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# NARRATIVE STYLE IN THE STORY OF "THROUGH THE TUNNEL" BY DORIS LESSING

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#### **Abstract:**

The Article was dedicated to convey narrative style of "through the tunnel" story. Third-person narration is used in "Through the Tunnel" by Doris Lessing. The narrator, who is not involved in the story's storyline, describes the events from a variety of characters' points of view. Apart from that I decribed about language and characters of the story

**Keywords:** Third person, courage, protagonist, conscientiously worried, Contrition, postmodernism, neighborhood

Dorris Lessing is a unique author since she is a talented writer who is dedicated to the noble objective of altering people's consciousness. The narrative voice that permeates her vast body of fiction is that of an intense thinker who explores, observes, and describes contemporary society while maintaining a fundamental understanding of human life that the individual, and consequently the human race, is meant to go beyond simple recognition of perceived reality and to struggle with visions of the possible. She repeatedly argues in her books that people need to change how they see themselves, the outside world, and other people if they want life on this planet to endure. The Somerset Maugham Award in 1954, the French Prix Medicis Prize in 1976, the W. H. Smith Literary Award in 1986, the Internazionale Mondello Award in 1987, and the Companion of Honor from the Royal Society of Literature are just a few of the prestigious honors she has received over the past 50 years (2001). She received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2007. That considerably confirmed her writing accomplishments. Lessing was praised as "that epicist of the feminine experience, who with skepticism, fire, and imaginative might has brought a divided society to inspection," according to the Swedish Academy. Lessing, one of the key figures in English contemporary literature, has received a great deal of praise for her outstanding works. In general, critics are becoming more interested in her work.





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Doris Lessing had a long and successful writing career and is linked to a number of literary movements, such as Feminism, Postmodernism, and Modernism. According to Blamires, Harry (1982), The story has more modernist elements because "Through the Tunnel" was written as postmodernism was just getting started. For instance, Lessing uses realistic, in-depth descriptions and concentrates on the characters' points of view, both of which are characteristics of modernism. The story's emphasis on the psychology of the main character by expressing his thoughts and feelings is another aspect of modernism. The narrative "Through the Tunnel" by Doris Lessing centers on the 11-year-old child Jerry as he prepares to swim through a hole in a rock that is submerged in the sea. Bloom, Harold (1986) claimed that overcoming one's limitations and humans versus nature are the two fundamental tensions that drive the plot. Throughout the narrative, Jerry attempts to go above his weaknesses and fears in order to complete the challenge of passing through an underwater tunnel. Fishburn, Katherine (1985) mentioned that third-person narration is used in "Through the Tunnel" by Doris Lessing. The narrator, who is not involved in the story's storyline, describes the events from a variety of characters' points of view.

From Jerry's perspective, the author introduces the scene and the mother's personality by saying, "The boy observed that white, naked arm and turned his eyes, which had a frown behind them, toward the bay and back again to his mother." (Il. 4-5). The majority of the narration presents Jerry's perspective on the events because he is the protagonist: We also learn about Jerry from the mother's perspective: "She grimaced, consciously agonizing over what amusements he may secretly be wishing for that she had been too busy or too negligent to imagine," the author writes. (Il. 10-11)

Doris Lessing's short story "Through the Tunnel" uses a lot of descriptive language that can also be somewhat difficult to understand.

A blend of lengthy descriptive paragraphs and succinct dialogue lines that highlight Jerry's bond with his mother are used to show how they interact: "Are you weary of the usual beach, Jerry? What about going somewhere else? Quickly, while grinning at her, he exclaimed, "Oh, no! (ll. 16-18)

Moreover, the character's ideas are occasionally expressed without quotation marks but as if they were direct speech, for example: "What if he became lightheaded in the tunnel? Imagine if he perished there, confined. The thought crossed his mind, therefore I'll say... (Il. 208-209)



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The author occasionally use more difficult terms and phrases, such as "conscientiously worried" (l. 10), "Contrition," "unfailing impulse of contrition," etc. The overall comprehension of the material is not significantly complicated by this, though.

Many terms and phrases that help readers visualize the people and scene because of how descriptive the novel is may be found throughout.

Jerry's personality and attitude are highlighted by some of the descriptive words, such as "young English boy" (line 1), "desperate, nervous supplication" (line 59), "nervous, uncomprehending smile" (line 60), "hot shame" (line 91), "pleading grin" (line 92), "A curious, most unchildlike persistence, a controlled impatience," (lines 129–193), etc.

The primary theme of the short story "Through the tunnel" is coming of age, which is defined as transitioning from a child to an adult, generally as a result of an occasion or rite of passage.

The moral of Doris Lessing's narrative is that growing up can be difficult and unpleasant sometimes, and that it is typically a private process that others are either excluded from or unable to understand.

Through Jerry, the primary character, the novel examines the issue of growing up. The story follows 11-year-old Jerry as he faces his concerns by swimming through a perilous underwater tunnel after observing several neighborhood lads accomplishing it. Jerry is still a young child divided between his longing for independence and the security of his mother's care. Jerry's desire to travel alone to a wild beach illustrates his demand for freedom. There, Jerry meets some older neighborhood lads who he wants to get to know and who he views as men. Jerry's desire to fit in with the boys shows that he wants to grow up and be accepted by his peers as an adult.

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