

Instructor's Name

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Course

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Reading Response 2

The assigned story titled "*Young Goodman Brown*" is indeed an interesting read. Going through it once, one notices specific patterns that clearly point to some literary or language preferences from the reader. Some of the literary devices that the author uses may not be clear enough to everyone at first. However, if one reads Gary Rendsburg's article titled "*Literary Devices in the Story of the Shipwrecked Sailor*," a lot of the styles that the "*Young Goodman Brown's*" author uses become more comprehensible. In general, the author acknowledges the extensive use of repetition and word play in the Egyptian story that he makes reference of. On repetition, Rendsburg gives the example of "a story within a story" (Rendsburg 14). As he puts it, "seldom is repetition verbatim"- that is, specific parts of the story within the main story can keep being repeated to enable readers to pick up their significance (Rendsburg 14). For instance, in the assigned story, Goodman tells a story of his "journey" to the evil wilderness as an omniscient narrator pieces together the overall tale.



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The man keeps referring to his wife and the devil a lot as he narrates his ordeal. Based on Rendsburg's definition of repetition, this can be considered as an employment of repetition.

Besides repetition, the other literary device that Rendsburg talks about is wordplay. He describes it as the technique through which a writer wittily uses puns or exploits words to amuse the readers or produce a specific diction that depicts his or her story's setting better. Going back to the assigned reading, one notices that the author heavily employs archaic language such as "sayest thou" in his narrative. The language gives the writing some ancient and biblical feel, perhaps suggesting that the clergy characters are from an earlier period. In brief, Rendsburg's article helps a great deal in making sense of the literary choices made by the author of the assigned reading.

Works Cited

Rendsburg, Gary A. "Literary Devices in the Story of the Shipwrecked Sailor." *Journal of the American Oriental Society* (2000): 13-23.