict demeanour.
Barry Bagsley in response to James, “What’s your problem, Ferret Face? Something crawl up ya nose?” - p. 67	Slang, alliteration, rhetorical question	Reflect Barry’s unrefined and often cruel demeanour.
About James, “He was always the first on in, fussing about at his desk, organising, arranging, rearranging, rotating and straightening every book, pencil and pen, piece of equipment” - p. 81	Tautology	The use of tautology (repetition of words that mean the same thing) emphasises James’ precise and organised manner.
Mr Barker’s commentary, “Sweet mother of God, it’s the plague of locusts!” - p. 87	Exclamatory, biblical allusion	The use of exclamatory and biblical allusion highlights how overwhelming and monstrous the bug infestation had become within the classroom.
James Scobie at the school assembly, “Research shows that most people are more afraid of speaking in public than they are of dying. Debating is not for wimps. It’s for boys with courage” - p. 98	Strong, absolute language	The employment of strong, absolute language conveys James’ passionate and confident tone when he addresses the school.
Ishmael explaining his incompetence at debating to Scobie, “You can’t... I can’t... I’m... hopeless... I’m... I’m no good... no... no way... I can’t do it” - p. 112	Ellipsis, repetition	Bauer’s repetition and ellipsis convey how nervous and unconfident Ishmael is when it comes to the thought of public speaking.
“Ignatius Prindabel always reminded me of an old man, I guess because he was thin and kind of stoopy and his hair started too far back on his forehead. Sometimes I had the crazy thought that he was really a pensioner working under-cover for the government, you know, like an ASIO spy” - p. 120	Imagery	The use of imagery reveals Ignatius to be a wise and ‘old soul’ in the body of a high school aged boy.
Ishmael speaking about Ignatius, “There was no	Absolute	The techniques employed by Bauer reiterate

doubt he was one of the smartest boys in Year Nine. He was a living, breathing search engine for facts, figures, and dates: he saved them up and treasured them like gold coins” - p. 120	language, metaphor, simile	how Ignatius was not only old in appearance, but also in his knowledge.
“When Scobie spoke, it was like someone turning on a light in a darkened room. Everything that up until then had been vague and confusing suddenly snapped into focus” - p. 142	Simile	The simile of ‘like someone turning on a light in a darkened room’ confirms the influence and position of power James holds.
“Even though we had improved from last time, the difference again was Scobie. It was like having Ian Thorpe swimming the final leg for you under the seven floaties relay.” - p. 143	Metaphor	The metaphor of Ian Thorpe, reveals the advantage and benefit having James in a team was.
When Ishmael needs to help out the debating team, “Great. No pressure. This would be easy” - p. 150	Short syntax, sarcasm	The use of short syntax highlights the discomfort Ishmael has at the thought of debating, whilst the sarcasm highlights his unenthusiasm.
Ishmael before he has to begin his debate, “I was dead. I was deader than dead. There were five-thousand-year-old-mummies that weren’t as dead as me. I was dead to the power dead” - p. 163 & 164	Repetition and hyperbole	The reference to repetition and hyperbole gives the audience an insight into how overwhelmed with dread Ishmael is, at the thought of debating.
“I began to shuffle through the remaining cards with skyrocketing desperation. The next card was blank. The next one... blank. Then... blank... blank, blank, blank” - p. 165	Repetition, ellipsis	The use of repetition and ellipsis highlights the drama within the scene and increases the panic within the scene.
Ishmael after he is embarrassed about his disastrous debate, “That’s it. My life is over. Just take me out and shoot me” - p. 176	Hyperbole, short syntax	Through implementing hyperbole and short syntax, this communicates Ishmael’s truest, embarrassed feelings.
“If you went to Preston College and didn’t become at least prime minister you were considered a disappointment. At Preston College they started debating in the womb.” - p. 184	Hyperbole	Through employing hyperbole, this reiterates the skills of the Preston College debating squad.
“A cement mixer had started up and was sloshing and churning away in my stomach.” - p. 195	Sensory imagery	Through sensory imagery, the audience is able to understand the physical reaction Ishmael was experiencing, whilst also illuminating his disdain for debating.
“Barry Bagsley sauntered off happy as a psychopath with a brand new chainsaw” - p. 208	Simile	The use of simile reveals Barry’s cruel and somewhat twisted personality.
“I lay awake for hours after that, staring at the ceiling. I couldn’t get Barry Bagsley out of my mind. I thought about my life since I had met him.	Repetition, negative connotations,	The implementation of various literary techniques communicates Ishmael’s disgust and desire for revenge against Barry Bagsley.

I relived over and over every insult, every push and shove, every taunt, every sneer, every arrogant laugh, every spiteful trick” - p. 249

reflective tones