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Analysis Activity #2 Addison and His Diary

Through the progression of chaos in the diarist’s diary, Addison satirizes how a sector of society spends too much time scheduling life rather than living life.

In the first three days of the diarist’s entries, Addison displays the seemingly comfortable lifestyle that most people enjoy. However, through the use of dull details and repetition, Addison reveals that people of this particular society engross themselves too closely to their schedules and fail to truly enjoy life and excitement. For example, when the diarist describes his day-to-day “adventures” they are lackluster and short logs of what he did like “[tying] [his] knee strings and [washing his] hands at nine o’ clock” or going to the club to hear “Mr. Nisby’s opinion about the peace” from six to ten. The short and dull descriptions, reveal the diarist and his society’s failure to appreciate the things around them. Rather than describing a more vibrant and detailed diary entry that most people keep, the diarist fails to reveal his true feelings or opinions he has for anything around him and gives no indication whether he is content with his life, possibly because he, and the society he is a part of, is not aware of their true desires. The use of repetition not only describes the monotonous-like lifestyle that society lives but it also begins the progress of the feeling of chaos that surfaces when the diarist deviates from his schedule. For example, when the diarist constantly repeats his schedules logs for each day, as he has his nap “from three to four” “as usual” he has a sense of comfort and simplicity. However, when his “nap [breaks]” and everybody came “half an hour” late to the club, the diarist’s comfort is easily thrown away and he is left with nightmares. The diarist’s constant reliance on his schedule forces him to panic when things go awry, illuminating how the society he lives in will be lost without someone, or rather, something such as a schedule, to tell them what to do.

In the last three days of the diarist’s entries Addison displays the chaos that follows when society can experience when trying to take control of life, an unpredictable element. Through the use of fragments and repetition, Addison illuminates the chaos that and sense of disorient that society feels if removed from the routine that it has been so accustomed to. For example, when describing his nights that are gradually getting out of control, the diarist uses fragments such as “loss appetite” and “could not take nap”. The fragments display the feeling of anxiety that the diarist starts to feel when encountering a day that does go as planned. Also, the use of repetition, displays his attempt to fix his feeling of vulnerability when things do no go his way. For example, when describing his days, as before, he lists them in a format such as “Thursday, nine o’ clock” for each day as the day continues. The diarist hopes to find some peace in planning out his days, however he and his society fails to realize that life cannot always be planned and it must be lived.

Through the use of repetition, fragments and dull, monotonous tone, Addison satirizes how a sector of society will feel lost when the world around them will start to change and they are stuck in the same routines that they have been accustomed to.