

How does McEwan write chapter 19?

McEwan uses the theme of time in order to illustrate Joe's ability to recall specific data from the past "In memory", "When later I remembered", "I seemed to be remembering" McEwan foreshadows that something will happen that will need Joe's ability to be able to remember the story in precise detail "Would I remember the conversation now if I did not know what it preceded" Here we see McEwan giving the readers clues that an event is on the arisen. The readers begin to question Joe's ability to narrate "Perhaps", "I learned afterwards" Here we see Joe's uncertainty, suggesting that he may overlook certain details out in his narration of the story. The use of time slows the pace of the story because McEwan writes everything in specific detail to order to portray a detailed image of the event.

Pathetic fallacy is used in chapter 19 to reflect the chaos, havoc and tension in the room "walking into a storm". McEwan makes a reference back to chapter 1 "The ice bucket sat within a rhombus of sunlight on a white table-cloth" Here we see an indication to chapter 1 where Joe and Clarrisa are having a picnic, it shows Clarrisa and Joe's relationship and how blissful and full of love they were, this is in contrast to Chapter 19 where their relationship has broken down and they are less physical and romantically involved with one another. McEwan uses similar techniques in chapter 1 that he used in chapter 19 because he gives the readers clues as to what is yet to happen.

Jocelyn's gift to Clarrisa could represent Joe, Clarrisa and Jed "Crossing between them were tiny silver rungs in groups of three representing the base pairs" the bracelet could be seen has a detailed imagery that shows the link and the crossing of paths between Clarrisa, Joe and Jed and how they come together to form a perfect "double helix" or in this case a perfect story. The breakdown of Clarrisa and Joe's relationship has had affect on Clarrisa "I'm going to make you fuck me all afternoon" Here we see Clarrisa using more explicit and overt language; she appears to be free spirited and rather wild.

McEwan uses stories in chapter 19 as a way to relate it back to the central characters "It was staring them in the face'...But they couldn't see, they wouldn't see. The problem of course was the chemists..." This could seen has a relation to Clarrisa and Jed and her not wanting to see the truth in front of her and her reluctance so seek the truth. Resisting the truth is an overriding theme that is echoed throughout the book "An extraordinary find, but his paper was blocked by his teacher who spent two years repeating and confirming his student's results". Here we see a change in perspective has Joe side tracks from the story into a day dream. Throughout the chapter we see three different perspectives, what's happening on the table, around the table and in the restaurant allowing us to get different views of the setting. The end of the chapter is simply Joe's narration compared to the beginning where it is mixed with what Joe is able to remember and narrative.

In conclusion, McEwan writes chapter 19 by using techniques such as foreshadowing what is yet to come in order to alert the reader that something is on the arisen. He uses stories to connect back to the main characters in order to illustrate a point.