

Marlie Foster

#12JO34 – Resource list

Short story

Articles

- Bayley, Stephen ‘The gentle art of selling yourself’ *The Guardian* 4th March 2007

Accessed via internet (<http://observer.guardian.co.uk>), this article was one of numerous publications encouraging readers to self-invent – “*We are all at it. We are all works of art... So it is important to understand how we make an impression... In a man’s letters, his soul is laid bare.*” Such writings struck me as intriguing insights into the way in which our society operates; as the Guardian is a prominent UK newspaper I was genuinely surprised that it was issuing pieces promoting ideas of artificial individuality in the pursuit of success. This article aided me in grounding my ideas about the impact of consumerism upon my character in the real world, as beforehand I had struggled against the whimsical nature of my piece.

- Brown, Helen ‘Meet the Froogles’ *Sun-Herald Magazine* 28th January 2007

This short piece introduced me to “froogles” – people who reject consumerism by bartering. At the onset of my Major Work process it was useful in gathering thoughts as to how people can operate outside commercial society.

- Glover, Richard ‘Op shops offer opportunities to counter our unsustainable habits’ *The Sydney Morning Herald* 20th November 2006

This article was the inspiration for one of my original plot lines. Initially, I had situated two characters outside an ‘op shop’ who were there to buy personalities from second-hand products. However, as I found this idea difficult to sustain, my major work eventually developed in a different direction. The article did, however, further instigate research and storylines concerning notions of ‘bought identities’ and defining oneself through possessions.

- Lawson, Valerie ‘Sexy, sassy, still in primary school’ *The Sydney Morning Herald* 23rd December 2006

As I researched as many aspects of consumerism as I could, this article was another viewpoint about marketing towards young girls (“tweenies”) and thus the negative impact of consumerism on the individual.

Books – Critical

- Anderson, Walter Truett *The Fontana Post-modernism Reader* Fontana Press 1996

‘How to Speak and Write Postmodern’ by Stephen Katz was an article included in the text that aided me in decisions about the style and structure of my Major Work. It enabled me to explore the ideas and techniques of postmodern writers. The humorous and ironic tone adopted by the author also confirmed my desire to have a light-hearted approach to what was potentially a serious topic.

- Bonnycastle, Stephen *In Search of Authority – An Introductory Guide to Literary Theory | second edition* Broadview Press 1996

I read two chapters in this book – ‘Narratology’ and ‘Postmodernism, the Eclipse of Grand Narratives and

Weakening of Shared Public Meaning' – the first being of use in critical thinking towards the role I wished the narrator to play and the various effects styles (e.g. first person narration) have upon the responder's interpretation, whilst the second placed postmodernism in a social context and discussed its impact on the 'spirit of our times'.

- Cavallaro, Dani *Critical and Cultural Theory* Continuum International Publishing Group – Athlone 2001

When I intended on more explicitly examining language in itself and the manipulation of its meaning due to consumerism, this was useful in that it discussed the nature of words and their link to the human psyche.

- Childs, Peter *Reading Fiction – Opening the Text* Palgrave Macmillan 2001

Through the examination of openings in classic novels this gave me an insight into the importance of an effective opening. I learned not only of the establishment of character, setting, mood and point of view, but also an opening's indication of key themes that emerge later. It focused me on what I needed to do in order to achieve a successful introduction, and in particular how to convey the themes of identity and consumerism that would surface throughout my Major Work.

- Eagleton, Terry *Literary Theory – An Introduction* University of Minnesota Press 1996

This text further analysed the impact of narrators on the responder which was important as I originally debated whether to do first or third person narration.

- Lodge, David *The Practice of Reading and Writing* Viking Adult 1997

The chapter 'Novel, Screenplay, Stage Play: Three Ways of Telling a Story' analysed different methods of storytelling which was useful in my primary investigation as I debated a play against a short story.

- Myszor, Frank *The Modern Short Story* Cambridge University Press 2001

The first critical text I read, this was my introduction into the genre of short stories. It was helpful in considering structures of short stories, and in particular framing as I eventually decided to frame my own around the job application form.

- Nagel, James *The Contemporary American Short-Story Cycle: The Ethnic Resonance of Genre* Louisiana State University Press 2004

This caused me to reflect upon this new genre of interconnected short stories. When I had multiple characters, I had intended to have them lead separate lives, though to be interconnected into one story through the theme of consumerism and its impact on the individual.

- Peck, John; Coyle, Martin *Literary Terms and Criticisms | second edition* Palgrave Macmillan 2002
- Pope, Rob *English Studies Book* Routledge 1998

These two texts were further enhancement to my understanding of how techniques, e.g. narrative structure, are used to shape meaning and its impact on the responder.

- Selden, Roman; Widdowson, Peter; Bocker, Peter; *A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory* Prentice Hall 1997

In my research, this text was a useful insofar as it provided a better understanding of postmodernism – the context in which I am writing and thus feel I should have knowledge of.

- Wajnryb, Ruth *Away With Words – A Frolic Through the Landscape of Language* ABC Books & Audio/BBC Audio 2005

Reading her columns published weekly in *Spectrum* (*The Sydney Morning Herald*) revealed how society plays with language and the altering of words and meaning as a part of the natural evolution. It further showed me how I could have fun with words and communication, as in my piece I feel words simultaneously help and hinder the character Frank.

- Woodcock, Bruce *Peter Carey (Contemporary World Writers)* Manchester University Press 2003

Reading about Peter Carey helped me in the consideration of my audience and purpose. The ‘fringe characters’ of Carey’s work led me to consider the similar characters that I wished to explore and that people like to read about such.

Books – Fiction

- Atwood, Margaret *Good Bones* Virago Press Ltd 1994

The piece *There Was Once* in particular of all short stories included a humorous argument between two narrators. This is was of enormous inspiration in the early stages of my Major Work when I planned on having two narrators.

- Calvino, Italo *If On a Winter’s Night a Traveller* Harvest Books 1982
- Calvino, Italo *Marcovaldo* Vintage 2001

The first text by Italo Calvino explores ideas about reading and writing. The structure of the novel – a series of first chapters – disrupts reader expectations which I also have attempted to manifest through my structure of the job application form. Whereas the character of Marcovaldo, an ‘innocent’, a peasant in an alien urban environment, was an individual I drew on for my own character Frank.

- Carey, Peter *The Last Days of a Famous Mime* (1974) The Penguin Century of Australian Stories ed. Carmel Bird 2004

In spite of my interest in Carey’s characters, the absurdity and obscurity of this piece made me realise I wanted my own to be grounded more in realism and to be accessible to my audience. Although I found his structure interesting (numbering paragraphs), it further convinced me that the purpose in using my structure should be contribute to the overall meaning of my piece.

- Haddon, Mark *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* Doubleday; Today Show Book Club edition 2003

The naivety of this character and his Autism was helpful in deciding the narrative point of view I intended on adopting, as well as raising ideas about communication between those who are disconnected from their world and those who are not.

- Palahnuik, Chuck *Fight Club* Owl Books 1999

I read this as an example of extreme rebellion against consumerism. Whilst an engaging and extraordinarily compelling novel, the text further confirmed my wish to stray from overall negativity and profound insight into the impact of consumerism in our lives, opting for a light-hearted composition.

- Salinger, J.D. *The Catcher in the Rye* Little, Brown and Company 1991

The alienation of the main character Holden Caulfield, as well as his rejection of his society, had a significant impact on both the construction of my character and the way in which I wrote. The bittersweet mood, and the confessional monologue like voice of the narrator, intrigued me and I wished to manifest a similar tone in my own piece.

- Woolf, Virginia *Mrs Dalloway* Harvest Books 1990

I read this as an example of stream-of-consciousness writing when I was researching aspects of postmodernist writing styles and techniques. However, I felt that such a writing style would not be appropriate for the somewhat emphatic nature of my character.

- Zusak, Markus *The Messenger* Knopf Books for Young Readers 2005

This novel concerned the mundane existence of an anti-hero which further grounded my own character as a social outcast. The limited success of Zusak's character is comparable to my own, as they each find purpose outside the regular constraints of society.

Films

- Forster, Marc 'Stranger Than Fiction' 2006

The argument between author and character in this film interested me when I initially intended to have separate narrators and characters integrated throughout my story.

Plays

- Beckett, Samuel 'Waiting for Godot' Grove Press 1997
- Stoppard, Tom 'Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead' Faber and Faber 1967

As I had previously considered writing a play or incorporating play elements, Absurdism was a dramatic technique I debated utilising, as I find it humorous and engaging.

- Shaffer, Peter 'Equus' Penguin (Non-Classics) 1984

When I intended to focus more solely on consumerism and its impact on language, I found this text's use of advertising really effective. However, as the use of advertising throughout my piece inevitably did not translate as well as I had planned, I altered my focus to consumerism and identity.

Poetry

- Dawe Bruce 'All Systems Go', 'Breakthrough', 'Head for the hills!', 'Enter Without So Much As Knocking' *Sometimes Gladness: Collected Poems* Longman Cheshire 1993

Dawe's use of colloquialisms is a technique I feel has been reflected in my own piece. Furthermore, his outlook on consumerism as an inescapable force (e.g. 'Head for the hills!') and the notion of products predetermining personality, are themes I feel have been reflected in my own piece.

Websites

- <http://socialworks.arts.unsw.edu.au>

A site providing 'tales from the unemployed', I read numerous extracts in an attempt to make my own character more realistic. However, I found these stories so mundane that I realised exaggeration would be

necessary in order to convey my comical character.

- www.careerknowhow.com
- www.careerjournal.com

These two sites discussed effective methods of filling out job application forms. They further encouraged the artificial construction of personality which heightened my understanding of the issue I was attempting to comment on.

- www.centrelink.gov.au

In making Frank more real, I researched the Centrelink website to gain a rough estimate of Frank's income and his obligations as a recipient of the dole.

- www.enough.org.uk

In the initial internet research for my Major Work I discovered this anti-consumerist website. Promoting annual 'Buy Nothing Days', this was of inspiration in the beginnings of my plot development when I was considering depicting the lives of characters during a day in which no commercial businesses opened. It was of further influence towards my concept through an image of a drugged cartoon character injecting himself with needles labelled 'BIGGER HOUSE', 'SHINIER CAR', 'WIDER T.V.' etc. It generated ideas of an inexorable consumerism that had a negative, numbing effect upon individuals and their perceptions of self-identity that has been explored throughout the process of my Major Work.

- www.litencyc.com
- www.philosophypages.com

These two sites are where I gained most information on certain writing styles and movements, e.g. postmodernism, stichomythia etc. In the initial stages of my Major Work I also researched various philosophers, e.g. Jacques Derrida.

- www.psychcentral.com

I researched certain behavioural problems (e.g. obsessive compulsive disorder), in order to ascertain certain traits I could portray in Frank.