

Darienne Selikman : Spine Align

Short Stories

Annotated Bibliography

Queen Kat, Carmel and St Jude Get a Life, Maureen McCarthy. (1995, Australia)

This novel has had a large impact on ideas towards my Major Work as it inspired me to write in the third person narrative and from the differing perspectives of each character. I found when reading this book that I became completely consumed in the life of the character telling the story, only to find that when reading the other character's perspectives, I had totally misinterpreted the 'bigger picture'. Both the confusion and suspense portrayed, and my reactions towards the story, inspired me to create a story based on a similar layout and storytelling technique.

Dead White Males, David Williamson. (1995, Australia)

Through studying this book in the English Extension 1 course, I have been exposed to the various postmodern belief systems and ideologies presented through the character of Grant Swain, a lecturer who opposes humanist theories and ideologies based on post-structuralism, radical feminism and multiculturalism. This book has allowed me to achieve an understanding and insight into the various postmodern 'truths' which are innovatively portrayed through social satire and parody, thus influencing my ideas of generating postmodern notions.

Plotting and Writing Suspense Fiction, Patricia Highsmith. (1989, Great Britain)

This book provided me with ideas and suggestions for different ways of creating suspense within a story, such as excluding specific details and adding subtle hints that do not reveal obvious information, but rather trigger the responder's imagination. This book also gave me the idea of using past experiences to develop characters within a story in order to make the stories more realistic and personal.

Write Your Own Chillers, Pie Corbett. (2001, Great Britain)

This book gives direction on where to take the stories through the use of visual mind maps, which assisted me in my thought processes, and the development of a direction for my storyline and characters.

Eleven, Patricia Highsmith. (1970, Great Britain)

These short stories 'probe the dark corners of the human psyche' which is why I particularly enjoyed the majority of my reading. I found the descriptions portrayed within these stories inspiring, particularly of the characters. Through reading the various short stories, I discovered the importance of character description and representation such as: the way they talk, walk, a detailed description of their features, clothes, and what they do in their free time. This will assist me in my future character development within my Major Work.

'HQ Magazine' March/April 2003 issue. (Australia)

(Article: 'Pull of the Union' by James Hawthorne)

Overall, I did not enjoy this story. Although the descriptive techniques were admirable, I found the story did not take a particular direction and tended to 'spin around in circles.' I did however; enjoy the particular language features such as incongruous juxtaposition that were presented within the text. 'She pushes his arm off her hip. His fingers stink from cigarettes. She loves him'. I found the use of short, dramatic sentences within this text to be powerful and expressive and have therefore been influenced by the language devices of this text.

Writing Fiction, Garry Disher. (2001, Australia)

I found a particular section of this book to be extremely helpful as it was based around the importance of symbols and motifs within a story. As I have chosen to use the 'spine' as a motif throughout my Major Work, I feel that I have now gained a greater understanding and confidence towards the use of techniques to portray symbols and hidden meanings.

'GQ Magazine' April, 1998. USA. (Article: Hawks and Sparrows)

I found this fiction article particularly beneficial as it uses the 'hawk' as a motif throughout the story. As I am using similar techniques of portrayal, I feel that reading this article allowed me to gain a greater insight and understanding towards the use of motifs to represent and express in short stories.

If on a Winter's Night a Traveller, Italo Calvino. (Harcourt, 1982)

Postmodern critical theory, concepts and techniques were developed and established through the study of this English Extension 1 text. For example, within the Major Work, the postmodern concept of time

and space was blended through means of dreams, as well as omniscient methods of narration, which reflect elements of this novel.

Sites of Cultural Studies, Marjorie Garber. (England, 1996)

This book allowed a deeper understanding of cultural diversity and issues of 'isolation' associated with one's cultural identity. It particularly assisted in the portrayal of 'social alienation' within my first story.

The French Lieutenant's Woman, John Fowles. (London, 1985)

This novel further developed my understanding of the postmodern ideology as well as techniques such as fragmentation, ambiguity and irony, all of which were included throughout the Major Work.

Everything I Know About Writing, John Marsden. (1993, Melbourne, Australia)

I found this book lively, satirical and thus easy to read. It is filled with writing ideas, techniques and insights. The section on short stories outlined the vital components of storytelling, which particularly assisted in the development of a symbolic motif throughout the work, ie the spine.

Writing for Psychology Third Edition, Robert P. O'Shea. (2000, NSW, Australia)

This informative novel provided some useful explanations on the psychological aspects of reading and a detailed explanation of the human mind. This information was relevant to the development of the character in my first story who is psychologically affected by a spinal disorder.

The Edward Said Archive

<<http://www.edwardsaid.org>>

This page provides links to various articles on Edward Said, a theorist in notions of isolation and alienation. I found this page insightful and relevant to all three stories due to the 'isolation' motif within my Major Work.

Writing Fiction - An Introduction to the Craft, Garry Disher. (2001, Australia)

This book explains the basic steps of writing the most significant elements of fiction, such as plot, character development, and narrative voice. Strategies are provided for the effective use of dialogue and tense which particularly assisted in the development of the second story, due to the blurring of time and space.

Jazz, Toni Morrison. (1992, London)

This novel influenced an authentic writing tone, particularly perpetuated through the second story. Also, the notion of both physical and social isolation could be intently scrutinised through Morrison's personal recounts of the pain, segregation and carnage associated with racial war.

The English Studies Book: An Introduction to Language, Literature and Culture, Rob Pope. (1998, London)

An extremely helpful and insightful book which references all aspects of literature, culture and language devices. This book provided succinct definitions of language techniques such as metaphoric layering and allegory, which were extremely helpful and thus included in the Major Work.

Murder in the Dark, Margaret Atwood. (1997, Great Britain)

This novel assisted my ideas towards the development of a post-modern tone and sarcastic deliverance. It was a primary reference in the development of my third story.

Young Writers Showcase

These works assisted in ideas regarding the development of textual formatting, the juxtaposition of imagery with text, and conceptual integrity. I particularly referenced:

'Unspoken' by Genevieve Quek from the 2005 collection of works, which inspired (in the first story) the idea of an enigmatic character and a young child's earnest desire to grasp a comprehension of the 'unknown'.

Good Bones, Margaret Atwood. (1993, Great Britain)

This novel inspired the utilisation of satire and irony, particularly prevalent in the third story. I found the tone of these Atwood stories entertaining and engaging. This book acted as a primary reference throughout the development of my third short story.

Umberto Eco page

<<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/ueco.htm>>

This website provided concise explanations of Umberto Eco's postmodern theories such as the role of archetypal characters, semiotics and the perception of beauty. This site was beneficial as it was easy to comprehend and related directly to the subject matter of my Major Work.

'How to Speak of Animals' (essay), Umberto Eco. (1994 W. Weaver translation, USA)

This essay inspired elements of my third story which illustrates the nature of the 'male' through the allegoric representation of a 'spine-fish'. Direct quotes were extracted from this essay and placed into the story to reflect intellectual underpinning throughout the Major Work.

History of Beauty, Umberto Eco. (2004 translation, USA)

In this insightful novel, Umberto Eco sets out to demonstrate how every historical era has had its own ideas about eye-appeal, and the ideal aesthetics of beauty. This text related directly to the subject matter of my third story, which explores common concepts of our contemporary culture through ideals of beauty and perfection.

Semiotics and the Philosophy of Language (Advances in Semiotics), Umberto Eco. (1984, W. Weaver translation, USA)

This novel provided a detailed explanation of Eco's theories on semiotics, which expressed that signs and symbols within a text are individual constructs with a multitude of meanings. This concept related to my Major Work, due to the 'spine' motif which illustrated the diverse nature and interpretation of a symbol.

Short Stories: 10 Tips for Novice Creative Writers

<<http://jerz.setonhill.edu/writing/creative/shortstory/>>

This site includes an 'emergency list' of writing skills which emphasises the importance of planning, making lists and keeping a notebook of thoughts and ideas. I found these preparation techniques beneficial, particularly in the initial development stages of each of my stories.

How to Travel with a Salmon, Umberto Eco. (1998, W. Weaver translation, USA)

This novel is filled with satirical explanations on the absurdities of modern life. A particular aspect of this novel that I found useful was the short story 'How to Watch a Porn Movie' which humorously spoke of gender relationships, which related directly to my third short story.

The Name of the Rose, Umberto Eco. (1983 translation, USA)

The Name of the Rose is a murder mystery which I referenced during the initial stages of the development of the Major Work as I was experimenting with a crime fiction composition. This novel clarified

the importance of hints, facts and observations in this genre, and alluding to, as opposed to telling.

Bergson's Theory of Comedy

<<http://byronik.com/comedy.html>>

This website focuses on the philosophical aspects of comedy, which I originally referenced for the development of a crime fiction story which was not included in the Major Work.

Excel Senior High School Society and Culture, Fleming, Land Fleming, Y. (2002, Australia)

The concise, easy to read language in this textbook aided in an easy understanding of the socialisation process and the construction of adolescent identity, which was useful, particularly in the third story.

<<http://www.members.aol.com/dar2olyt/TheFor2e/spine.htm>>

This website provided information and images of the 'Fish Spine Sword' which was used as a means of to portray humour and sarcasm in 'Poisonous Puffer'.

The Art of Writing, Sherwin Cody. (1922, USA)

My favourite part of this book was the section titled 'Dictionary of Errors', which outlined the most common writing faults and misconceptions relating to literature. I found this book entertaining and enjoyable to read. It was helpful in expanding my knowledge on the processes of writing and narrative techniques.

True Stories about Kids and Courage - Tough Stuff, Murray, K. (1999 Australia)

These stories are examples of adolescents who had withstood social pressures of conformity and had subsequently been 'othered'. These details assisted in providing ideas for the development of a socially isolated child in my first short story.

Porto Ludovica

<<http://www.themodernword.com/eco/>>

This website provided short summaries on various Eco essays and novels such as *On Beauty*, which allowed me to reference a desired text through accessible means. This was both convenient and beneficial to my work.

(Sources from) Mark Tredennick's Creative Writing Workshop.

I found this workshop extremely beneficial, in particular, the discussion on the negative impact of 'over-writing'. Over-writing is a

personal habit, and therefore, I feel this workshop had a direct impact on my writing style.

Spine Universe

<<http://www.spineuniverse.com/>>

This website was beneficial as it offered explanations relating to the anatomical spine and manifestations of spinal injuries/deformities. This website particularly assisted in the development of a character in my first story, who is disabled due to a spinal and brain tumor.

(Sources from) Deborah Oswald's Playwright workshop

Deborah believes in order to create a credible story, one needs to 'become the character and put oneself in their shoes'. I found her workshop insightful and beneficial, particularly in the development of my own character profiles.

Tour Egypt

<http://touregypt.net/VDC/Rsfish06.htm>

This site provided images of the spine fish which were extracted, and included within Poisonous Puffer. The image of the spine fish was beneficial to the work as it allowed a greater visual understanding of its characteristics which were being intently scrutinized and alluded to.

'Displaced Persons', Darko Suvin, *New Left Review*, 31 Jan 2005
This article was not particularly helpful, as it primarily focused on cultural isolation, which did not relate to my Major Work.

Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction, J. Culler. (1997, Oxford, England)

The importance of stories as a means of transmitting ideas and gaining an understanding of society was emphasised in this text. It literalises the reasons that cause society to revert to false stereotypes and form opinions accordingly. This notion related to my first story which explores society's preconceived attitudes and opinions towards those that do not conform to the mainstream.

Literary Terms and Criticism, Peck, J. and Coyle, M. (1984, Hampshire, England)

This source was useful in providing explanations of key literary terms such as 'metaphor' and 'symbolism'. These definitions were helpful as these techniques were constantly included within the Major Work, for example the symbolic representation of a spine.

Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_binding

This web page was extremely useful in the development of my second story as it provided a definition of commonly used book-binding techniques and terms such as 'signature', 'folio' and 'recto', all of which were used within my Major Work.

History, Theory and Criticism, The University Press of Virginia. (1993, USA)

This text provided a quote for my fourth story relating to Umberto Eco's notions of the semiotics of the human body. The quote assisted in the depiction of movement as a means of communication, rather than voice.

<<http://sun3.lib.uci.edu/~scctr%5BWellek/lyotard/>>

This site provided an explanation of postmodern theorist Lyotard's notions of fragmentation and mini-narratives, which influenced the layout of my third story, and assisted in a further comprehension of postmodern techniques.

Short Story Writing

<http://www.shortstor_vgroup.com/storytips.htm>

This website referenced the importance of clarity, structure and techniques within short stories. It reiterated layout concepts which caused me to edit the structure of my work, making it more legible and decipherable.

Crime Fiction Sources: The following texts were used in the initial stages of my Major Work. Although they have no direct contextual reference to *Spine Align*, they had benefit in influencing style, technique, perspective and narration:

Writing Crime Fiction, 2nd Edition, HRF Keating. (1994, London, England)

When reading through various sources in order to develop the genre for my writing, it was this book that made crime fiction stories appeal to me. This book extended my awareness on reality and the sinister world around us. The book goes on to explain why crime fiction stories appeal to readers and how to write within the genre

Crime Stories, Edward and Janet Goodwyn. (1992, New York, USA)

These various short stories allowed me to view the different ways (ie storytelling devices, perspectives etc) in which crime fiction stories are written. This allowed me to develop a greater awareness of

choices relating to storytelling techniques and the representation of characters.

On Murder. True Crime Writing in Australia, Kerry Greenwood.
(2000, Australia)

There was one particular story within this collection of short stories that invited me into the settings and the minds of the characters. 'Suspicious Circumstances' by Andrew Rule presented a dramatic murder case full of immense, detailed and descriptive imagery which I found to be fascinating and exciting:

When the shot didn't kill the terrified woman instantly,
the self-appointed executioner had to fire another shot
into her forehead as her body twitched and thrashed.

The language devices used within this story have inspired and influenced my language choices as well as highlighted the importance of descriptive imagery within a short story.

Uncollected Crimes, Bill Prozini and Martin H. Greenberg. (1987, New York, USA)

These crime stories assisted in the understanding of the different structures of short stories. These stories were inclusive of dramatic scenes and suspenseful dialogue which allowed me to gain a further knowledge of the diverse representations of crime fiction stories.

The Crime Writer's Association

<<http://www.thecwa.co.uk/>>

This website represents a professional body of skilled and trained writers of crime fiction. I am glad that I discovered this website as it has many beneficial offers such as the ability to ask questions relating to the genre and as well as the ability to meet professional crime fiction authors. I will definitely revert back to this website in the future as I feel I can benefit greatly from what it offers.

Creative Writing - Writing Crime Fiction

<<http://www.teachyourself.co.uk/ccrimefic.htm>>

I feel that this website offered me a lot of support in writing crime fiction. The website encourages young writers to explore the ideas that they already have, and assists people step-by-step in writing their own crime fiction. This website included a 'check-list' of criteria that must be completed in order to gather ideas efficiently for writing. I found this particularly useful.

Writing Crime and Suspense Fiction

<<http://www.crimefiction.co.uk/tych.htm>>

This website demonstrated to me the importance of the beginning of a crime story, in order to make it engross the audience and keep them in suspense. This site offered tips for writing crime fiction which I found to be helpful and beneficial.